CO-ORDINATION AMONG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IMPLEMENTING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAMMES IN BENUE STATE

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MARCH, 1994
ABSTRACT.

Agricultural agencies need to co-ordinate their activities to effectively influence farmers and their farming activities.

The overall purpose of this study was to assess the nature and scope of co-ordination among three government agencies executing agricultural extension programmes in Benue State.

Validated questionnaire was used in collecting data from the respondents comprising 29 staff of the Ministry of Agriculture (M.O.A.), 26 staff of the Benue State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (BNARDA) and 55 staff of the Local Government Councils Agriculture and Natural Resources Department (LGCAD).

Data was analysed and reported using percentage distribution, group mean, correlation analysis, analysis of variance and factor analysis. The result showed that:

Staff of M.O.A. and BNARDA had higher educational qualification, were of higher rank and attended more in-service trainings than their LGCAD counterparts.

There existed among the agencies skeletal administrative and direct service linkages such as fiscal, personnel practices, planning and programming and administrative support as well as core services and model case co-ordination.
The number of people contacted inter-organisationally as well as frequency of inter-organisational contact was quite low.

Major barriers to inter-agency co-ordination were lack of consensus and poor logistics. Similarly two major facilitators to inter-agency co-ordination were consensus and goal attainment.

There was lack of effective co-ordination of activities among the three agricultural agencies in Benue State. However, there were skeletal institutional linkages available for co-ordination to be institutionalized among the three agencies.