

Abstract

Agricultural extension was once known as the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. The field of extension now encompasses a wider range of communication and learning activities organised for rural people by professionals from different disciplines, including agriculture, agricultural marketing, and health and business studies. This study documented the origin and development of Agricultural extension in Trinidad. It identified the critical decisions in its development that helped to shape the Extension services to what it is today, highlighting its strengths and weaknesses.

Data were collected by searches of the archives in libraries, face to face interviews with two past extension directors living in Trinidad and two virtual conversations using Skype with two past directors who migrated. All conversations were recorded digitally and used to compile the report. Results show that the development of the organisation was tumultuous at times, but its resilience is seen in face of a presently divided extension service which continues to function and provide a valuable service to farmers.