

The rise and fall of training and visit extension: an Asian mini-drama with an African epilogue /

Anderson, Jock R. (1941-)

World Bank, Development Research Group, Rural Development Team,

2006

Case studies.

Monografía

The paper reviews the origins and evolution of the Training and Visit (T & V) extension system, which was promoted by the World Bank in 1975-98 in over 50 developing countries. The discussion seeks to clarify the context within which the approach was implemented, and to analyze the causes for its lack of sustainability and its ultimate abandonment. The paper identifies some of the challenges faced by the T & V approach as being typical of a large public extension system, where issues of scale, interaction with the agricultural research systems, inability to attribute benefits, weak accountability, and lack of political support tend to lead to incentive problems among staff and managers of extension, and limited budgetary resources. The different incentives and outlook of domestic stakeholders and external donor agencies are also reviewed. The main cause of the T & V system's disappearance is attributed to the incompatibility of its high recurrent costs with the limited budgets available domestically, leading to fiscal unsustainability. The paper concludes with some lessons that apply to donor-driven public extension initiatives, and more generally to rural development fads. The role of timely, independent, and rigorous evaluative studies is specifically highlighted

Título: The rise and fall of training and visit extension an Asian mini-drama with an African epilogue by Jock R. Anderson, Gershon Feder and Sushma Ganguly

Editorial: Washington, D.C. World Bank, Development Research Group, Rural Development Team 2006

Descripción física: 1 online resource (29 pages)

Mención de serie: Policy research working paper 3928

Bibliografía: Includes bibliographical references (pages 24-29)

Restricciones de acceso: Use copy. Restrictions unspecified star. MiAaHDL

Detalles del sistema: Master and use copy. Digital master created according to Benchmark for Faithful Digital Reproductions of Monographs and Serials, Version 1. Digital Library Federation, December 2002. http://purl.oclc.org/DLF/benchrepro0212 MiAaHDL

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Materia: Agricultural extension work- Asia Case studies Agricultural extension work- África Case studies Agricultural extension work.

Materia Geográfica: África Asia

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Entidades: Banco Internacional de Reconstrucción y Fomento. Development Research Group. Rural Development

Enlace a formato físico adicional: Print version Anderson, Jock R., 1941-. Rise and fall of training and visit extension. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, Development Research Group, Rural Development Team, 2006 (OCoLC)71262291

Punto acceso adicional serie-Título: Policy research working papers 3928

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