

Rural Aquaculture Extension

Objective

to persuade and help aqua-farmers to improve their socioeconomic condition and quality of life by making improvement in their farming practices resulting in increased fish production and income.

Factors to success

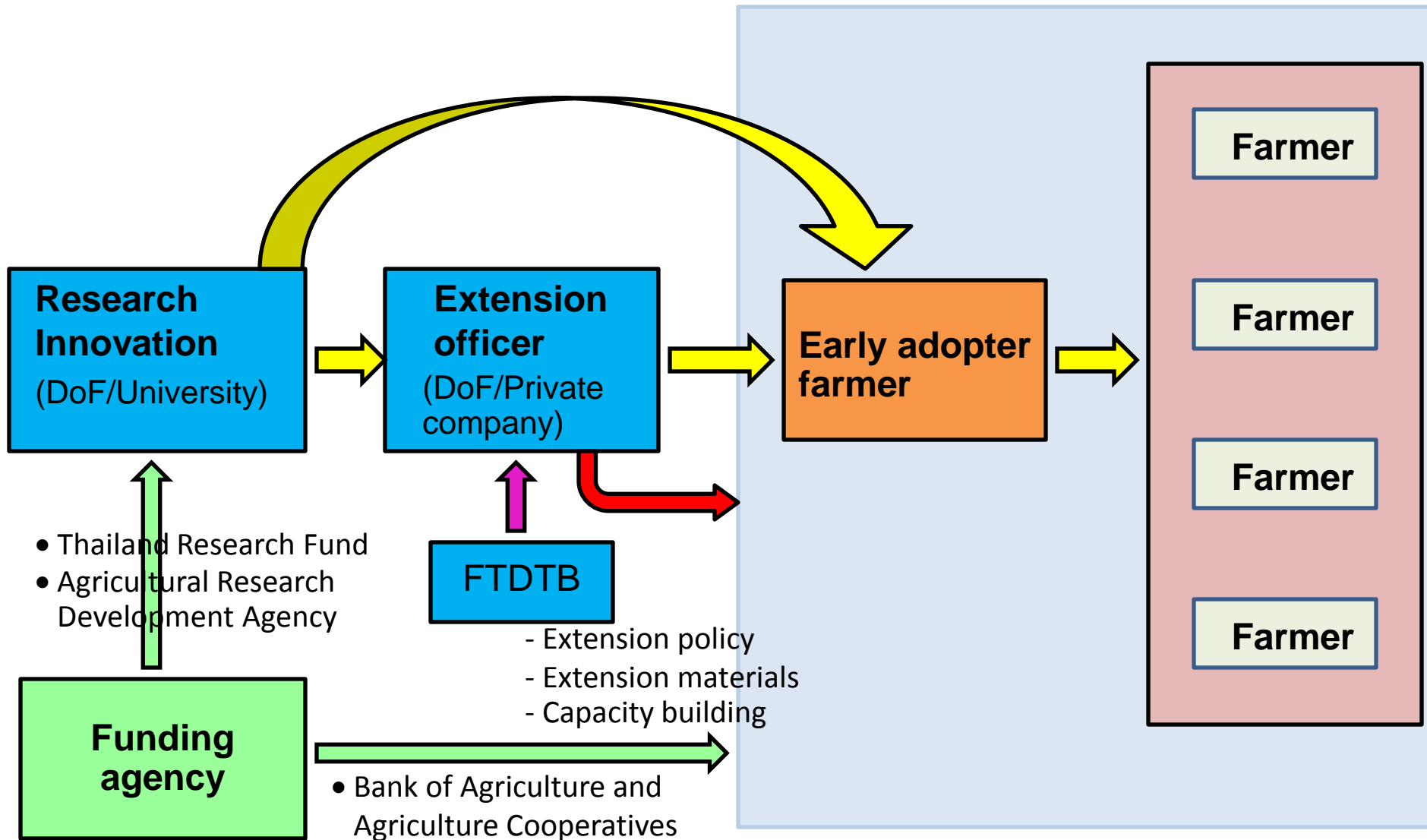
The targeted expansion of aquaculture production will depend on many factors, including;

- development of necessary infrastructure and marketing facilities
- easy availability of required inputs
- information transfer system

Major task of extension

- collect the desired information
- inform and convince the target people/group about the value of new and better technology packages
- make further refinement to suit them and motivate them to adopt it and draw benefit from it

Agencies Involve in Aquaculture Extension and Direction of Information Flow



Extension techniques

- Training and visit
- Demonstration farm
- Producer Meetings
- Educational Materials
- Mass media

Training and visit

- consists of training sessions for farmers to introduce specific technologies which are then followed by farm visits to observe their implementation and outcome,
- training session can take a number of forms, including farmers meeting, conference, workshop, and method demonstration,
- appropriate extension technique for cooperatives, private producers, and subsistence producers



Demonstration farm

- incorporate two main attributes, 1) recognize the importance of demonstrated success of any new technique and its subsequent adoption by farmers, and 2) the importance of farmer-to-farmer communication.
- A technology, which has been successfully developed by researchers to the point where there is good potential for success on the farm, is selected for implementation on a cooperator's farm.
- The cooperator is selected on his or her willingness to devote space and time to the activity, and with resources to meet particular requirements of the new technology.

- Implementation of a new technology on a farm in an area with favourable conditions demonstrates to the local producers the viability and potential benefits to be derived from it.
- Demonstration farms were regarded as one of the most useful extension methodologies.



Producers Meetings

- provide a mechanism
 - to transfer information to a group of farmers at one time.
 - for mutual support and interchange of ideas among farmers.
- demonstration farms and meetings were seen as most important for working with commercial farmer.

Educational materials

- Newsletters, bulletins, fact sheets, and pamphlets can be passed or mailed to producers without farm visits, and can be used to reinforce information presented at producers' meetings or through farm visits.
- In area with a high rate of illiteracy, educational materials must be designed carefully with illustrations which convey information without relying extensively on text.

- A series of manuals on the following subjects is recommended:
 - fish pond construction, inorganic and organic fertilization of ponds, stocking and culture of fish species in ponds, fish pond management, economic aspects of fish culture, reproduction of freshwater organisms for their culture in ponds, fish health, prevention and cure of parasites and diseases, and preparation of aquaculture products.
- These manuals should be based completely on experiences within the country.



Mass media technique

- Radio announcements and television can be extremely effective means of communication in rural areas where illiteracy exist.
- educational materials and mass media as well as farmer-to-farmer interactions were widely used for exchanging information at farmer, neighbour, and community levels.

Appropriate Extension Technique

Aquaculture is a practical science and hands-on training through **demonstrations, pilot projects** and **training courses** with a strong applied component are likely to be the most successful way of effecting the information/technology transfer.

**Thank you for your
kind attention**