Models of service delivery for CASI in the EGP: Opportunities and challenges

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Background

- Sustainable and Resilient Farming Systems Intensification (SRFSI) project
- Funded by ACIAR, managed by CYMMYT
- Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification technologies & institutional innovations (CASI)
- Eastern Gangetic Plains (EGP) of Bangladesh, India and Nepal
- Objective: Evaluate service delivery models of SRFSI project for smallholder farmers
Service delivery models (SDM)

SDM is 'supply chain structures which provide services such as training, access to inputs and financing to farmers to increase their performance and sustainability’

(IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative 2016, p. 4)

- Organisational structure & function
- Impact & sustainability
- Financing options for sustainability
- Gender
- Factors leading to better outcomes

Research design

- Models developed & supported by partners:
  - Dhanusha & Sunsari districts of Nepal
  - Coochbehar & Malda districts of West Bengal, India
  - Purnea & Madhubani districts of Bihar, India
  - Rangpur-Dinajpur districts of Bangladesh

- Secondary data

- Interviews & FGDs: farmers, group leaders, SPs, Agrovets & input suppliers, machinery repairers, machinery dealers.
Categories of models

- **Producer group models (PG)**
  - Farmer productivity groups (Farmer clubs in India)
    - improve access: information, training, finance, inputs
    - some provide machinery
  - Farmer business groups
    - more formally organised & registered
    - linkage + commercial services: machinery, inputs, processing & marketing

- **Commercial service models (CS)**
  - access to inputs, information & machinery
  - selling crops & purchasing inputs.

District level farmer business group model:
Satmile Satish Club “O” Pathagar (West Bengal)
**District level farmer business group model:**

Seed producer model (West Bengal)

- **Breeder/Foundation seed**
  - IIWBR, BISA, Others
- **UBKV/KVK**
- **FARMER CLUB**
- **NABARD**
  - Capacity building
  - Technical backstopping
- **Machinery (CHC)**
  - Single window services
    - Machinery support
    - Quality inputs
    - Linkages to knowledge
    - Capacity building
- **NABARD**
  - Credit access

- **Registered grower**
  - Seed collection
  - Seed processing
  - Seed packaging
  - Marketing

**Farmer business group model:**

JEEViKA model for poverty alleviation (Bihar)

- **SHGs – Self Help Groups; VOs – Village Organisations; CLFs – Cluster Level Federations; BLFs – Apex Federations.**

**Input actors**

- **Credit agencies**
- **Machinery SPs**

**Livelihood Producer Groups**

- **SHGs – 10-15 members**
- **VOs – 8+ SHGs**
- **CLFs – 15-20 VSOs**
- **BLFs – Apex organisation**

**Livelihood**

- **Producer Groups**

**Producer Groups**

- **BAU/ICAR**
- **JEEViKA**
Farmer business group model:
RDRS Farmer Union Federation & IPs (Bangladesh)

Farmer Union Federation or Group
- Capacity building
- Linkage
- Logistic support
- Technical backstopping
- Process & progress monitoring

Local service providers

Business operations
- Seed collection, storage & supply
- Machinery supply
- Capacitating
- Credit
- Govt. services & resources access

Communities & Farmers

Community clinic & information
- Advisory service
- Service catalogue
- Plant & disease identification
- Bio-pesticides & seed & fertiliser samples
- Pest & disease identification

DeHaat (Bihar)

Collaborations
- Farm produce
- Agri Input
- Value chain finance
- Other partners

Communities & farmers

Farm produce

Agri Input

Value chain finance

Other partners

DeHaat Centres
- Micro-entrepreneurs: inputs, technology, marketing

DeHaat business app

Node: Inputs, marketing, information, backend

DeHaat business app

CHCs
- Micro-entrepreneurs: Custom machinery hiring centres

DeHaat farmer app & Toll Free number
Current effectiveness of linkages

- Producer group models:
  - Effective linkages to inputs, information, training & financial support

- Farmer business group models:
  - Ditto for effective linkages
  - Providing improved access to inputs & machinery
  - Some providing market access

- Commercial services
  - Ditto.

Producer group models sustainability

- Farmer club models in West Bengal
  - supported by enabling environment & government
  - potential problems because of coop structure, not clear that sufficient support to scale out

- JEEViKA model in Bihar
  - extensive state & national government support
  - potential problems of business organisations because of coop structure, should have sufficient support

- RDRS models
  - continuing support of NGO
  - question whether sufficient support for scaling out & overcoming coop issues

- Currently market failure, which gives them comparative advantage, but long term?
Recommendations for programs & policy

- Improving service delivery is complex, difficult, costly & lengthy process
- Enabling environments are key: improve policies & practices
- Have broad but integrated focus

Broad focus to include

- Expanding & developing value chains
- Involve partnering & multistakeholder platforms
- Clear business & market orientation & not welfare culture
- Co-financing by farmers, government & industry
- Separate funding from service delivery.
Broad focus to include

- Bundle & integrate services
- Incorporate training for actors & stakeholders
- Improve accountability through M & E & reporting
- Long-term investment & support
- Incorporate exit strategies for donors from beginning.