

EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES TOWARDS CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE FARMERS IN BANGLADESH

Dr. Muhammad Humayun Kabir*

Executive Summary

There is a debate since long ago which one is better, public or private extension service? In this context, the objectives of the study are to assess the level of effectiveness of public and private extension services for farmers capacity building and comparison between public and private extension services regarding their effectiveness towards farmers' capacity building. Multistage sampling technique was applied to reach the final sampling unit (farmers/household head) for data collection. Data were collected from randomly selected 178 farmers live in selected four villages of Dhamrai upazila under Dhaka district using a pretested structured questionnaire survey. Few Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were also held to cross verify the collected data. The questionnaire survey revealed that majority of the farmers were old aged, owner of small farm, small family holding, primary level of education, long farming experience and having lower annual income. According to the opinion of these farmers, both the public and private extension services are less effective for farmers capacity building though the number of farmers having this opinion were higher in private extension services (71.9 %) than the public extension services (49.7 %). The independent sample t-test which was done to make a comparison between public and private extension services for farmers' capacity building explored that there is a significant difference between public and private extension services. The services are farm and home visit, demonstration and training on improving soil fertility and pest control. There was no significant difference among the other services such as field day, linkage with sources of agricultural inputs, linkage with sources of credit, marketing information, group formation and information about farm mechanization. Important policy implications for making more effective of public and private organizations were discussed.

* Professor, Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Information System, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207