

Structured or spontaneous extension of DMC techniques in small scale cotton based agriculture? The Northern Cameroon case study.

Balarabé O., Abou Abba A., Olivier D. , Sadou F., Naudin K.

Outline

- Overview of cotton companies and other extension institutions main approaches
- Advantages and constraints of structured extension of DMC
- Advantages and constraints of spontaneous extension of DMC
- Strategic perspectives for efficient DMC dissemination in Cameroon?

Main features of structured extension institutions approach

- External and pre-existing (autonomous) DMC extension programs (Cotton companies, rural development projects, specific NGO's, ...), which may continue DMC extension after project fundings
- Wide field coverage (both area and farmers' coverage) by extension team
- Agricultural credit and inputs supply
- Efficient quantitative data identification and reliable statistics on dissemination rate
- Poorly sensitisation based technics
- Simple but poorly differentiated technical message

Structured extension: Advantages and Constraints related to DMC dissemination

Advantages

- Rapid extension rate
- Simple and clear technical sheet, adapted when starting DMC extension
- Strong link between annual planning, input supply and implementation
- Strong extension approach skills and personal relation by field technicians.

Constraints

- Limited self replication of DMC
- Limited DMC options to be disseminate (little technical alternatives for the farmer)
- Need for technical team training
- Limited diversified technical skills of field technicians (hierarchy based interventions)
- Unappropriate approach to tackle territorial resources management

Spontaneous extension: Advantages and Constraints related to DMC dissemination

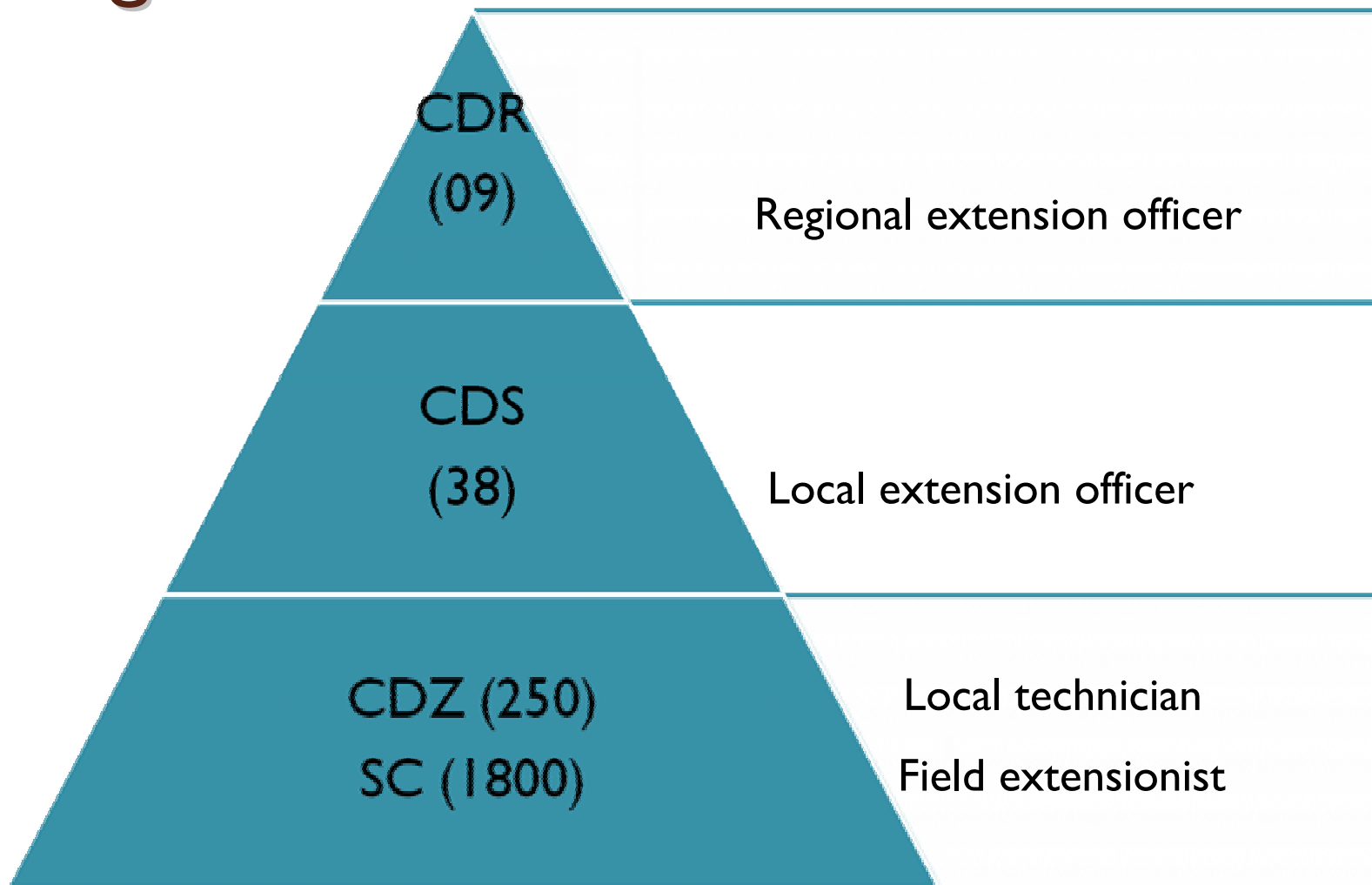
Advantages

- Various DMC adapted options, hence improving farmer's adapted alternatives seeking
- Strong implication of farmers in DMC options differentiation
- Strong and progressive replication among farmers (farmer to farmer tech transfer)
- Specific and continuous adaptation by farmers
- Proper arrangements on territorial resources management

Constraints

- Limited extension rate at the beginning (limited number of farmers supervised)
- Weak annual mastering of annual planning, input supply and implementation
- Wide skill variability of field technicians (need for positive on-station demonstration)

Structured extension team organisation in Sodecoton



Structured extension figures for DMC dissemination by Sodecoton

	2007	2008	2009
DMC area per village (ha)	2,5	5	10
Number of villages	3	3	3
Number of field extensionists	100	100	100
New total area under DMC	750	1 500	3 000
DMC area per village (ha)		2,5	5
Number of villages		10	10
Number of field extensionists		150	150
New total area under DMC		3 750	7 500
DMC area per village (ha)			2,5
Number of villages			3
Number of field extensionists			100
New total area under DMC			750
Total area under DMC	750	5 250	15 500

Strategic perspectives for DMC extension: both structured and spontaneous extension approaches to integrate.

HOW?

- Organising extension with both structured and spontaneous approach on the same villages:
 - simple DMC options by structured extension team and
 - diversified DMC alternatives and organising collective action by DMC specific field technicians)
- Progressively providing structured extension tools for DMC diversification technicians with increasing farmers involvement
- Providing diversified DMC options based on context differentiation and farm unit specific features to structured extension team
- Providing long term training on DMC for Cotton company's extension team (integrating field approach and DMC implementation skills)
- Combining basic quantitative identification of inputs needs to farmers strong implication in seed production.

Merci de votre attention !

