

Research and Extension System in the North-Eastern Region of India: An Overview

B.R. Marak¹, A.K. Bandyopadhyay², J.W. Haobijam³ and B. Tripura⁴

^{1,2}Department of Agricultural Extension, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur-741252, Nadia, West Bengal

³M.Sc (Ag.) in Agricultural Extension Department of Agricultural Extension, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur-741252, Nadia, West Bengal

⁴Research Scholar, Dept. Of Agril. Extension, Agril. Sconomics and Agril. Statistics (EES), PSB, Viswa-Bharati
E-mail: ¹bkho15zooleye@gmail.com

Abstract—The North Eastern Region of India often described as a place of rainbow with colourful cultures and diverse terrain with enormous resources has a huge scope for all round development of agriculture which can provide a significant contribution to national economy. Agriculture is an important sector in the economy of north-east India, with its share in State Domestic Product (SDP) ranging from 19 percent to 37 percent in different states. In the study, an attempt was made to review and discuss the research and extension system prevalent in north-east India. Various institutional infrastructures introduced in north-east India viz. ICAR, local bodies, ATMA, KVK and State Agriculture and allied Departments, and their roles in agricultural research and extension activities were discussed in the study. An attempt was made to review the status and role of extension system towards the transfer of technology and agricultural development in the region. The study highlights the various constraints and drawbacks in agriculture which arise due to highly diverse agro-ecosystem, socio-cultural mixture of the people, a blend of multiplicity of ethnicity and geo-topographical variability. An understanding was derived from the discussion that there is a need of extension system to go beyond the task of dissemination of technologies. Timely and relevant information about production to marketing of the produce needs to be easily accessible to the farmers through the use of mass media technology and ICTs. Research-extension-farmer linkage needs to be strengthened through proper mechanism so as to indentify and address the needs of the poor and traditional farmers in the North Eastern Region of India.

Keywords: Research, Extension, ATMA, KVK, Constraints.