

FARM AND HOME VISIT

Farm and home visit is a kind of teaching method (Individual Contact). Individual contact is an extension teaching method which deals with a single farmer and her/his family members to convey messages concerning her/his farm and home. Individual contact may be initiated from the extension agent's end or from the farmer's end. Individual contact consists of farm and home visits, office calls, personal letters etc.

Farm and home visit is a visit paid by the extension agent to the farmer's farm and home to observe her/his farm and home condition and to forward some suggestions to solve current problems (if any) in a direct and face-to-face situation. This is a technical visit on the part of extension agent. It is mention worthy that during this visit, other farmers also can get opportunity to listen what extension agent says about a particular farm problem. In Bangladesh although the DAE's policy is to work with groups, there are occasions when it is appropriate to visit an individual farm and home.

Farm and home visits may be paid for many reasons. The reasons are:

- A farmer may request to visit her/his harm and household;
- Extension agents may wish to develop their knowledge of a particular area and identify some of the common problems that farmers face;
- Extension agents like to stimulate and motivate farmers to actively involve extension programs;
- Extension agents need to be familiarized with the farm and farm family of her/his jurisdiction;
- Extension agents like to be familiarized with the indigenous technology;

Objectives:

- To identify and analyze the main problems facing an individual farmer or household and to provide advice on the best actions to take for overcome them;
- To get acquainted with farm and home problems and provide on the spot solutions;

- To establish rapport with farm families so that motivating farmers become easier;
- To collect problems which need research at research stations;

Planning

- Selection of area and particular farm and farm family to be visited;
- Recalling the previous visit and what problems remained to be solved;
- Preparing a visit-schedule containing date, time, venue and farmer's name;
- Getting adequate research-based information about the matters to be discussed;
- Getting relevant printed materials including poster, leaflet, bulletin, farm magazine etc.;
- It is better to send farmer(s) advance information of visit.

Implementation (DAE):

Before Visit:

- Making an appointment with the farmer (s) to be visited;
- Reviewing thoroughly information relating to today's and previous visits;
- Preparing technical information that may be required during visit;
- Reviewing the purposes of visit;

During visit:

- Maintaining punctuality and standard dressing up;
- Arriving farm or household greeting members present;
- Giving patience hearing to farmer's problems;
- Seeing the symptoms technical advice should be given to solve problems;

- Recording problems which cannot be solved on the spot;

Follow up (After visit)

- Sending information to the farmer which could not be conveyed on the spot;
- Information obtained from the visit should be recorded properly;
- Including the big problem in the next upazila program planning.
- Planning of a subsequent visit.

Advantages

- Extension agent can know directly about farm and home of a farmer;
- Develops public relations;
- It is very useful for them who do not come in contact with other media.

Limitations

- Time consuming;
- Only a few farmers can be contacted;
- Expensive;
- Visiting time may not be suitable for the farmer
- It becomes dangerous if visit is paid only to rich household and rich farm.