Education, Extension, and Research Strategies for a Changing World:
Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems in Myanmar

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**Introduction and purpose of the poster:** The access to information/innovations and the capacities to create and transfer knowledge are key factors for economic, social and political development. The improvement of knowledge systems is a crosscutting issue in rural development. Innovative analytical tools, concepts and methodologies need to be applied in a broad way to improve the knowledge based of people in rural areas. The purpose of this poster is to describe the existing agricultural knowledge and information systems in Myanmar and some important suggestions for the future development.

**Major points/information to be shared:** The following are four main sources of agricultural knowledge and information received by farers: 1) *Interpersonal sources*: contact farmers, agricultural scientists, agricultural extension agents, NGOs and UNDP personnel; 2) *Mass media sources*: radio and television broadcasts, field days/demonstrations, agricultural shows and exhibitions, leaflets, newspapers, journals, newsletters; 3) *Market information*: traders (rice, food legumes, fruits and vegetables), transporters; 4) *Local/community sources*: farmers’ own experience, market place, neighbours/parents/children/relatives.

**Conclusion and Educational Importance:** The government extension is a major source of information. However, neither the communities nor the extension personnel themselves were satisfied with the quality or frequency of interactions. NGOs and the UNDP are also important sources of information in those areas where they are active. The major sources of knowledge for small holder farmers are friends, relatives, neighbours and markets. It is a greater need to improve the performance of the agricultural knowledge and information systems by assisting farmers in ensuring adequate amount of knowledge about technologies and other information. Government research institutes could capture a pivotal role in the Agriculture Knowledge and Information Systems of the future through increased emphasis on strategic alliances with other development agencies, the production of teaching materials designed for facilitating participatory learning, and the production of „basket-of options“ information materials for farmers and extensionists. The potential uptake pathways for agricultural technologies are: a) Research (central agricultural research institute, regional research stations, seed divisions/seed farms); b) Extension (agricultural extension division and other related departments, NGOs and the UNDP projects); c) Training (agricultural University and institutes, in-service training institutes); d) Market information (Myanmar Agriculture Product Trade, traders and transporters; and e) Input suppliers (seed companies, plant protection clinic, farm implement companies, plant nutrition companies).