

Training program for Agricultural Extension Experts in OIC Member States

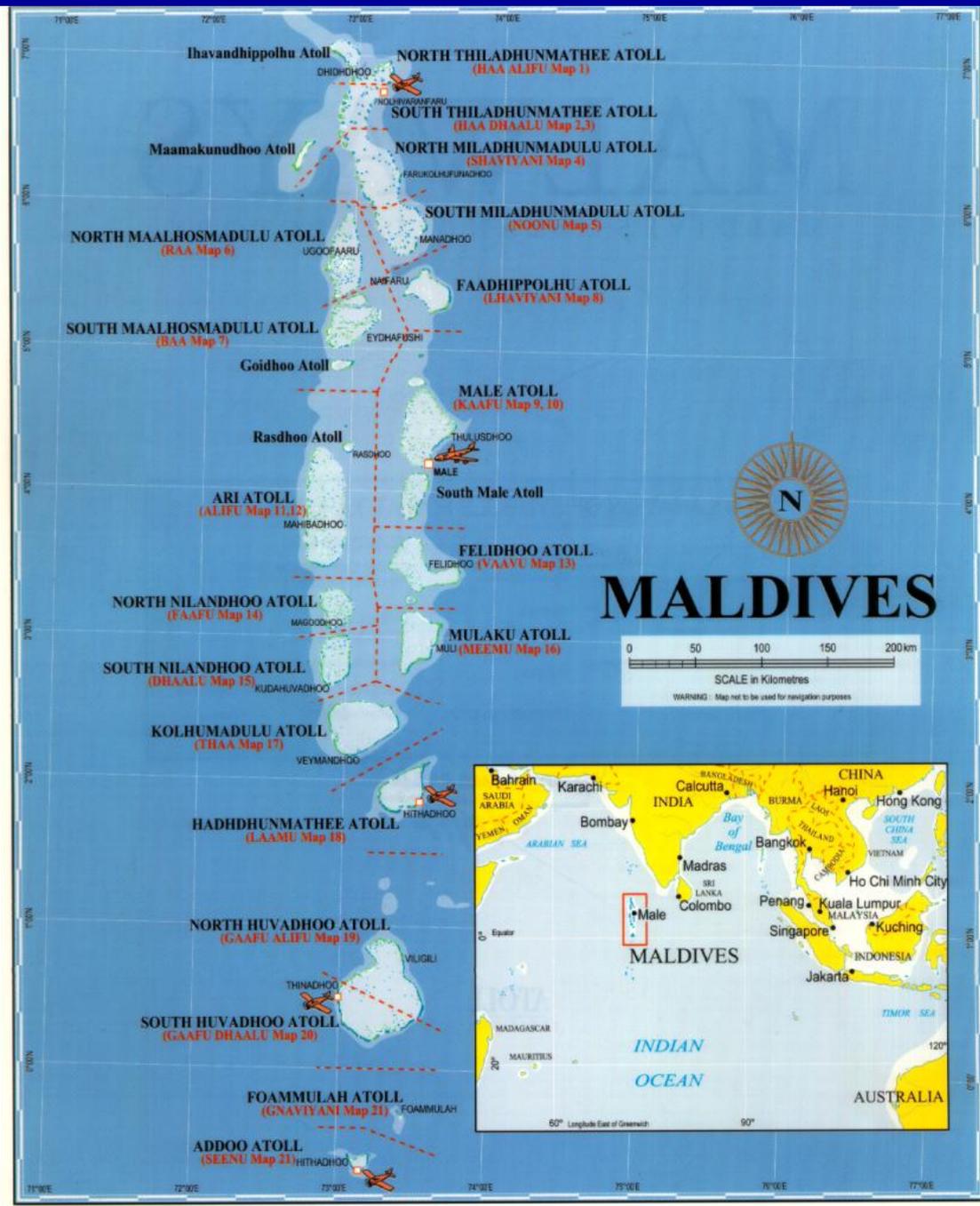
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION



MALDIVES

21-23 May 2013

Izmir, Turkey



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Geography

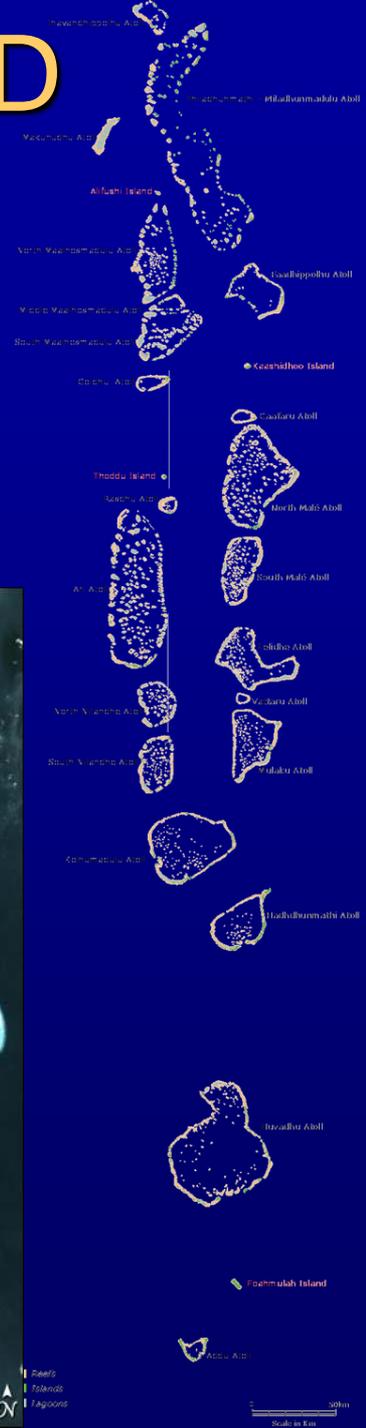
- 1192 coral islands
- 820 Km Length, 130 Km Width
- 90,000 sq Km
- Nearest country India & Sri Lanka at about 600 to 750 Km.
- 26 natural atolls.
- For purposes of administration islands are grouped into 20 Atolls and 8 Provinces



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Climate

- Tropical, warm and humid
- Two monsoons; Southwest and Northeast
- The annual mean temperature is 28°C (22°C – 34°C)
- Humidity ranges 73% to 85%
- Average Rainfall 2083.4 mm



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Population

- About 319,738 (2010)
- This is scattered over 199 Inhabited islands.
- 90% of the inhabited islands have a population less than 1000.
- More than 25% of the population reside in the capital Male'.
- Population Growth rate 1.9%.



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

History and Culture

- People embraced Islam in 1153 AD.
- Maldives was colonized by the Portuguese for 17 years.
- For a period from 1887-1965 it was a British Protectorate until gaining full independence on 26th July 1965.
- National Language is Dhivehi, Other languages used are English and Arabic



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Government

- The Government is headed by the President of the Republic.
- The ‘Citizens’ Majlis’ is the countrys’ legislative assembly consisting of 48 Members.
- Elections are held in every 5 years.
- Multiparty democracy introduced in 2005.



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Economy & indicators

- Tourism and Fisheries are the main economic sectors. Estimated $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total rural population involved in agriculture.
- The country has limited potential for agriculture as land is limited and from this only 10% is estimated to be available.
- GDP per capita average annual growth rate 1990-2010 ; 4.9 %
- GNI per capita (US\$), PPP US\$, 2010 : 5480
- Literacy rate ; 98%



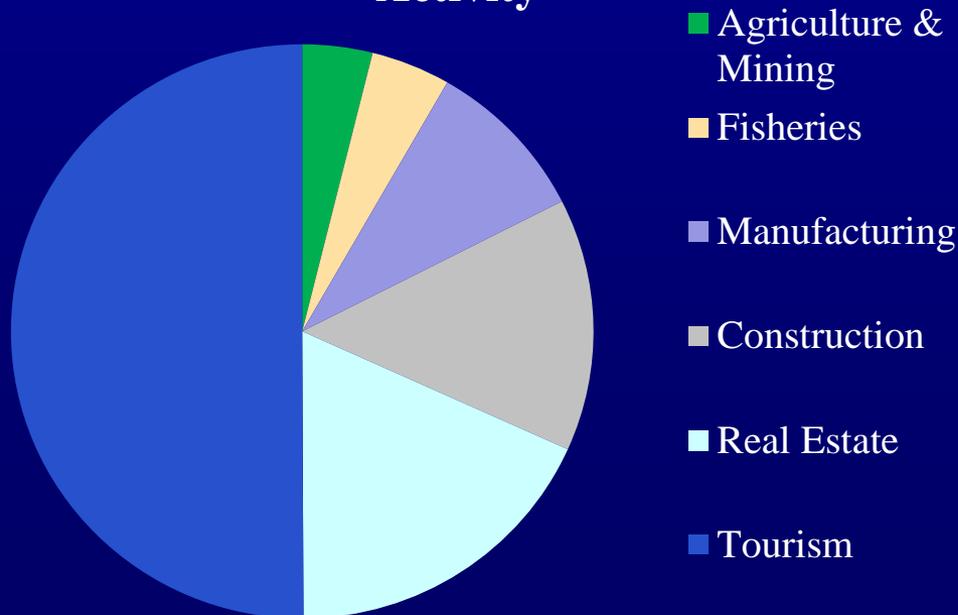
COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Estimated Agricultural Contribution to GDP (million Rufiyaa)

Year	Agriculture	Fisheries	Tourism
2001	291	334	2889
2006	331	489	4288
2011	365	251	6061

➤ GDP growth rates from 2.2 to 4.4 observed from 2001 to 2010 where as fisheries and manufacturing sectors observed to decline

GDP % shares by major Economic Activity



- Fisheries is the main economic activity of the majority of the rural population. However it is estimated $\frac{1}{4}$ of rural pop engaged in agri.



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Soils

- consist of coral sand with varying amounts of organic matter at the top which appears to be associated with the distance from the shore and height above the water table. Soils are generally poor in nutrient.



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Water Resources

- Rainfall is a good source of irrigation water in Maldives.
- The average annual rainfall is 1890-2080 mm. (North & South)
- Groundwater is available within 1-2 meters from the soil surface.
- Groundwater is generally used for all household purposes and irrigation.



- For drinking purposes rainwater is collected in household tanks, or desalinated water from the sea is used

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

National Development Perspectives

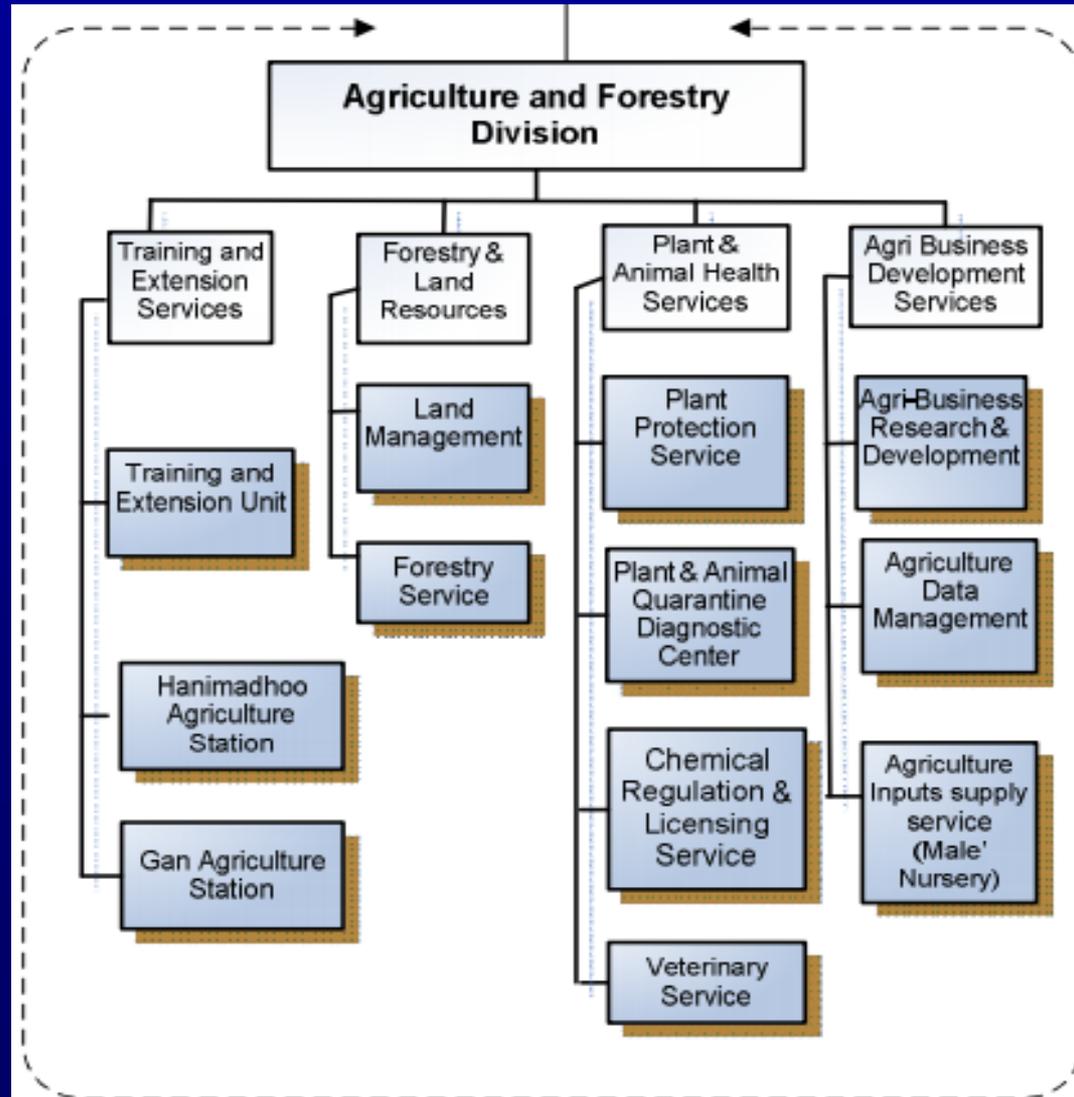
Agriculture related development objectives outlined in the
6th National Development Plan

- Diversify and expand the economy by further **developing existing industries and by exploring new economic activities.**
- **Increase the role of private sector** in the development process, particularly in expanding the economic base of the country
- Improve the quality and relevance of educational, health and social services, while ensuring that the benefits of development are shared equitably among the population.
- **Increase the human resource capacity and productivity** by providing relevant training and employment opportunities.

National Development Perspectives

Agriculture Policies

➤ MOFA has the overall mandate for the sustainable management and development of the nation's fisheries, agriculture and marine resources.



National Development Perspectives

Agriculture Policies

MOFA has the overall mandate for the sustainable management and development of the nation's fisheries, agriculture and marine resources.

The 6th NDP outlines the following agricultural policies:

1. Develop infrastructure and provide institutional support to maximize economic and social benefits from ecologically sustainable agri-business
2. Diversify the agricultural sector through research and transfer of appropriate technologies
3. Encourage private sector participation in the expansion and growth of agriculture sector : (long term lease of uninhabited island for agri)

Agriculture In the Maldives

At present primary production methods falls under two categories

- 1- Home based Farming *which is mainly for own consumption and crop cultivation at semi-commercial level.*
- 2- Crop production at commercial level *in uninhabited islands leased for long term development.*

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

1. Training and Extension Services Unit in Ministry of Agriculture implements most of the (90%) Extension activities.
2. Private sector carries out few extension activities, only to promote their products and technologies.
3. Non-governmental Organization implements few activities as well, with the help of different funding agencies.

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

Extension Methods in Practice

1. Training programs
2. Farmer Field Schools
3. Agricultural fairs
4. Field Visits
5. Office Calls
6. Extension via Mass media; Radio & TV programs

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

Application of extension methods

Training programs

- Training programs are conducted both in Research & Extension centers and in farming communities.
- Such training programs consists theoretical and practical sessions.
- During the Trainings in farming communities, extension staffs do field visits.

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

Application of extension methods

Farmer Field School

- Farmer Field School is a group based learning, and is usually held for the promotion of IPM techniques.
- Extension staff acts as a facilitator while farmers are given the opportunity to practice their conventional methods and recommended methods in one particular plot, at the same time.
- This process is carried out for the duration of full crop cycles for the selected crops.

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

Application of extension methods

Farmer Field School

- This method is found effective, since farmers get to experience first handed.
- However, it is time consuming, and costly.

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

Application of extension methods

Agricultural Fair

- Conducts in city islands, which are surrounded by small village islands,
- Displays new technologies,
- Disseminates information via published materials and presentations.

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

Application of extension methods

Field visits

- Extension staffs usually make the field visits during the trainings in farming islands,
- Take the participants in some of these visits, make them observe the fields and identify improper practices,
- These visits enhances the training programs.

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

Application of extension methods

Office Calls

- Farmers visit research and extension centers from time to time,
- Centers normally keep demonstration plots with good management practices,
- Extension officers help them identify the problems when they bring in samples,
- Extension officers provide information via telephone as well.

Agricultural Extension in Maldives

Application of extension methods

Extension via Mass Media

- TV and Radio programs are being made with the contribution of public broadcasters,
- Most of these programs are designed to create awareness,
- Listeners or viewers are offered the chance to participate in live programs, if they seek information.

Agriculture In the Maldives

Training & Extension



CONSTRAINTS IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

- Limited skilled officers
- Human resource development
- Coverage - Remoteness of the islands
- Transport - Unreliable
- Trainings in farming villages are costly – Low cost effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

As agriculture in Maldives is developing in view with achieving food security and self sustenance, farmers needs to be dealt with extreme care.

Better outcome of extension services is heavily dependent on the skill of extension officers.

Human resources need to be built, and more extension stations/offices need to be established for better coverage.

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Thank you