



## Introduction

### Universities' Consortium on Extension and Advisory Services

Established 14 March 2013, Pretoria

#### *What is it?*

The Universities' Consortium on Extension and Advisory Services is affiliated with the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services ([GFRAS](#)). It is a platform for academia in universities and other training institutions, researchers in the field of extension, and/or service providers to various clientele along the agriculture value chain and in need of forms of support in rural livelihoods and wellbeing. The consortium was established out of a discussion on "[new extensionist](#)" capacities needed in extension and advisory services (EAS), specifically a meeting in Pretoria, 14-15 March 2013.

#### *What are the functions?*

- Championing the refining, advocacy, and dissemination of the concept of the "[New Extensionist](#)" (NE)
- Contributing actively to the NE theoretical and research base and actively factoring such information into teaching and research curriculums aimed at training agricultural extension practitioners
- Promoting a goodness of fit between the current realities and challenges in extension and the curricula of universities and training institutions
- Contributing to GFRAS objectives by providing evidence through research, documentation, and building theoretical bases for initiatives and directions
- Acting as a platform for sharing and exchanging information and expertise (e.g. manpower, curricula, materials)
- Contribute significantly to building and providing background material for a Handbook of Good Practice for agricultural extension practitioners in the employ of public extension services and academics training agricultural extension practitioners
- Providing guidance and expertise to GFRAS about regional and national processes (e.g. agricultural extension policy formulation, development of tools, methodologies and monitoring and evaluation)
- Contributing actively to the process of documenting the evolution and development of the practice, science and research of agricultural extension
- Undertaking actions to promote the science of extension through the GFRAS Annual Meeting, regional network activities, scientific conferences, and joint research projects and publications
- Contributing to the development and promotion of quality assurance norms and standards in extension training and delivery at all levels
- Serving as mentors and role models to stimulate the interest of youths to opt for careers in agricultural extension

#### *Upcoming activities*

- Hold e- discussions to take the process forward
- Secure a page on GFRAS and other regional networks websites

- Expand contacts and link other existing networks
- Announce the formation of the consortium and provide letters to inform relevant stakeholders by April 2013
- Exchange and examine the current curriculums in universities
- Prepare a concept paper on the consortium by April 2013
- Develop funding proposals with the support of GFRAS to secure funds for programme and operational costs by June 2013
- Launch the consortium during the Berlin annual meeting in September 2013
- Set up a side event at the Berlin meeting

*Outputs for GFRAS Annual Meeting, Berlin, 24-26 September 2013*

- Report on the e-discussions among members
- Analysis of curriculums in member universities
- An inventory of members

*How do I take part?*

For more information or to become a member, please send your Name, Institution, Role, Area of specialization, Country, and Contact details to Dr Adolphus Johnson at [dibijay2003@yahoo.com](mailto:dibijay2003@yahoo.com). For more information see <http://www.g-fras.org/en/messageboard/curricula-for-ras>.

*Founding members*

- Abdel-Al Mohamed – Egypt (Cairo University)
- Ali Muhammad – Pakistan (Arid Agriculture University)
- Akeredolu Mercy – Nigeria (WinRock International/SAFE)
- Cardenas Virginia – Philippines (University of the Philippines Los Banos)
- Dolly David – Caribbean (University of the West Indies)
- Fatch Paul – Malawi (College of Agriculture)
- Groenewald Izak – South Africa (University of the Free State)
- Johnson Adolphus – Sierra Leone (Njala University) (**lead**)
- Lategan Francois – South Africa (University of Fort Hare)
- Ngomane Tsakani - South Africa (University of Pretoria)
- Sulaiman Rasheed - India (Center for Research on Innovation and Science Policy)
- Terblanche Fanie - South Africa (University of Pretoria)
- Van Niekerk Johan – South Africa (University of Limpopo & Free State)
- Zwane Elliot – South Africa (University of the Free State)