

# THE EXTENSION AGENT OF THE FUTURE



Agricultural extension is a fundamental human-led process that enables sustainable food production and sharing of knowledge into and within farming communities. Extension services range from informal knowledge sharing within local farming communities to formal services provided by governments, NGOs, or the private sector. Digital technologies provide a bridge between formal and informal approaches, particularly in the hands of the next generation of agricultural extension agents who have new skills and expertise, but also existing and new challenges to overcome. What are the needs of this next generation and how can we enable their success? **The communities of practice of DLEC and DDA** recently examined this question, particularly **“what knowledge, attitudes, and skills should the extension agent of the future have?”**

## WHO ARE WE?

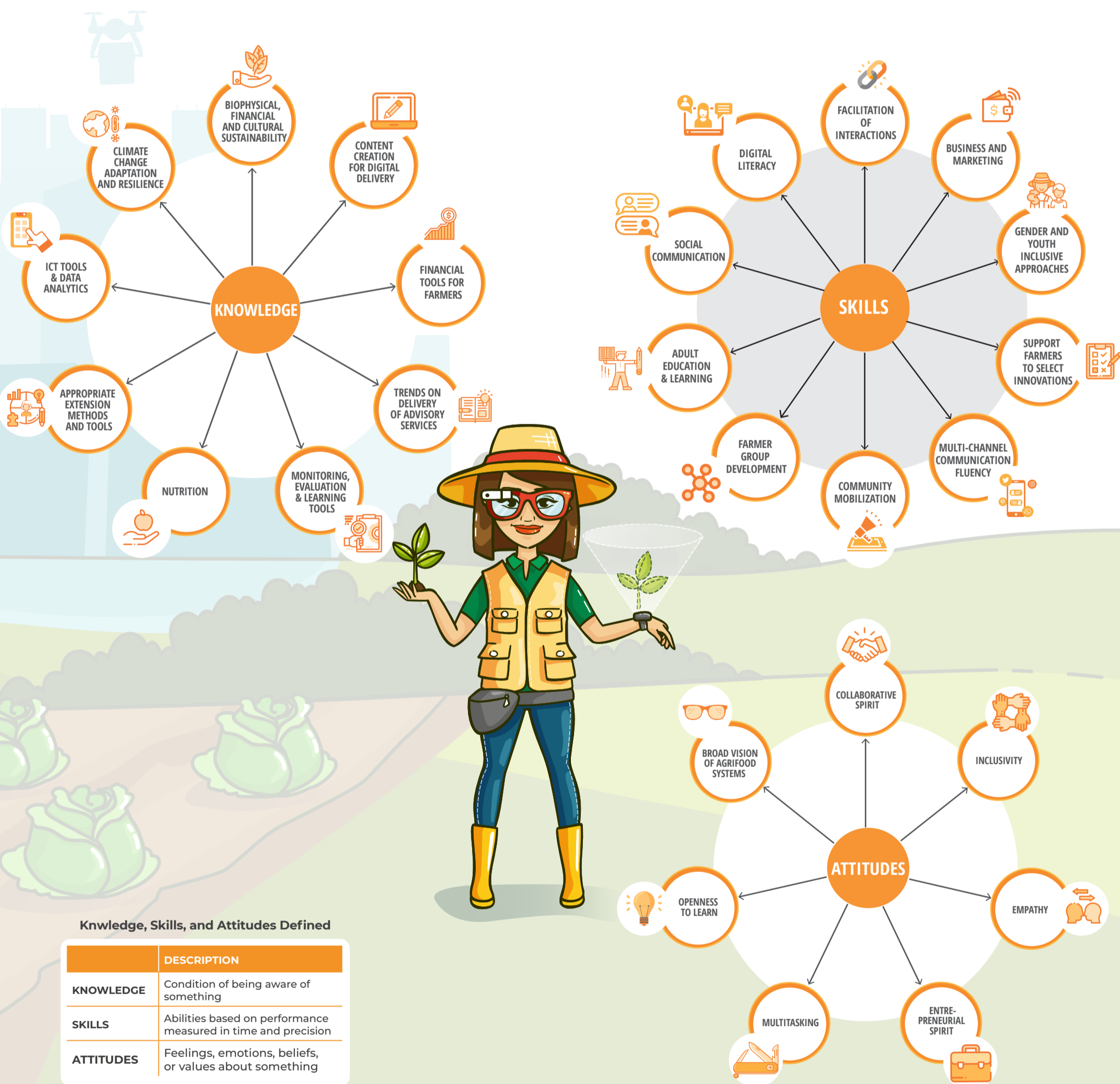
The **Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC)** project focused its final Annual Community of Practice Convening on **“Future Extension Capacities”** and how to support extension and advisory services providers to build the skills of their workforce in support of farmers and rural livelihoods.

The **Data-Driven Agronomy Community of Practice** within the Big Data Platform of the CGIAR has been coalescing the community around the theme of **“The Extension Agent of the Future”**, organizing events to discuss the capabilities this professional should have and the enabling environment for modern extension programs.



[www.bigdata.cgiar.org/communities-of-practice/data-driven-agronomy/](http://www.bigdata.cgiar.org/communities-of-practice/data-driven-agronomy/)  
[www.digitalgreen.org/usaiddlec](http://www.digitalgreen.org/usaiddlec)

## FINDINGS



## WHAT'S NEXT?

- 1** Building partnerships to deliver innovative extension programs
- 2** Creating curricula with educational institutions
- 3** Including women and youth in extension provision and delivery
- 4** Developing data exchange platforms and protocols
- 5** Designing the next generation of digital tools

The Communities of Practice will focus on...

Helping the One CGIAR with its mission to deliver science and innovation that advance transformation of food, land, and water systems in five impact areas:

- Nutrition, health and food security
- Poverty reduction, improved livelihoods, and jobs in rural areas
- Gender equality, youth, and social inclusion
- Climate adaptation and mitigation
- Environmental health and biodiversity

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