

Agricultural Technology Transfer Society

(ATTS)

ATTAS is non-governmental organization endorsing actions utilizing modern agricultural technologies to improve agricultural productivity and sustainable agricultural development in the Sudan

Background

Agriculture sector is important to the Sudan because the livelihood of 80% of its population is linked to it. The sector is composed of crops, livestock, fisheries and agro-forestry and has been recognized as the priority sector for rapid poverty reduction to fulfill the food and nutritional demand of the growing population and to ensure and sustain dependable food security. Technical change is the critical factor in increasing agricultural productivity in the Sudan. A large number of appropriate technologies may be transferred to the farmers and other clients under careful selection, packaging and diffusion to increase agricultural production promote agribusiness and agro-processing and enhance supply chain development through contract farming.

Technical change is usually undertaken by governmental and non-governmental actors. Farmers need information to improve or adapt their farming practices. Agricultural development should involve small stakeholders as active decision-makers in the development and transfer of new technology. If correct agricultural technologies are used and extra resources mobilized together with adoption of appropriate policies faster agricultural growth will be achieved, economy will speed up and poverty will be reduced.

Who are we?

Agriculture technology transfer society (ATTS) is non-governmental organization driven by scientists, professors and researchers with common interest in the exploitation of research and modern agricultural technologies to uplift productivity of the agricultural sector of the Sudan. The board of director consists of 45 personnel specialized in different sectors of agriculture and energy sectors. It is registered in the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs (registrar general) given the number T. NO 2234 according to the law that governs the voluntary work.

ATTAS has chosen the *poverty focus* for its technology interventions to support scale up and improve operations taking advantage of the available resources. In its endeavors to achieve these goals **ATTAS** is very much concerned with the environmental impact of the introduced technologies, minimization of their potential environmental hazards and the protection of human health.

Target groups

- Small stake holders in the agricultural sector (farmers, village stock keepers, pastoralists)
- Women, especially in rural areas.
- Basic educational drop outs.
- Displaced persons as a result of famine and civil unrest.
- Unemployed university graduates.
- Productive families program.
- Retired civil servants and retired military staff.
- Employees of civil service, army, police and prison force.
- Workers in slaughterhouses, meat, milk processing and ternary plants
- Workers in animal production and agricultural farms.
- Selected individuals with traditional knowledge.
- Trainers of livestock and agricultural technologies.

- Laboratory technicians and attendants, and quality control staff.
- Researchers in the fields of agriculture.
- Graduates of animal production, veterinary and agricultural colleges.

What do we do?

We help by improving productivity in the farming practices and empowering communities to be self-reliant and independent. **ATTAS policy is to co-operate on a case-by-case basis with the following:**

- Private sector development agencies
- International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.)
- World Bank
- IFAD
- International financial organisations
- Development aid institutes of all kinds
- International NGOs
- National & international donors

Our goals

ATTAS set of general goals include provision of technologies to farmers in Sudan to enhance economic and social development and implementation of programmes to create income for weaker and disadvantaged populations. **The areas of focus in technology transfer include:**

- Farm industry
- Farm vehicle and transport industry
- Agricultural services for improved utilisation of farm products
- Organic farming
- Livestock breeding support
- Protection of agricultural land
- Forest development
- Fisheries development
- Agricultural land control and protection projects
- Agro tourism
- Crop breeding services
- Agro-processing
- Efficient use of animal feed and fodder resources.
- Range management
- Animal health services
- Vaccinations and other veterinary product production and distribution
- Quality control of veterinary products
- Vector control
- Disease surveillance & quarantine.
- Quality control ,food hygiene and inspection
- Animal welfare and prevention of cruelty to animals
- Environmental impact assessments of new technologies and development of means to minimize potential environmental damage and protection of human health.
- Promotes contract production, entrepreneurship development and market linkages.
- Promotes the use of agro-processing: good-value food processing and food drying equipment

ATTS set of goals for sustainable dryland farming focus on the implementation of new high-payoff inputs and suitable, proven technologies and practices to increase productivity and conserve resources at the same time. **Titles of interest are:**

- Management of soil and water using crop varieties and technology to achieve maximum soil and water conservation
- Improve knowledge of traditional agricultural practices & integrate traditional knowledge with innovative technology.
- improve research-extension-farmer (community) linkages and co-operation
- improve stakeholders(gender, youth, indigenous communities) participation in training, awareness and education programme
- Promote mixed farming
- Implement sheep raising to improve marginal land rehabilitation.
- Water harvesting
- Germplasm conservation
- Livestock and mixed farming
- Marginal land rehabilitation using sheep
- Water harvesting
- Germplasm conservation

Means of achieving goals

- **Assist** in the production of a **community** profile or assessment to help determine where needs are not being met and help identify people and resources needed to carry out the action. Take a leadership role in assessing needs in rural communities.
- **Help** discover as many resources as possible that can be utilized by the **community** for strategic planning, project implementation and general administrative and operational kinds of activities.
- **Help** discover find resources to assist communities resolve problems or implement projects.
- **Promote** networking among rural communities and rural development practitioners, and facilitate the leveraging of resources for **community** development and technical assistance whenever possible.
- **Establish** a network of **community** development professionals in the area to share information and to discuss new and innovative methods of **community** development. There are many people working on **community** development activities, and most are eager to share their information, materials and expertise.
- **Encourage** communities to move from a producer to a market orientation.
- **Provide** hand-on-work training in agriculture technologies.
- **Establish** good practices of farm management.
- **Provide** trainees from vulnerable sections of the society with appropriate tools.
- **Conduct** training whenever possible in the environment of the trainee and establish branches for the NGO in all states.
- **Make** use of national trainers and co-opt foreign expertise when local staff in certain specializations is not available.
- **Conduct** training using local dialects if necessary.
- **Work** through partnerships with other agencies to create forums for the discussion and development of policies to overcome barriers to development.

Additional goals

ATTS organizes conferences and exhibitions related to agricultural development with the goal of bridging the gap in farmer's technological knowledge and to facilitate their communication with national & international actors.

