



STRENGTHENING RURAL ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC. **APIRAS Learning Workshop**

Current situation of extension service network in Mongolia

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General information of Mongolia

- Mongolia is land locked continental country between Russia and China
- Territory is 1,565,000 square km
- Population is 3,520,000
- GDP is 21.0 billion US\$
- Number of livestock is 71,100,000
- Arable land is 1,300,000 ha
- Average precipitation is 280 mm per year
- Min t -40 in January, Max t +40 in July
- Frost free days 80 – 110 days

Crop sector of Mongolia (2022.)

Crop species	Planting area Ha	Total harvest tones	Average yield t/ha
Cereal crop	376,300	417,000	1.1
Potato	20,000	215,500	10.8
Vegetable	12,300	146,800	12.0
Fodder crop	61,500	165,200	2.7
Oil crop	124,300	45,700	0.4

- Entities & cooperatives 1,600
- Individual farmers 16,200



Agricultural Extension System: institutional structure and functions

Chronology:

- ✓ **Until 1990:** A government agency with more than 30 staff, headed by the Agricultural science council/deputy minister of Agriculture;
Function: apply and disseminate innovative machineries, technologies, ideas approaches developed by various agricultural research institutes in agriculture sector.
- ✓ **1992-1996:** Agricultural extension division at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture;
Function: apply agricultural sciences, in particular, the results of projects and researches by agricultural science institutes in agriculture sector, raise agricultural producers' awareness of market oriented economy, and conduct trainings based on agri-producers' demand.
- ✓ **1996:** by the Cabinet resolution# 286, National agricultural extension center was established at the request of Mongolian Ministry of Agriculture and Industry. The first Agricultural extension center had 6 full time staff, all former employees of training and extension unit and "Mongolian countryside" newspaper editorial office, both subsidiaries of Ministry of Agriculture.
- ✓ **1996-2008:** a period of rapid growth of National agricultural extension center, including its international cooperation with more than 20 million USD grants and aids channeled into agriculture sector; local agricultural extension center offices in 21 aimags and the capital city, including 180 soums of 12 aimags; and a full time position of extension manager at the national level.
- ✓ **2010:** following the adoption of Mongolian livestock national program, one specialist of a soum-based veterinary and animal breeding unit shall now function as the agricultural extension officer, in accordance with new regulation for agricultural extension services revised by ministerial order A164/2010.
- ✓ **2015-2020:** National agricultural extension center operates as a State owned enterprise. A position of agriculture extension service officer was created in the aimag based Food and agriculture department, in 2017.
 - At the Ministry of Agriculture, there is a non-staff Science and technology council headed by a deputy minister, and a science ad technology specialist in the Policy and planning department.
- ✓ **2020-present:** reorganized to Agricultural research and development (R&D) center a government agency within the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light industry.



Lessons learning from history of developing extension service

- Until 1990 extension service is operational as a agency with 30 staff, but after transition period of free marketing system collapsed (no budget, no responsible institution)
- Between 1992-96 established extension department under MOFA as a administrative unit, but not established extension network in nationwide.
- Established 2 extension center with support of EU project at FAD of aimag (province) but collapsed after completion of project. (lack of financing)
- JAICA project prepared 1 agronomist from each aimag's FAD as a manager of extension, but working other jobs depending on lack of facilitation.
- The extension centers must be established at soum level for closely working with small scale vegetable growing farmers. But still not stablished extension network.
- Some project and NGO-s initiated to establish extension center, but no any support from state organization.
- We no not have any legal environment to regulate extension services and rural advisory services.
- So many NGO-s, research institutes, projects responsible or willingness to provide advisory services to the rural farmers, but no any leading organization like as Country Forum of Rural Advisory Services (CFRAS)



Role of agricultural extension centers in crop sector

- Apply scientific knowledge and practices to agricultural production;
- Help crop producers adopt new techniques and technologies;
- Release new crops and varieties, and supply seeds;
- Train crop producers on IPM;
- Raise crop producers' awareness of GAP and organic farming;
- Supply fertilizers and plant protection products, and issue instructions for application;
- Provide technical advices and trainings; and
- Provide small scale machinery rental services.



The MFARD is established 3 pilot extension center at soum level and 1 green house technology transfer center with financial support of Mon-vegi project in CAR of Mongolia (2016-2017)

Facilitation of pilot extension center

- Total investment 90-100.0 mln MNT
- Office with training room, seed shop and rest room for consultants
- 1.2 – 2.0 ha field for demonstration of new technology and new varieties
- Set of small scale field equipments mounted with 35 hp tractor
- The salary of agronomist and field worker is covered by Mon-vegi project.
- The extension centers 15.2 -21.5 mln MNT earned from sales of inputs and vegetables and rent of field equipment

Activities provided by extension center (2022)

- Demonstration of new varieties and test of new fertilizer and new pesticides (6-13 varieties tested)
- Theoretical and practical training for farmers based on needs (60 – 350 farmers trained)
- Locally input supply including certified seeds of registered varieties, pesticides and fertilizers (6.3-16.0 mln MNT)
- Rent of small scale field equipment for small and medium farmers and household (2.3 – 3.0 mln MNT)
- On site advising services provided by highly professional consultants (advising service to 700 farmers)
- Growing economically high valued vegetables for earning income for self financing. (10.5-13.0 mln MNT)



Extension centers /Mandal soum of Selenge province, Bornuur soum of Tov province. 2017/





Introduction of Mongolia Farmers Association for rural development (MFARD)

Established in 2004 as a member oriented professional NGO

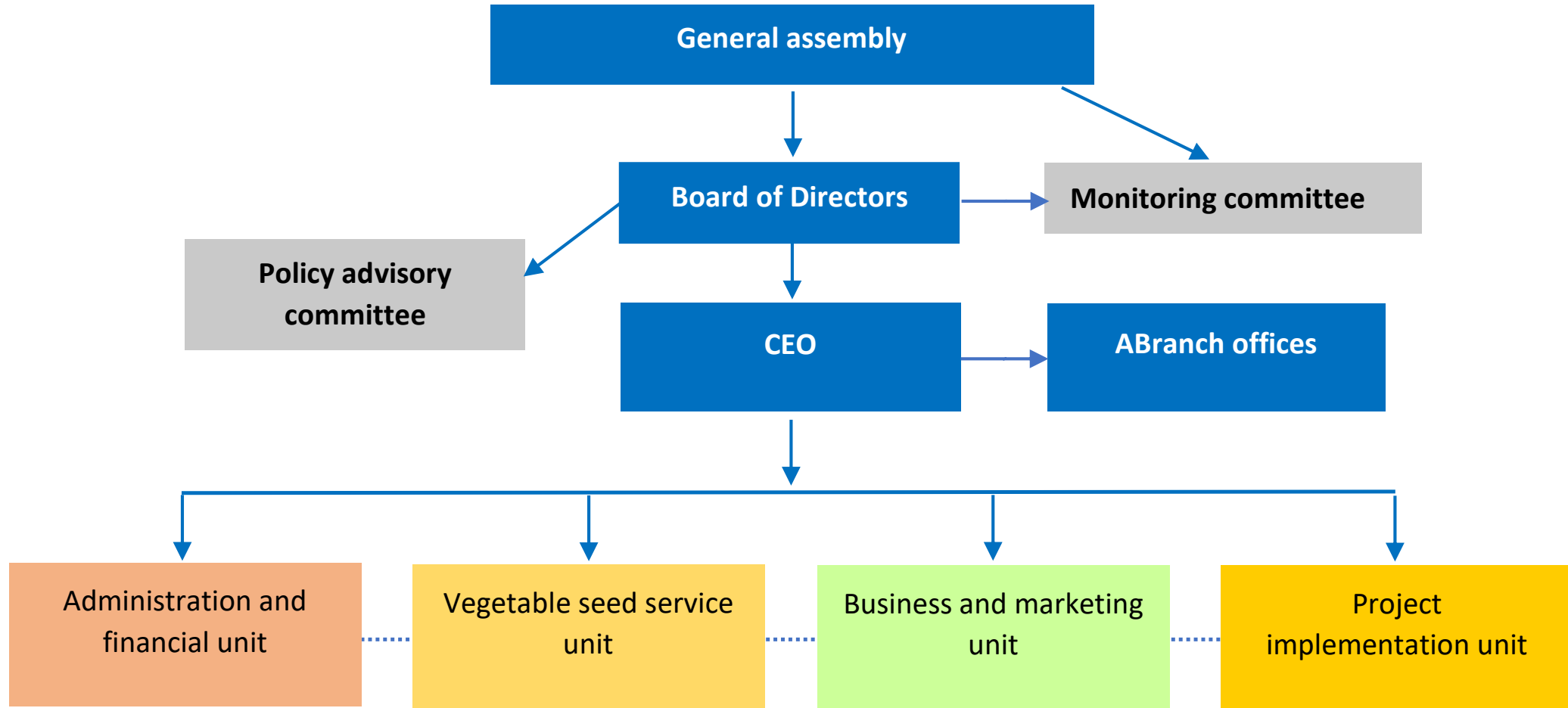
- **Mission of MFARD:**
- farmers a voice in the formulation of policy
- best interest of its members in decision making in a government
- protect their best interests, and create business friendly environment
- Provide technology trainings, and conduct joint research to introduce innovative farming technologies and modern farm machineries
- Ensure member farmers' access to certified seed of released vegetable varieties including seed potato, plant protection products, fertilizers and small scale farm machineries; and
- Organize international and domestic study tours for member farmers for knowledge exchange and skills sharing.

Now working 35 branches with totally 1480 member farmers (10% of total farmers)

- **Main activities:**
- Supporting members in vegetable production and processing, and vegetable brand development for domestic and international market;
- Building cooperation, and learning from domestic and international practices;
- Supporting vegetable farmers in integrating their systems at local and national levels;
- Supporting vegetable farmers efforts to expand their businesses;
- Contribution to strengthening national vegetable seed self-sufficiency, and releasing new crops and varieties;
- Implementing externally funded project and programs; and
- Improving legal knowledge and technical capacity of member farmers.



Organigram of MFARD





Major achievements of MFARD

- Contributed to development of project document for and implemented all phases (3) of Mongolian Potato program, resulting in Mongolia's 100% self-sufficiency in table and seed potato, in 2004-2015;
- Won “Protecting low income farmers from price hikes” project tender by FAO and provided 8000 vegetable farmers of 12 aimags/provinces with 600 tons of seed potato, in 2011;
- Conducted, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry of Mongolia, the feasibility study for “Rehabilitation of seed multiplication, crop rotation, variety test and release centers”, in 2013;
- Conducted, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry, the feasibility study for “Rehabilitation of crop production in isolated regions”, in 2013;
- Conducted a feasibility study for establishment of starch production plant in Jargalant soum with a processing capacity of 24,000 tons of potato annually, under contract with Tuv aimag governor's office, in 2013;
- Conducted “Registration of vegetable producers and determination of product origin” research at the request of Mongolian Ministry of Agriculture and Industry, in 2014; and
- Contributed to development of project document for and is implementing all phases (2) of SDC funded Inclusive and sustainable vegetable production and marketing (Monvegi) project, in 2016-2023.



Strategical key issues for future development

- Increase MFARD membership base to represent majority of Mongolia's vegetable producers;
- Contribute to policy reform for vegetable subsector;
- Raise vegetable farmers awareness of government policy and support implementation of government policy and actions at the grassroots level;
- Mobilize member and non-member vegetable farmers' support and cooperate with the line ministry to achieve 100% seed self sufficiency for major vegetable crops;
- Support collaboration between government and vegetable producers to improve marketing, storage, transportation and processing of vegetables, and regulation of vegetable import and export;
- Speak up for member farmers in a dialogue with local and national governments on vegetable market dynamics;
- Support adoption of Good Agricultural Practices among member farmers; and
- Support organic local and national vegetable brand development for domestic and international markets based on Public Private Not-for-profit Partnerships model.
- Develop and implement comprehensive midterm strategical plan for improvement of MFARD's governance and financial management;
- **Join Asian and regional networks of farmers association or CFRAS;**



The key players/stakeholders of extension or advisory service in Mongolia

Institution	Representing organization	Extension services			
		Training and demo	Advising service	Input supply	Rent of equipment
Admin org	MOFALI, Agricultural R&D, provincial FAD	+	+	-	-
State org	MULS, IPAS, IPP (universities and research institutes)	+	+	-	-
NGO	MFARD, MNAF,	+	+	+	-
Project	Mon-vegi, STREAM, ADB and FAO funded projects	+	+	-	-
Private	Companies, cooperatives, distributors	-	-	+	+
Extension	3 pilot extension of MFARD	+	+	+	+



Advantages of MFARD for organizing Country Forum of RAS in Mongolia

- The MFARD has 35 branches in nationwide with 1,480 member farmers, who are dealing with vegetables and potato production.
- Professional association in potato and vegetable sector and most of universities and research institutes are our partnership organization. Enough human resources for rural advisory service in different subject of crop sector.
- Recognition by line ministry, public organizations and NGO-s in agriculture sector.
- Good collaboration with MOFALI, Agricultural R&D Agency and other research organization
- Since 2004 successfully implemented SDC and Mongolian government joint program and project: Mongolian potato program and Mon-vegi project and have well recognition among farmers
- Successful pilots and supply of inputs under the said program and project, winning farmers' recognition as an input supplier including new variety certified seed, pesticides and fertilizer.
- The MFARD is established 3+1 extension center in main vegetable and potato growing area with support of Mon-vegi project and completion of project those extension center will be sustainable operated by NGO.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENSION.