The Volumes

We recommend reading the first volume completely and then to use the others for reference purposes or upon special interest. Here you find a brief overview:

Volume 1: Basic Issues and Concepts
Ed. by V. Hoffmann, M. Gerster-Bentaya, A. Christinck and M. Lemma, 2009

Volume one lays out basic issues and concepts of agricultural extension in a problem-orientated, demand driven and systemic/systematic approach. Improve the design, planning and implementation of work programs and activities, enhancing the quality of advisory work for the benefit of both client and society alike.

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Volume 2: Examples and Background Materials
Ed. by Volker Hoffmann, Anja Christinck and Mamusha Lemma, 2009

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ISBN 978-3-8236-1573-6, 191 pp., 30 €

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Completely new: Rural Extension Manual
Revised 3rd Edition of Vol 1 and 2 and new: Vol 3
Expanded Comprehensive Contemporary

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The state of agricultural extension today

Recent rural development policy and approaches in the developing world have focused more on policy dialogue, good governance and decentralization in reaching the MDGs. Subsequently however, agricultural extension services have suffered, with poor funding and generally underpaid and under trained manpower. Despite many agencies recommending pluralistic extension models delivering services according to demand and market opportunities, their realization has been problematic.

The problem

Incredibly, most classic textbooks on agricultural extension have become outdated or are unavailable. The scope for training – especially in Europe – not only within agricultural organizations but also in universities is facing extinction. Consequently, and in contrary to its re-growing practical importance, there is a growing deficit in scientific and professional orientation regards agricultural extension and advisory work.

The challenge

Increasing scarcity of food, fuel, feed and fiber, combined with new risks posed by climate change has catapulted agriculture back onto the political agenda. Issues of food security, environmental protection and sustainable economic development pose new and major challenges to the agricultural sector, and to extension in particular.

The solution

To meet this critical gap in knowledge, the University of Hohenheim, with support from the BMZ and GTZ has edited a 3rd fully revised edition of the Rural Extension Manual to be published in 2009 by Margraf, free available to citizens of ACP countries via the CTA.

The revised 3rd edition – expanded, comprehensive, contemporary

Much has changed since the last edition in 1987. This revised 3rd edition updates existing knowledge with new insights in line with recent developments and experience. It covers more and broader perspectives, both rural as well as important rural-urban linkages, agricultural technologies and agriculture in developing nations facing increasing integration into globalized markets and value chains. It references all five continents, with regard to good practices and achievements as well as the pressing issues. There is also a brand new third volume dealing with capacity building.