

AARINENA Global Post-harvest Initiative
UAE
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Project Concept Introduction
For:

Innovative Extension and Technology
Transfer Systems

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Main Reasons Causing Ineffective Extension System in Many Countries of the WANA Region

Farmers Side

Mistrust in extension workers and the message they carry

Mistrust in FOs & cooperatives

Lack of appreciation for high yields & high quality produce

Limited access to markets as well as to success stories of applying new techniques

Misconduct in applying concepts of trade liberalization and globalization

Great tendency towards individualism

Extensionists Side

“Jack of all trades” approach, lack of incentives and physical isolation

Weak vision of the extension message

Extension programmes do not expose market needs (local/export) in respect of Q/Q & food safety requirements and do not transfer means to meet them

Inadequate personnel training:

- Reporting to their supervisors;
- Effective communication;
- Technology transfer & monitoring;
- Diagnostic analysis of problems;
- The use of IT in technology transfer.

Desired Situation at the end of the Project

- **Establish pilot system of effective extension and technology transfer within the WANA Region through incorporating successful practices of farmers organizations with those of the entrepreneur private sector and extension services;**
- **Highlight the important role which AARINENA commodities networks can play in disseminating information and exchanging of success stories on the regional level.**

Expected Changes Through the Project Intervention

- **Qualified extension workers and farmers;**
- **Strengthened linkages and trustworthy channels;**
- **Improved productivity and quality of safe produce;**
- **Improved cultural attitudes towards extension workers.**

Project Description: Melt development efforts of farmers, extension workers and private sector entrepreneurs in the pot of FOs

Purpose

Activate the role of extension workers to become productive members of the community

Improve and strengthen the linkage between farmers and extension workers

Improve the livelihood of small and medium farmers and alleviate poverty

Introduce farmer to farmer extension

Target Beneficiaries

Goals

Capacity building of human resources (farmers and extension workers)

Integration of development efforts among stakeholders

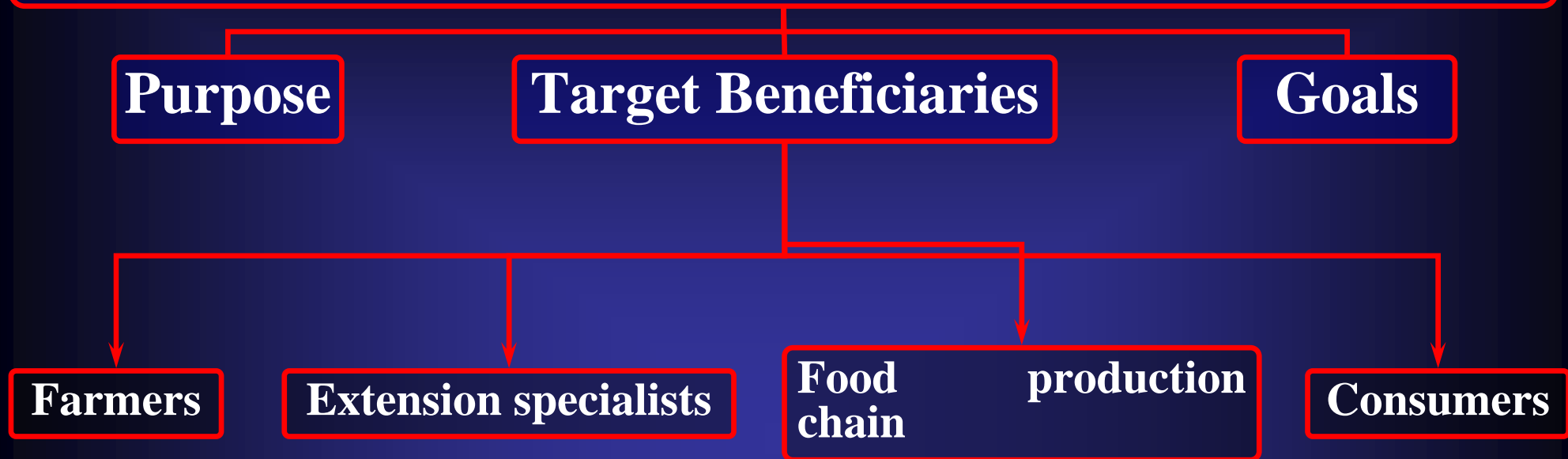
Enhance competitiveness through quality improvement

Better utilization / management of natural resources

Involve farmers in decision making on extension issues & development

Better understanding of markets needs

Project Description: Melt development efforts of farmers, extension workers and private sector entrepreneurs in the pot of FOs



Project Tools

Available Experiences

Capitalize on successful extension experiences within the WANA region or other regions

Introduction of incentives for extension personnel

The provision of utilizing IT techniques

Innovations

Changing cultural attitudes

Semi-privatize extension services

Develop specialized agencies and specialists rather than general ones

Integrate development efforts of farmers and extension specialists into a team work pattern

Project Outputs

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Relevant Principle Activities

Improved farmers' capacity, welfare and representation

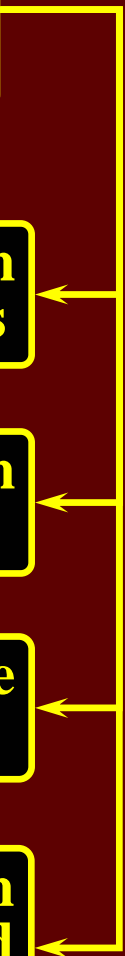
Encourage formation of FOs for specific commodities and strengthen existing ones

Provide an interaction platform with extensionists

Promote farmers participation as technology developers

Improve farmers' awareness of the importance of collaborative work

Partially resolve ownership fragmentation through fostering economics of scale and providing better access to markets



Project Outputs

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Relevant Principle Activities

Improved farmers' capacity, welfare and representation

Effective & integrated relationship between farmers & extensionists

Reassign selected extension workers from government extension agencies to FOs on loan basis to be trained intensively with farmers leaders on specific commodities

Training: social science, community mobilization, human resources development, problems analysis and solving, organic farming, biological control and IPM, value addition, marketing and collective market information, the use of IT, natural resources management, socio-economic impacts, integrating environmental considerations into the development equation, establish a collective data base of positive indigenous experiences, long field stay visits to successful entrepreneur private farms which are directly linked to the markets.

Improve extension workers knowledge

Foster farmer to farmer extension

Project Outputs

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Relevant Principle Activities

Improved farmers' capacity, welfare and representation

Effective & integrated relationship between farmers & extensionists

Effective production systems for better quality and safe products

Appropriate application of acquired knowledge through practices of low cost technology



Project Outputs

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Relevant Principle Activities

Improved farmers' capacity, welfare and representation

Effective & integrated relationship between farmers & extensionists

Effective production systems for better quality and safe products

Efficient procedures and methodologies for technology generation, transfer and monitoring

Bottom up policy which appreciates farmers actual needs

Changing farmers culture behavior towards extension workers

Farmers' exposure to success stories of private sector entrepreneur farms

Potential Project Partners

Institution	Foreseeable Role
Current extension agencies	human resources, previous experiences, field contacts
Farmers' organizations, trade unions, NGOs	needs, model systems
NARS and Ministries of agriculture	resources, experiences, infrastructure
Information technology agencies	tools, techniques, mechanisms, programs
AARINENA as a regional organization	exchange of knowledge and experiences

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION