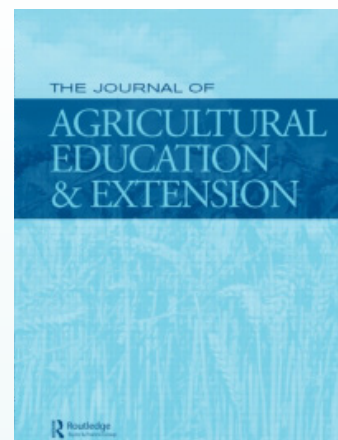


CALL FOR PAPERS

A special issue on "Gender and Agricultural Extension"



Special Issue of *The Journal of Agricultural Education & Extension*

Guest Editors: Tahseen Jafry & Rasheed Sulaiman V

The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension (JAE) is a peer-reviewed journal that deals with multi-disciplinary issues regarding communication, competence development, education, extension, human resource development, learning, skills development and work related education for innovation in agriculture.

Vol 19 Issue No 2 is to be published in April 2013 will focus on gender related issues involved in extension and rural advisory service provision. The special edition will include papers on constraints to reaching rural women under current systems of extension and rural advisory service provision.

Agricultural growth, a key means of poverty alleviation, relies on improving the productivity of women farmers since women form the majority of farmers and labourers in many countries. There is an increasing realisation that challenging gender inequality and investing in addressing the barriers that woman face, will increase efficiency and productivity in the agricultural sector and thereby contribute towards growth and poverty reduction. Agricultural extension and rural advisory services play an important role in transferring new technologies and information to farmers.

Overcoming gender bias requires attention to what stands in the way of equitable service provision, rather than just complaints that extension agents do not talk to women. Some countries have made efforts to increase the number of women extension and advisory service agents and enhance their capacities through training. Though this strategy ensures better coverage of extension support for women, this is not a guarantee that the women's needs for information and support are met by extension. Improving the articulation of women's demand for extension is one way of enabling development initiatives to be more focussed towards local needs. Another approach is gender-sensitive project design which can be used as an entry point for promoting equal participation of men and women in project activities in addition to addressing women's training and credit needs, and promoting women's property right.

We welcome all contributions that touch upon the issues discussed above. The papers can be empirically based or could be conceptual and deal with issues such as; current constraints faced by extension and advisory services in effectively reaching rural women, new and innovative approaches tried in reaching rural women and also in influencing the innovation process to effectively address the needs and concerns of women engaged in agriculture, experience from gender mainstreaming and its impact on women empowerment and reduction in gender inequality, nature of changes implemented in extension and advisory services to better support women to deal with food security and climate change risks. This list is not exhaustive, as there may be other interesting perspectives on this matter.

Contributions should be based on current theoretical insights and the state-of-play in gender research as published in SSCI-journals, and should provide elaborate methodology and/or analysis sections.

Submission Guidelines:

We invite practitioners and academics to submit, in the first instance, an abstract (maximum 500 words) (in English) that you intend to write for this special issue by 15 April 2012. Submit your abstract to: T.Jafry@gcu.ac.uk