Technology Fact Sheet for Adaptation

Technology: Community-based extension [i]	
Technology characteristics	
Introduction	The community based rural agricultural extension model is based on the idea of providing specialised and intensive technical training to identified people in rural communities to promote a variety of technologies and offer technical services with support and review from an extension organization. The model is demand- based in that the service provider is contacted by farmers' groups or community to provide specific information and related service. The community based extension model can contribute to climate change adaptation through the training of service providers in climate data collection; analysis and dissemination within their areas of operation to enable communities select appropriate response strategies. The community based rural agricultural extension model was introduced in Ghana to complement the efforts of veterinary services in addressing livestock health problems in the absence of adequate qualified staff. The practice has since been expanded to include other technical areas including crop agronomy. It is also being used to promote climate adaptation in parts of the northern region by CARE International, an NGO. The use of model is however remains on pilot basis with limited coverage.
Institutional and organizational requirements	The role out of the community-based extension model requires a well established and experienced extension service at the national and regional level with qualified staff to role out. This is necessary for the supervision and technical support required by the community agents.
Operation and maintenance	As a community –based model, its operation will basically be at the districts and community level. There will be the need for regular on the job training and refresher courses for the agents to enable them deliver efficient services. The model will also require regular reviews towards improving its general operation
Endorsement by experts	The community based extension model is endorsed as an important alternative and supplement to nation-wide extension services especially under circumstance of high farmer to extension agent ratios.
Adequacy for current climate	The model is very relevant for addressing current climate change effects at the community level since it provides opportunity for local leadership in problem identification, analysis, selection of relevant technologies for addressing to current climate variability and future climate change.
Size of beneficiaries group	The technology has the potential of increasing access to extension services by a lot more farmers and in a timely manner.

Disadvantages	A major disadvantage of the model is the probability of rolling out poorly trained agents. Another disadvantage could be inadequate supervision and technical support from the main extension service.
Capital costs	
Cost to implement adaptation options	The model aimed at reducing cost of extension service provision. Costs are therefore expected to be low and will depend on the coverage area.
Additional cost to implement adaptation option, compared to "business as usual" (extra storage capacity)	
Development impacts, indirect benefits	
Reduction of vulnerability to climate change, indirect	Contributes to reduction of vulnerability to climate change through increases in access to technical services by farmers for implementation of other adaptation technologies e.g. li8vestock management, soil and water management etc.
Economic benefits Employment Investment Public and private expenditures	 The implementation of the model will create on site jobs for people within their own communities. Requires low investment when compared to training and use of regular extension staff Reduce public and private expenditures on climate related disaster management through its support to building community resilience.
Social benefits Income Learning Health	 Source of extra income for4 the community extension agents whilst supporting increases in household incomes at the community level. Creates opportunity for increased group and individual learning at community level The technology has the potential reducing health risks within communities through improved flow of information and training.
Environmental benefits	Community based extension model would assist in producing environmental benefits through the promotion and training of farmers on technologies that support environmental sustainability.
Local context	
Opportunities and Barriers	The current national extension policy provides for multiplicity of

	extension service providers hence is an opportunity for rolling out the technology by either public or private sector extension services. A major barrier is absence of the right caliber of people from various communities to be trained and appointed. Additional to this is the high rate of rural urban migration which could lead to high turnover of trainees. .
Market potential	This is a non-market technology
Status	Both the government extension service and NGOs are piloting the technology in some selected areas for specific purposes
Timeframe	The implementation can start now.
Acceptability to local stakeholders	The technology is acceptable to local stakeholders.

[i] **This fact sheet has been extracted from TNA Report – Technology Needs Assessment Report – Ghana. You can access the complete report from the TNA project website http://tech-action.org/**