

Impediments and Means to Overcome Impediments Facing Agricultural Extension Services on the Operations of the Farmers in the Eastern Cape of South Africa

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ABSTRACT This study investigated a base level of understanding of the operational core values of the agricultural extension services on the operations of the farmers. Data was collected through self-administered questionnaires and the use of random sampling. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive statistic. Findings from previous literature revealed that there are impediments faced in the operations of the farmers. The field survey confirmed that extension officers have inadequate skills; they lack necessary competence and knowledge of technology and extension methods to perform their duties successfully and professionally. The significance of extension in agricultural system is essential in improving agricultural performance. The present findings identified the need for solutions to the impediments faced by the farmers in the developing countries by providing an insight for further research regarding the institutional weaknesses and policy issues. The implications of the findings are that unless the limitations named above are resolved, farmers in the developing nations will continue to experience poor economic growth and development. Recommendations to overcome these impediments are suggested.