This course is envisaged for policy-makers, senior management and senior extension staff in agricultural extension. It can also be very useful for students studying agriculture, rural development and particularly extension.

Workshops on reform policies in extension can be held on request and tailored to your particular needs. For any further information, please contact Ms. Magdalena Blum. E-mail Magdalena.Blum@fao.org.

We greatly appreciate your feedback on this course.

Agricultural extension in transition worldwide: policies and strategies for reform

The purposes of this course are to review the major reforms to change the public sector agricultural extension systems.

9 MODULES WITH:
• Objectives
• Introduction
• Definitions
• Discussions
• Tools
• Exercises
• References
• **MODULE 1**  
  Module 1 provides background to the institutional evolution and forces that have, and continue to, change the shape and purpose of public sector agricultural extension services.

• **MODULE 2**  
  Module 2 reviews decentralization and its several meanings, and examines its advantages and disadvantages.

• **MODULE 3**  
  Module 3 covers the privatization of extension, when governments withdraw from public sector extension services, and considers the various funding and delivery options open to government.

• **MODULE 4**  
  Module 4 examines various funding and delivery options namely efforts at cost recovery services and the use of outsourcing to foster various ways of supplementing agricultural extension services and training.

• **MODULE 5**  
  Module 5 considers the advancement of participatory extension and the closely related, albeit different, promotion towards demand-led extension.

• **MODULE 6**  
  Module 6 emphasizes the role of government in its social and extension responsibilities, in coordinating a multi-purpose set of institutions, and the promise of information communication technologies (ICT) in enhancing diversified pathways toward pluralistic extension systems.

• **MODULE 7**  
  Module 7 underlines the importance of linking farmers to markets, and points towards renewed efforts to stress this aspect of public sector extension. It considers the task of promoting the organizing of farmers and integrating them into value chains by way of linking them to markets.

• **MODULE 8**  
  Module 8 deserves a separate course by itself, and deals with three important issues: administrative and field management of extension services, the promise of information and communication technologies in management, and the education and training of extension staff and agents.

• **MODULE 9**  
  Module 9 is the conclusion of the course. The various reforms discussed in the course are reconsidered along with major lessons learned. Also discussed are the tensions that exist between and among the reforms as to whether they promote privatization type reforms or participation/empowerment types of reforms. Participants are challenged to compare and contrast the reform proposals and principles with a view to considering how to modernize agricultural extension in the context of Agricultural Innovation Systems.