



Africa Agriculture Science Week & FARA General Assembly

10-16 June 2007
Johannesburg, South Africa



FARA General Assembly Reporting format for Side-Events June 10-11, 2007

Name of side event:	L3 and Tech Mode: A Paradigm Shift in Extension for Africa
Sponsoring organization(s):	Commonwealth of Learning (COL)
Name(s) & email(s) of contact persons:	Dr. Krishna Alluri (kalluri@col.org) Dr. K.Balasubramanian (kobala2004@yahoo.co.uk)

Background/rationale of the side event *(maximum one paragraph)*

COL and FARA Side Event included participants from the African and international agricultural education, extension and research organisations as well as from the Technology Mediated Open and Distance Education and Learning (Tech-MODE) institutions, NGO, private, the micro-credit and banking sectors. The agricultural extension system is facing challenges due to globalization, climate change and decreasing investment etc. This in some instances has led to donor- supported perpetual-pilot project syndrome. There is a need for new models based on self-sustainable, self-replicable and self-generative processes. Lifelong Learning (L3) promoting self-directed learning among farmers using Tech-MODE has scope to address the issue. Partners from the banking and insurance sectors should be encouraged to invest in Tech-Mode based L3 as a business strategy for extension. Experiences in Asia show that such investments in Tech-MODE based L3 and mobilizing the farming communities, not only ensures the livelihood security of the rural community, but also enhances the business opportunity for the banking and insurance sectors. A Win-Win scenario helps all the stakeholders including farmers, markets and banks to come together in a mutually non-exploitative relationship and internalise the extension process.

Principle agreements/actions/recommendations *(include who is responsible for implementation & when)*

- Facilitate Tech –MODE based L3 Pilot projects with the involvement of banks and markets in Africa.
- Facilitate the process of social mobilization and building cognitive social capital among farming communities (FARA and COL).
- Implement pilot projects to convince the banking and insurance sectors that investing in Tech-MODE based L3 would be a good business strategy for banks and good development strategy for the community (FARA and COL).
- Form consortium of knowledge creators and actors (agricultural education, extension, research & development organisations as well as Tech-MODE institutions) in forward-backend linkages to develop relevant content and facilitate knowledge building among the rural community in a holistic manner (FARA and COL).
- Organize a “Policymakers and Bankers Meet” to create awareness among the policymakers about the importance of the financial institutions in investing in agricultural credit, market, education, extension and research as sound business strategy and facilitate the development of appropriate policies for the involvement of banks and insurance sectors in agriculture (FARA and COL).

Side event linked to which FARA networking support function? (check one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to knowledge and technologies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional policies and markets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity strengthening <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnerships and strategic alliances
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Where relevant, note who has success stories, &/or useful resource people or institutions related to side-event theme.

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