

MENU OF SERVICES FOR USAID MISSIONS

The **Enabling Farmers for Agricultural Transformation (EFAT)**, supported by USAID Washington, is a five-year project (2022-2027) that provides technical assistance to USAID missions and implementing partners to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of **pluralistic agricultural extension and advisory services and systems (EAS)** in boosting the agricultural productivity, incomes, livelihoods and resilience of men and women smallholder producers. EFAT can mobilize volunteer technical assistance to implement assignments.



WHAT CAN EFAT DO FOR YOU?

The following are examples of the types of support services EFAT can provide that can be tailored to your needs and context:

Technical Assistance



Agricultural programs are most effective when the provision of advisory and complementary services is well thought through, uses multiple methods and approaches, meets the needs of diverse demographic groups, particularly women and youth, and relies on sustainable funding sources.

Options

Support for designing effective advisory services like:

1. Diagnostic studies of the extension and advisory system and the broader agricultural innovation system;
2. Local level landscape analysis of extension and advisory providers to identify gaps and opportunities for intervention;
3. Input to program descriptions for requests for proposals or applications;
4. Barrier analyses to understand the factors limiting women's and youth's access to and ability to benefit from EAS;
5. Assessment of the effectiveness of extension and advisory methods and approaches;
6. Support host governments to develop extension policies.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

To select locations for its activities in Senegal, identify which advisory and complementary service providers operate in each location and their strengths and weaknesses, EFAT carried out a local landscape analysis of agricultural service provision in four locations. The analysis used multiple methods including a desk review of the EAS system, an inventory of agricultural innovations disseminated in Senegal over the previous five years, key informant interviews with a range of agricultural service providers (advisory, financial, climate, market, inputs) and an analysis of women's and youth's access to agricultural services. EFAT could support similar rapid assessments and diagnostic studies in other countries.

Implementation Support



Providing inclusive, demand-driven advisory and complementary services to smallholder producers, particularly women and youth, is critical for the success of agricultural programs. Often, not enough attention is given to ensuring that advisory and other agricultural services operate efficiently and effectively and are well coordinated.

Options

Strengthen strategies, methods, action plans and workplans by

1. Working with implementers to select advisory methods and approaches to meet specific advisory objectives and better respond to the needs of women, youth and other marginalized groups;
2. Designing mechanisms and platforms for coordinating pluralistic advisory services at national or local level and evaluating their performance;
3. Exploring with missions and partners learning questions that arise during implementation;
4. Designing innovative and sustainable mechanisms to fund EAS.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

For countries that have put in place a mechanism for coordinating pluralistic EAS, EFAT can assist with facilitating a self-assessment of the coordination mechanism as a way of identifying gaps and weaknesses and contributing to organizational learning. Activities would include a desk review of the country's agricultural innovation system and policies related to agricultural extension and advisory services, a self-assessment exercise by the body responsible for coordinating EAS, developing a policy brief and organizing a high-level national round table for government agencies, international donors and other stakeholders on agricultural advisory coordination.

Capacity Development



Agricultural programs achieve their best results when EAS organizations and staff at all levels (managers, field staff) have strong technical and functional capacities, knowledge and skills to provide services and support to smallholder producers.

Options

Provide custom-made virtual and in-person training and learning opportunities to: **1.** Build Missions' and partners' capacity to strengthen EAS support for climate change adaptation and mitigation; **2.** Assess the capacities of EAS organizations and their capacity development needs; **3.** Build missions' and partners' capacity to design and implement gender and youth responsive advisory services; **4.** Support host governments to review and improve agricultural extension training programs and curricula and strengthen the professionalization of advisory services.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

EFAT is carrying out an evidence review on the role of EAS in supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation to identify best practices. A training module on this topic aims to strengthen the capacity of advisory staff on climate change. Additionally, EFAT is developing a policy brief and will host webinars on the role of EAS in supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Project could organize customized learning opportunities for missions and their partners based on these and other resources.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning



With the current changes and expanding functions of pluralistic agricultural advisory services and systems, it is important for EAS organizations and teams to monitor and reflect on their activities and document learning to adjust implementation, scale up innovations and share experiences with other EAS actors.

Options

Provide support for evaluations and learning such as **1.** Research, evaluations and impact assessments of EAS programs and activities; **2.** Support implementing partners to develop customized EAS learning agendas; **3.** Data reviews to improve analysis of the effectiveness of advisory programs, activities and methods; **4.** Knowledge products on good practices and lessons learned from extension and advisory activities.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

In Senegal, EFAT and a local university are monitoring pilot extension and advisory “hubs” that bring together local public and private sector actors to improve the delivery of advisory and other agricultural services. Based on a robust learning agenda, the teams will carry out organizational assessments of the organizations involved in the hubs and their capacity development needs and collect information over a three-year period through regular meetings, periodic “pause-and-reflect” workshops and other data collection methods. EFAT could support similar studies in other countries.



Interested in engaging EFAT?

Contact:

EFAT Project Director,
Sonii David (Sonii.a.david@winrock.org)
EFAT AOR, USAID Bureau for Resilience
and Food Security,
John Peters (jopeters@usaid.gov)