

**INNOVATIVE B.Sc. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAM FOR
MID-CAREER AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION STAFF AT
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST, GHANA.**

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Abstract

Agricultural Extension worldwide faces great challenges and opportunities as it strives to remain a major force for agricultural transformation and rural sector development in the dynamic era of the 21st Century. To enhance effective extension services delivery to both male and female farmers and also to remain sustainable especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, extension will have to deal with an array of challenges including emerging issues such as globalization, unprecedented technological advances in information, major structural changes in the agricultural industries, the persistence food shortages and yield gaps, the global trend toward privatization, and other well known challenges such as lack of dialogue between stakeholders, ineffective linkages between researchers, extension staff and farmers, difficulty in reaching female farmers, lack of effective farmers' organization and most importantly the issue of poorly trained extension staff. The presentation "Innovative B.Sc. Agricultural Extension Program for Mid-Career Agricultural Extension Staff at University of Cape Coast basically looks at the issues of human resource development for effective extension service delivery. It focuses on such issues:

- Why the need for B.Sc. Agricultural Extension Program?
- In view of the emerging issues outlined earlier on what should be the Nature and Scope of Agricultural Extension Education at the B.Sc. level?
- Why the emphasis on Mid-Career Agricultural Extension Staff?

Experience from the first Sasakawa African Fund for Extension Education (SAFE) launched at University of Cape Coast in 1993 – (i.e. the innovative B.Sc. Agricultural Extension Program) would be used as a case study to provide answers to the questions raised. Finally the paper proposes conditions that are necessary for the establishment of responsive B.Sc. Agricultural Extension Program.