

# Evaluation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (AFE) Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) System

The study assessed the AFE RBME System, which includes a Theory of Change (ToC) and a results framework with 28 indicators. The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) uses this system to assess the outcomes of its policies, programs, and projects.

This system enhances transparency and accountability in ATI's operations by offering a way to evaluate whether resources are being effectively used and achieving the desired results.

## Key Findings

### 01 VARIABILITY IN RBME IMPLEMENTATION

Understanding and application of the ToC and results framework varied across regions. While some staff were well-versed in the system, newly hired personnel lacked formal training. Despite regional adaptations, all centers acknowledged the importance of RBME in assessing intervention effectiveness and stakeholder feedback.

### 02

#### CAPACITY CHALLENGES

Understanding and application of the ToC and results framework varied across regions. While some staff were well-versed in the system, newly hired personnel lacked formal training. Despite regional adaptations, all centers acknowledged the importance of RBME in assessing intervention effectiveness and stakeholder feedback.

### 03

#### IMPACT OF PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

Understanding and application of the ToC and results framework varied across regions. While some staff were well-versed in the system, newly hired personnel lacked formal training. Despite regional adaptations, all centers acknowledged the importance of RBME in assessing intervention effectiveness and stakeholder feedback.

### 04

#### TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION

Understanding and application of the ToC and results framework varied across regions. While some staff were well-versed in the system, newly hired personnel lacked formal training. Despite regional adaptations, all centers acknowledged the importance of RBME in assessing intervention effectiveness and stakeholder feedback.

### 05

#### GENDER DISPARITY

Female farmers were 37.83% less likely to adopt technologies than male farmers. Adoption likelihood also varied by commodity type, intervention type, and regional center.

### 06

#### COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE OF DA-ATI

Beneficiaries reported ease of access to DA-ATI services compared to other government agencies. However, private sector extension providers outperformed government agencies in client satisfaction due to greater operational flexibility.

## CONCLUSION

The AFE RBME System remains relevant and effective, with high technology adoption rates and positive impacts on farmer empowerment and resilience. However, operational inefficiencies, including inconsistent understanding of the system, limited technical capacity, and manpower shortages, pose challenges to its sustainability. Regional disparities in technology adoption reflect broader differences in RBME management capacity.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**1**

Conduct an in-depth organizational capacity assessment (OCA) to determine capacity gaps and disparity across regional centers in the management and implementation of the AFE-RBME System.

In addition to gauging organizational and technical capacity, the assessment should consider geographical coverage in terms of size and accessibility as these are important determinants of the cost of data collection.

**2**

Strengthen staff capacity and training. A comprehensive orientation and training program should be developed and implemented for all ATI staff especially the new ones including contractual staff.

A periodic (e.g. annual or biennial) ATI wide conference involving the regional staff handling the RBME System should be held for the review of the System and sharing of lessons learned and best practices.

**3**

Continual improvement should be pursued by regularly examining the ToC, results framework, and basic assumptions of the RBME System

While the study found these elements as still logical and feasible, constant assessment will enable updating the various elements to keep up with the challenges emerging in the course of implementation

**4**

Employ more gender responsive approaches in the delivery of DA-ATI interventions.

The study found that female beneficiaries are 39% less likely to apply the technologies promoted compared to male beneficiaries. Such disparity highlights the need for designing and implementing interventions more relevant to female farmers.

**5**

Strengthen the role of DA-ATI in the provision of input support. The study found that technology adoption is constrained by high input cost and accessibility.

While DA-ATI is primarily focused on knowledge dissemination through trainings and other extension service modalities, the Institute may consider closely collaborating with other government agencies and private partners for the provision of input support and enhancing the accessibility of inputs, especially for small farmers.

**6**

Expand and sustain interventions designed to enhance empowerment and resilience. The study found that the DA-ATI interventions have a considerable positive impact on the empowerment and resilience of farmers, with many expressing higher confidence in dealing with crisis situations

As agriculture-based livelihoods are inherently vulnerable to various shocks, the interventions proven to improve empowerment and resilience should be expanded and sustained. These include interventions to improve market access, certification and value adding, among others.



# ACTION POINTS



Engage independent consultants or academic institutions for OCA.



Design a comprehensive training and orientation program.



Establish a periodic review for the RBME System.





Develop gender-targeted training programs.



Formalize partnerships with agricultural input providers to enhance support mechanisms.

By addressing these areas, the AFE RBME System can be strengthened to better support DA-ATI's mission and ensure sustainable agricultural and fisheries extension services.

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