



4.2 Ph.D. SYLLABUS

MAJOR COURSES

Ph.D. level

Credits: 3 (2+1)

Course Code: EXT-601

Title: POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND EXTENSION

WHY THIS COURSE?

Extension's performance in any country to a large extent is dependent on the wider policy and institutional context prevailing at the national level. At the organizational level, extension should have capacities to influence policies that affect their performance. To effectively influence policies, extension professionals need to generate not only sound evidence of its impact, but also capacities to engage with policy relevant actors especially at various levels. While few countries have developed specific extension policies, there has been very limited success in translating these policies into programmes and operational guidelines. Lack of policy relevant research to generate evidence on extension's impact; poor documentation of successful initiatives, and lack of training on engaging with policy relevant actors have all contributed to this. Extension professionals, often encounter situations where existing policy constraints development interventions or where new policies could better support development. This course is aimed at developing these capacities to successfully engage with policy actors and bringing about desirable policy changes to strengthen extension.

AIM OF THIS COURSE

- ❖ To orient students on the importance of policies in shaping extension's performance
- ❖ To discuss ways of generating policy relevant evidence to influence policies
- ❖ To develop capacities to engage with policy actors and the policy development process

The course is organized as follows:

No	Blocks	Units
1	Why policies matter?	1. Understanding Policy
		2. Policy Advocacy and Tools
		3. Policy Analysis
		4. Policy Development Process
2	Using evidence to influence Policy Change	1. Influencing Policy Change
		2. Global Experience with Extension Policy

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successful completion of this course, the students are expected to be able to:

- Appreciate the role of policies in shaping performance of extension
- Understand how to generate and communicate policy relevant evidence
- Critically evaluate extension policies in different countries
- How to engage in policy advocacy



BLOCK 1: WHY POLICIES MATTER?

Unit 1: Understanding Policy

Why policies are important for extension? Role in providing structure, ensure funding and framework for providing functions-examples; **Policy:** definitions and types: Is policy a product or a process or both? **Policies and institutions-How these influence defining organisational roles and performance in extension organizations- Role of policies in upscaling knowledge-**Role of extension in influencing policies to enable innovation.

Unit 2: Policy Advocacy and Tools

Definition of advocacy, Approaches to policy advocacy-Advising, Media campaigning, Lobbying, Activism, Information Education Communication (IEC) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC); **Advocacy for Rural Advisory Services (RAS); Policy advocacy strategy**

Unit 3: Policy Analysis

Explain the meaning and use of policy analysis in decision- making; **Describe different types of policy analysis-** empirical, evaluative or normative policy analysis, retrospective/prospective policy analysis, predictive/prescriptive/descriptive policy analysis; **How to do policy analysis?** - understand the process of policy analysis, highlight the different methods and techniques used in policy analysis, doing ethical policy analysis; **Tools for policy impact-** research tools, context assessment tools, communication tools, policy influence tools

Unit 4: Policy Development Process

Policy development process: Who drives policy change?: National Governments, Donors, Civil Society-varied experiences: **Understanding the environment and key actors in policy space-** problem identification-policy adoption, implementation and evaluation; stakeholder mapping, identifying opportunities and barriers, mobilising financial resources; **Dealing with policy incoherence:** identifying contradictions and challenges in policy implementation

BLOCK 2: USING EVIDENCE TO INFLUENCE POLICY CHANGE

Unit 1: Influencing Policy Change

Generating evidence: Role of policy research; analyzing the usefulness and appropriateness of the evidence; Using evidence in policy advocacy; **Understanding your audience:** analyzing channels of influence; creating alliances; identifying policy champions; **Defining goals and objectives; Developing advocacy messages:** Policy papers, Policy briefs, good practice notes etc.; **Good practices in influencing policies** Organising policy dialogues: Policy engagement strategy-Engaging with policy makers: GO and NGO experiences; Policy working groups; advisory panels; use of committees: **Use of media including ICTs and social media for influencing policies.**



Unit 2: Global Experience with Extension Policy

Extension policy in different countries: Explicit extension policy Vs extension as part of Agriculture Policy, Challenges in policy implementation: lack of capacities, financial resources, ownership, lack of stakeholder consultations: Strengthening capacities in extension to influence policies: Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)'s efforts in **strengthening extension policy advocacy:** policy compendium, training modules, training for strengthening capacities to influence policies.

PRACTICALS

1. Analysis of country/state level agricultural/extension policy to understand the policy intentions from strengthening EAS
2. Analysis of extension policy of other countries: policy intentions, processes adopted in development of the policy and mechanisms of policy implementation
3. Interview key policy actors in EAS arena at the state/national level (eg: Director of Agriculture, Director of Extension in SAU, Chairman/Managing Director of Commodity Board, Member Agriculture, State Planning Board) to explore policy level challenges in EAS
4. Identify what evidence policy makers look for from extension research? Is the evidence available? If so what form? (Reports, Briefs etc), If not, develop a plan
5. Explore how different stakeholders influence policies (eg: policy advocacy of prominent NGOs, private sector and public sector) -What mechanisms and tools they use
6. Identify policy level bottlenecks that constrain effective EAS delivery at the district level- Eg: Issues around linkages between KVK and ATMA; inter-departmental collaboration; public private partnerships; joint action etc.

TEACHING METHODS/ACTIVITIES

- Lecture
- Assignment (Reading/Writing)
- Student's Book/Publication Review
- Student presentation
- Group Work
- Student's interview of key policy makers
- Case Analysis
- Guest Lectures
- Review of policy documents
- Short attachments

RESOURCES

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