

Extension and Advisory Services in Moldovan Countryside: Is There a Place for Higher Education?

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Abstract

Sustainable development of rural areas in many aspects is determined by the availability of skilled labor force. A distinct role plays rural population with initiative and entrepreneurial skills, which is rare in Moldova. The situation can be improved by developing an effective extension service. The paper examines the past and presence of extension and advisory services in the villages of Moldova, basically in agriculture. Based on existing experience, there will be discussed possible solutions in creating an effective rural extension network, successfully integrating education and research institutions. Particularly, the existing potential of agricultural education and research staff will be examined, as the primary source of providing extension and advisory services in rural areas. In this context, the recent national reform of higher education will be described and discussed its possible effects on agricultural education and research system. Next, the existing mechanism of extension in agriculture will be analyzed. And finally, few organization choices of building an effective extension network will be provided.

Keywords: consultancy; education; research; rural; university