

Connection Between The Private Sector And Agricultural Research & Extension

So Much Work Has Been Done

- ▶ Agricultural research is done by many bodies in the region.
- ▶ Have we succeeded in “extending” these message to the private sector?
- ▶ Are we repeating work already done?
- ▶ Much of this work is too ethereal. Its relevance in our extension efforts and farming systems is not clear.

Our Problems at Farm Level are Basic

Possibly not cutting edge research.

- Pigs per sow per year 12
- Milk Yields 5 lt.
- Weed infestation
- Calving percentage 40%
- High mortality

The FAO style of research; easily extendable and it tackles basic problems.

Appropriate Research for SIDS

“Research into the particle size of grain included in pig diets.....”

is less relevant in the islands than

“are going to include grain in island diets or not.”

What Research to Do

The problems are at the Farm

**Often our Markets define issues
(quality)**

Please ask us

Access to research

- ▶ There is a huge and wasteful disconnect between research results, extension and practical farming. This must be improved.
- ▶ So much good research is not easy to find (Dusty Research)
- ▶ e.g. work done by the late David Banks
- ▶ Two and a half or three and a half days?

Farmers Accessing Research

1. Farmers are not web based.
2. They do not pay subscriptions to research institute libraries.

“Adoption Pathways”

1. Is this the role of the under resourced Extension Services or the Researchers?
2. Public Private Partnerships
3. PACLI & Feedipedia

Extension Issues

- ▶ Our education system is not training practical (Basic) extension officers.
- ▶ We must close the skills gap between extension and commercial production.
- ▶ Ideally officers should work in the private sector before they join the Extension service.

Good Extension

- ▶ Organise farmers to meet and discuss their problems
- ▶ Slow deliberate extension effort (25 years of TTM) is much better than the frenetic 3 year project activities.
- ▶ Requires sustained political policies (rice)

Need For Applied Research

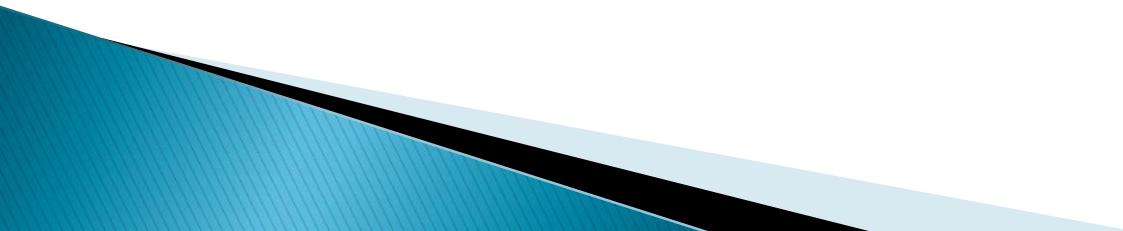
Answer our questions

- ▶ In the private sector our questions are financial in nature.
- ▶ Our farmers are good economists. (Non adoption and aging farmers)
- ▶ We need to know how and by how much research results will increase our profitability.

Conclusion

- ▶ So much work done but not accessible.
- ▶ Farmers are not researchers, but they are the target of research and must be included.
- ▶ Consider farm level practical problems
- ▶ Please focus on applied research.
- ▶ Accept the inaccurate/accurate farm reality.
- ▶ Please come and work with us.
- ▶ Be practical in applying research results.

What Was Agreed For the Way Forwards In Livestock



1/ Inventory of livestock research in the region over the last 30 years.

Inventory of research should be searched for and placed into an organised web based library.

2/ Use of local ingredients in livestock feeds.

Much work has already been done on this and should be made available
(1). Protein is always difficult for mono-gastrics and simple ways to get protein is vital. All solutions must be easily replicable at the farm.

3/ Identification and multiplication of local breeds.

The local breeds have an inherent “toughness” to local conditions. It is important to introduce improved breeds but maintain the toughness of the local stock. How is this to be done in a breeding program.

4/ Cereals in livestock production.

Many islands have the ability to produce vital grain for livestock production. However we import so much of this feed. More grain should be produced locally for the local systems.

5/ Pasture Improvement

So many good pastures are available but the management systems to keep them productive and weed free are less understood. Rotation options, grazing heights need to be understood to make best use of this resource.

6/ Record keeping for non record keeping farmers

This is the development of an extension tool to allow an officer to visit any livestock enterprise and understand the truth about the production efficiencies being achieved. These templates will have to be based on asking a few simple questions of farmers and possibly a stock count to be set against expected norms.

7/ Livestock waste management

The development of generic waste management systems for small but intensive livestock systems such as Dairy yards, pigs, sheep and goat sheds and chickens.

7/ Quality improvement for livestock products.

8/ Cost Benefit analysis of livestock research.

It is important to link any cost benefit to the farmer. The easiest way to do this is to link earned income from farming to a labourers wage. Also gross margin analysis is possibly too simple and consideration should be given to incorporating a fully costed margin and also an investment appraisal analysis is farming is asking a farmer to commit his time and resources.

8/ Market research (economics)

An understanding of how our livestock markets work, the influence of the Maqiti and Falavelave type markets. The definition of quality in local markets as opposed to export standards. The fact that we grow to a market price rather than to identify the lowest cost of production. The value of the WTO in our livestock systems, the impact of the forth coming TPP trade agreement in the Pacific.

9/ Animal welfare

10/ Inventory of local feeds

This ties to 2/ and 1/ and publications like feedipedia.

11/ Climate change adapted livestock housing designs.

An analysis of the types of housing that can be constructed to give a better environment for the animals that will increase production.