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***Extension and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture:
Reactions to a MEAS Country Assessment in
Malawi***

*The Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services
project, MEAS*

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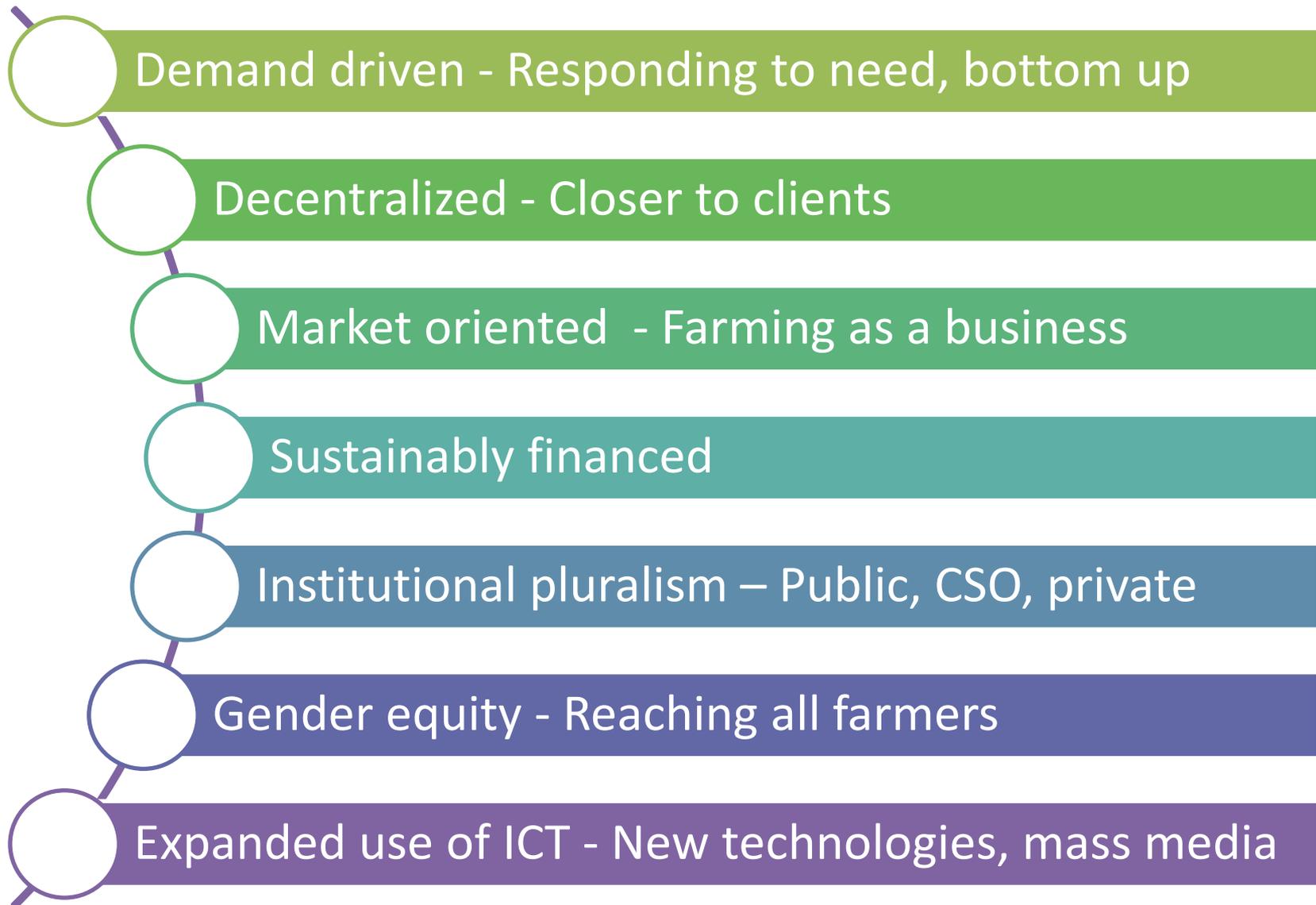
Defining Extension

“Extension is defined broadly to include

- all systems that **facilitate access** of farmers, their organizations and other market actors **to knowledge, information and technologies;**
- **facilitate their interaction** with partners in research, education, agri-business, and other relevant institutions;
- and **assist** them to develop their own technical, organizational and management skills and practices.”

Ian Christoplos, FAO, 2010 (emphasis added)

Key Elements of Extension Reform Include:



Tools and building blocks from extension for nutrition sensitive agriculture

- For nutrition sensitive agricultural innovations, an agricultural innovation system
 - Missing key functions and parts in many countries
- ICT tools can help support nutrition sensitive agriculture. Govt and NGOs and projects can:
 - Make sure farm radio spots include nutrition sensitive agricultural messages
 - Videos in local languages are available and actively disseminated
- Groups – extension formed agricultural groups, farmer field schools etc. can serve as an excellent platform for engagement

Cautions and caveats

- Farmer-led, use farmer group testing and inquiry
- Implement nutrition sensitive agriculture programs and interventions in a learning mode so that better evidence can be generated
 - Need counterfactuals
- Emphasize market led and market oriented
- Indirect nutrition and food security strengthening roles of extension through the poverty reducing and agricultural productivity enhancing impacts are also important

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