



Disseminating Innovative Resources and Technologies to Smallholder Farmers in Ghana: Results of the Community Extension Agent Program



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Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture currently operates an agricultural extension agency program to help teach smallholder farmers the most current farming techniques, but there are not enough agents to provide a constant presence in local communities. As part of the Disseminating Innovative Resources and Technologies to Smallholder Farmers (DIRTS) project, researchers collaborated with the ministry to test a new community agricultural extension agent program, which selected and trained local agents to supplement the existing MOFA agents and provide more frequent teaching and support.

Key Findings*

After three years

- Community extension agents successfully increased local farmers' knowledge and improved their practices.
- Delivering specific information about a practice close to the time when the practice should be adopted may be an important component of a successful program.
- However, farmers' improved knowledge and implementation of best practices did not ultimately translate into increased yields or more earnings for the farmers.
- Farmers who received the program invested more in the use of herbicides, but not other inputs.

**These results are preliminary and may change after further data collection and/or analysis.*

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Partners: Ghana Agricultural Insurance Programme (GAIP), Ghana Ministry of Food and Agriculture, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Senoia Agricultural Research Institute (SARI)
Timeline: 2014-2018
Study Sample: 3,240 households in 162 farming communities in Northern Region.

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