

Improving Agricultural Extension Services by formation of Private Extension groups for increased access to Innovation in Nigeria

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Introduction

- Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa with about 212 million people (worldometer, 2021).
- Land area of 923768km², agricultural area of 70.8 million hectares.
- Agriculture contribute around 26.95% to Nigeria GDP in 2020. 70% of the population engage in the agriculture sector of 80% small holder(0.5 -3ha) while 20% Commercial farmers.

Problem statement

- Nigeria's agricultural extension service is proving to be one the weak link in the country's plan of revolutionizing the sector.
- Agriculture extension agent to farmer ratio ranges from 1:5,000 – 1:10,000
- Annual retirement of ADP staff without replacement.

Value chain affected

- Limited adoption of research findings and technologies and other factors all combined to keep agricultural productivity low
- Nigeria farmers crop yield/hectare is still far below global average (average of 1.2 metric tons of cereals/ha)

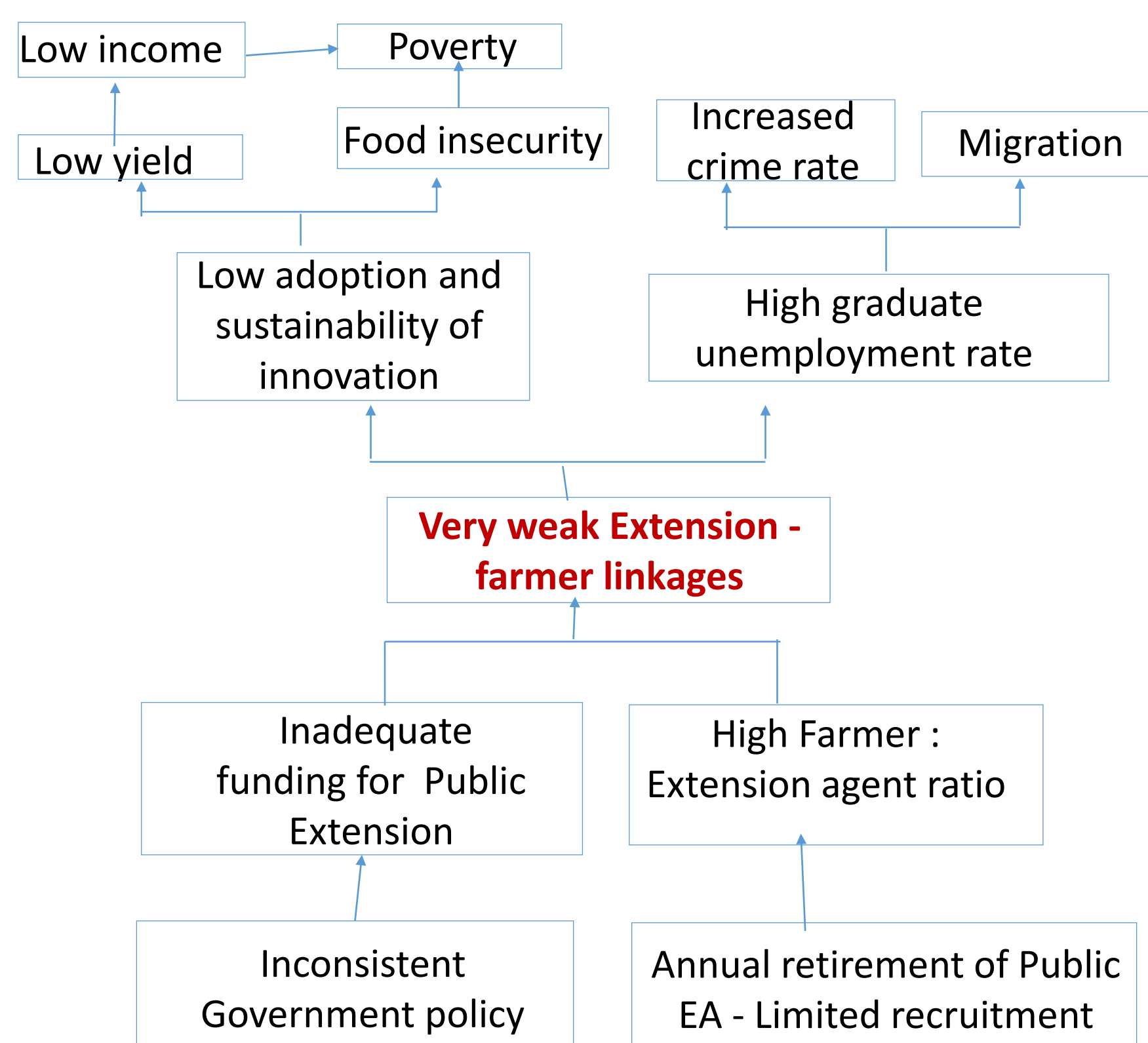
Solution approach

- Advocacy on the need for NGOs and private companies not to depend on public extensions to step down innovations rather engage more youth.
- Networking with Agricultural stakeholders
- Capacity building for agricultural graduates on private extension and business development.
- Setting up online platform to provide useful agro information to customers

Objectives

- Improve agricultural extension services through establishment of private extension group.
- Train graduates on private extension services and form a cooperative.
- Create employment opportunity for youth and support adoption of innovation.

Problem tree



Possible risks

- Majority i.e 80% of Nigeria farmers are small holders (0-3 hacters).
- Age of the young extension agents may affect acceptability by aged farmers
- Revitalization of the public extension services



Conclusion

- Access to appropriate innovation, information and advisory services by smallholders and family farmers is a vital element in transforming agriculture and food systems and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Agricultural extension programmes in Nigeria has changed significantly over the past four decades, these changes affected adoption of innovations by farmers.
- Support and contributions of NGOs, public and private organisations to Agricultural development of Nigeria is yet is not still visible in terms of sustainability.
- Policy makers and extension agencies needs a structural change in agricultural extension delivery approach.
- Due to the tight public budgets on Agricultural development programmes, the emergence of private extension cooperative will boast adoption of innovation by farmers and create employment opportunity to the ever rising population of unemployed youth.



Implementation steps/(milestones)

Activity	2021	2022	2023
Advocacy and sensitizations			
Cooperative formation			
Cooperative registration			
Networking/scouting for partners			
Promotions (Social media advert and creation website)			
Office Set-up			
Capacity building for team members on business development			
Linkage to partners			
Team monitoring			
Refresher trainings and trainings on innovations			
Use of ICT to deliver Extension Services			

Expected costs

Item	Amount (Euro)
Fixed Cost	
Cooperative and Business Registration	200
Rent (3years)	1000
Office setup/furnishing	500
Building of E-Extension channels	2000
Vehicle(s) (Van and two motorcycle)	4000
Total Fixed Cost	7,700
Variable Cost	
Capacity building for team/Cooperative members (2 trainings for 30 persons each)	3000
Office supplies	200
Bills	500
Promotions/Advertisement	200
Salaries and wages (office staff)	1000
Miscellaneous	500
Total Variable cost	5400
Total cost	13,100

Envisage Revenue streams

- Training facilitation Contracts
- Contract farming
- Demo plot management
- Farm visits
- Supports from partners and donor agencies

Expected outcomes

- Established private Extension cooperative
- Trained Agricultural service providers
- Nearness of farmers to Extension agents
- Balancing of Extension:farmer ratio
- Timely service delivery
- Increased adoption of innovations
- Improved access to innovations
- Increase in productivity
- Job creation for youths