

**Strengthening the network among researchers, extension agents and
farmers to improve Animal Production**

by

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▪ **Importance of the Research-Extension Linkage**

The ultimate objective of both research and extension systems is to increase agricultural production. Their roles of generating and transferring technology are complementary. Research institutions need to have information on the productive problems, technology requirements and socio-economic and ecological environment of producers to formulate research agenda and to set the priorities. Formulating a research agenda based on producers' requirements results in technological packages that will be more acceptable to users and this could allow the research institutions to allocate their resources more efficiently. Researchers may also have to interact with producers on a continuous basis during the process of technology generation. Extension services can provide research institutions with feedback information and play a moderator role between farmers and researchers. Extension services require a continuous flow of information from research institutions on new and improved practices. Therefore, an efficient two-way communication process is necessary for generating and transferring the appropriate technology effectively. The success of the two-way communication is determined mainly by the effectiveness of linkage between research and extension institutions.

Since 1960, food production in Egypt has failed to keep pace with consumption. A number of factors have contributed to increase this gap including:

1. A low level of investment in agricultural research.
2. Slow growth in agricultural products.
3. Rapid population growth and therefore a large increase in food consumption.