

Training Needs of Agricultural Extension Workers, Ministry of Production and Economic Resources, Sinnar State, Sudan

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Abstract

This study assessed the competency and training needs of agricultural extension workers in Sinnar State, aiming to enhance their performance in delivering timely extension work and expert-recommended messages. The entire population of extension workers in the Ministry of Production and Economic Resources was surveyed (N=48). Data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), calculating frequencies, percentages, and weighted means to identify specific training requirements. Key findings revealed that while 72.1% of the workers held a bachelor's degree, significant skill gaps existed in communication and administrative tasks. Only 62.5% of extension workers demonstrated proficiency in executing agricultural programs and writing reports. Furthermore, a minority were skilled in media preparation, with only 35.4% capable of preparing agricultural radio programs and 33.3% able to write newspaper articles. Based on these results, it is recommended that the agricultural extension directorate implement targeted training programs in coordination with experts and media directorates. Training should focus on improving skills in formal meetings, using instructional aids, writing detailed reports, and preparing content suitable for various mass media channels, including pamphlets, magazines, radio, and television programs.

Keywords: *Agricultural Extension Workers, Training Needs, Performance Enhancement*