

**Strengthening Capacities of Extension & Advisory Services in Odisha:
A Policy Dialogue
17 Aug 2019**

CONTEXT

Effective extension and advisory Services (EAS) provision is critical for disseminating and up-scaling new knowledge needed for enhancing farm productivity and income. Though Odisha has a pluralistic extension system, it faces several challenges in extension delivery. While several new approaches to strengthen extension (use of videos, mobile phone advisories, field schools and video conferencing) have been tried in Odisha, the range of services and the quality of service delivery offers immense scope for taking it to a higher level.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has been working with Odisha's Department of Agriculture for almost one decade. The collaboration has resulted in the promotion and dissemination of climate-resilient technologies, high-yielding rice varieties and institutional innovations to improve and stabilize the productivity of the State's stress-prone areas. IRRI is also working with the Government of Odisha to strengthen the capacities of EAS providers in the State so that they contribute more effectively to Odisha's agricultural transformation.

The work over the past one year resulted in development of a status paper titled "Enhancing Innovation and Impact in Odisha Agriculture: Analysis of Key Extension Stakeholders, Capacity Gaps and Ways Forward"¹. A Capacity Needs Assessment workshop on Extension and Advisory Service Providers in Odisha was also organized that resulted in identification of key capacity gaps at different levels²

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF EAS

Based on the findings from Capacity Needs Assessment, IRRI and CRISP are currently developing training modules that can support trainers to organise effective trainings on the following 4 topics. The topics include:

- a. Value Chain Extension
- b. Enabling Extension and advisory services (EAS) for Climate Smart Agriculture
- c. Facilitation for Development
- d. Designing and delivering Gender responsive EAS

These will be developed and pilot tested in a 3 day Training of Trainers (ToT) with the IMAGE Faculty and other trainers from other interested organizations in the state.

¹ Onima V T, Rasheed Sulaiman V, Sreeram Vishnu and Nimisha Mittal (2018) Enhancing Innovation and Impact in Odisha Agriculture: Analysis of Key Extension Stakeholders, Capacity Gaps and Ways Forward, CRISP and IRRI (August 2018)

² IRRI, CRISP and ICAR-CIWA. 2018. Report on the Capacity Needs Assessment of Extension and Advisory Service (EAS) Providers in Odisha, 3-4 July 2018, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

<http://crispindia.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/10/REPORT->

In addition, a new induction training module (for the newly recruited AAOs after reviewing the existing induction training module in the state) is also being developed. An Organisation and Management (O&M) Review of the Odisha Extension System (based on consultations with the senior managers involved in extension design and delivery in the state) is also planned.

These plans will be elaborated during the dialogue on 17th August 2019.

EXTENSION 2.0

This dialogue will include a session to illustrate the changing extension landscape globally. A brief presentation will cover the new challenges and opportunities before EAS and the type and impact of reforms that were undertaken to strengthen EAS delivery globally.