

MODULE 1: Structure of Agriculture and Agricultural Policies

LESSON 5: Maximizing Benefits from and influencing Agricultural Policies

TIME: 96 minutes

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LESSON

5

MAXIMIZING BENEFITS FROM AND
INFLUENCING AGRICULTURAL POLICIES



TIME:

96 minutes

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OUTCOMES:

By completion of this lesson
you will be able to:

- Identify policies from which you can benefit.
- Describe ways in which you could influence policies.

INTRODUCTION:

Within the farmers' production systems, an awareness of agricultural policies enables them to take advantage of maximizing their output. It also puts them into a situation where they can influence the direction of policy formulation since they are the ones on the ground.

IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFICIAL POLICIES

Once again we will study the two case study videos to assist in the identification of policies that the two farmers, Simon and Beatrice, could have taken advantage of. We need to identify the limitations or barriers to success that they are facing and then consider how they could have surmounted them through a proper application of the policies.



Access the case study video from the course CD ROM under Resources Index | Module 1 | Lesson 5 | Case Study

Activity 1



Benefits (30 minutes)



Review the case study video and also consider the policy documents you have already discussed in Lesson 4 and then:

1. Identify possible beneficial policies for farmers Simon and Beatrice.
2. Point out ways in which ways the policies might either enhance or limit production.

INFLUENCING OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

Agricultural policy development is not done in a vacuum. Policy writers within the various ministries need information, ideas and strategies that reflect the reality of the sector and then consider how these strategies might support national priorities. They get this data from sector stakeholders of which one group, farmers, is of considerable significance. Consequently, farmers who gain prominence through their excellence in farming activities have a chance to influence agricultural policies.



Activity 2



Influencing Policy (30 minutes)

Work as a group and discuss these issues:

1. In what ways might Simon and Beatrice influence policies in their regions?
2. How might the members of the group put themselves in a position to influence policy?

Conclusion



Perhaps you can now see that policy development is dynamic and ever changing according to the needs of the country and particularly the needs of agricultural stakeholders. However, there are always competing interests in the sector, so it is important that farmers act proactively to ensure that their voice is heard. The methods mentioned here should give you some ideas of how this might be achieved in your region.