



Good Practice Notes



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF IN-SERVICE EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING IN INDIA

5 Key Points

1. Context

- Farmers need support to deal with new challenges in agriculture
- Approximately 100,000 extension personnel in India in the public sector
- Limited knowledge on advanced extension methods

2. Objective

The Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM) aims to transform public extension functionaries into a professional cadre of Farm Advisors.

3. Methodology

- Capacity development of in-service extension professionals through a distance learning mode
- PGDAEM-MOOCs using the MOOCs platform

4. Results - Highlights

- This is a unique initiative for capacity development
- Cost effective and innovative approach
- Covered almost 18% of extension personnel in the Indian public sector
- Programme replicated in other countries

5. Recommendation - Highlight

Strengthen this initiative and try to replicate it across countries and regions in different forms

Introduction

MANAGE, established in 1987, is an apex level autonomous institute in India involved in capacity development of extension professionals. It is an organization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India (GoI). It offers services in training, consultancy, management education, research and information services.

It launched the Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM) during the academic year 2007-08, especially for public extension functionaries, in the distance learning mode. MoA&FW, GoI had fully sponsored the programme since its inception up to Financial Year (FY) 2014-15. With effect from FY 2015-16, GoI support for PGDAEM is to the tune of 60%, 90%, and 100% for general states, North-Eastern & three Himalayan states, and Union Territories (UTs), respectively.

Currently the 11th batch is pursuing PGDAEM. So far, 18,512 candidates have enrolled for PGDAEM, of which 12,181 candidates have completed the course (Figure 1.)

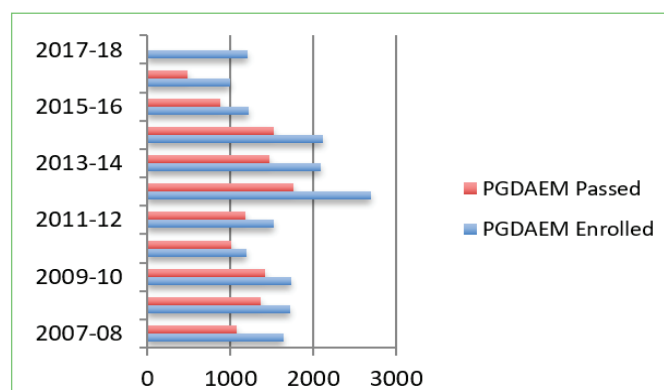


Figure 1: PGDAEM Enrollment Status
(Source: PGDAEM Cell, 10 July 2018)