



Identified Competency Focus Areas and Selected
Courses for National Exit Examination:

Program: Bachelor of Science in **Rural Development and
Agricultural Extension**

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Courses and Competencies Identified for Exit Exam 2015 (First Draft)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Rural development issues in general, agricultural production and productivity in particular remain to be the core of Ethiopia's national development policies and programs to improve the welfare of the poor and promote holistic development. Producing competent, motivated and skilled graduates who can understand agriculture and rural development issues and communicate effectively with farmers is one of the prerequisites. This is essentially the role of Higher learning institutions. Capacity building programs particularly in the field of higher education play an enormous role in filling the gaps related to policy formulation, planning and implementation of development programs, and thereby accelerate the prospects of economic growth and well-being in a society. The department of Rural Development and Agricultural Extension is one of the departments across many public Universities in Ethiopia producing competent, motivated and skilled graduates who can understand agriculture and rural development issues and communicate effectively with farmers is one of the prerequisites.

In 2021, a nationally harmonized curriculum for the undergraduate program in rural development and agricultural extension program was developed expected along with a graduate profile and key learning outcomes, operationalized in terms of knowledge, skill, and attitude domains. The graduating students should acquire these required competencies and lastly need to be assessed by focusing on the major courses of the program. . The BSc program is expected to enhance the competencies of individuals that empower them to impact on the economic and socio-cultural development both from local and global perspectives. The BSc program also empowers graduates to deal with societal issues and thereby contributing for the process of sustainable development.

Ministry of Education plans to offer a comprehensive exit exam for undergraduate programs nationally as of 2022/2023 AY (2015 E.C). The objective of the exit exam is to assess the students' level of knowledge, skill, and attitude using key competency indicators and considering the major courses they have taken during their stay at the university. In line with this, 15 major courses of the department are identified to enable students to prepare for their exit exams and for teachers to formulate exit exam questions on these courses. Therefore, the current document is to prepare a guideline than can serve as aguide to set competencies

& identify courses in rural Development and Agricultural Extension for the exit Examination to be held in 2015 E.C.

1.2 Objectives of the Exit Examination

The national of Rural Development and Agricultural Extension (RDAE) exit exam shall have the following objectives

- To produce skilled and competent manpower to national and international market
- Assessing students' educational achievement in major areas of RDAE
- Ensuring whether the graduation profile of RDAE curriculum have achieved at least common standards of knowledge and practical skills
- Facilitating the efforts of students to revise the core learning outcomes of the courses covered by the exit examination
- Ensuring all graduates from Higher Education Institutions satisfy the requirements of the labor market and employability through the national wide implementation of competency-based exit exam
- Creating competitive sprit among RDAE departments in Ethiopia with the views of encouraging them to give due attention to the national standards

1.3 Significance of the Document

It is important to set competency areas of the subject matter (program) in order to measure the how much graduates are acquired with skills, knowledge and attitudes. The following shows us the significance or setting competencies and identifying core courses of the program.

- To set competencies that helps to assess the basic skills, knowledge and attitude of graduating students;
- To systematically identify the courses which will be included the exit exam;

2. Expected Profiles of graduates

After successful completion of Rural Development and Agricultural Extension program, Graduates will be able to:

- Apply proper methods of how different community groups are organized and enter into development endeavors,
- Facilitate rural innovation (technological and institutional innovations) process through network building, social learning and negotiation using effective communicative interventions,
- Collect and analyze information and translate it into easily manageable and understandable terms for use by the rural community,
- Plan, implement, monitor and evaluate extension programs/projects related to development initiatives in sustainable manners,
- Conduct research in the areas of rural development, rural and agricultural extension, marketing, gender, development and sustainable development with the basic flow of the research process, formulate research for social sciences by selecting the appropriate design, and write a research project report.
- Identify and analyze problems related to a rural development intervention,
- Design and conduct training for specialized skills and knowledge in areas of rural development in agricultural colleges, universities and training centers,
- Formulate and advocate rural development policies and strategies.

3. Competencies and Learning Outcomes

The profession of rural development and agricultural extension requires a wide range of qualities such as versatility, impartiality, openness, flexibility, innovativeness, persistence, etc. In general, the graduates in their profession will have the following competencies and learning outcomes to uplift the living situation of the rural poor whose problems are much intertwined with cultural, socio-economic, institutional, and situational factors. The program equips graduates with the scientific knowledge and skills required to implement rural development and agricultural extension duties. Thus, the program aims to produce qualified professionals who are knowledgeable, skilled, and capable to work with appropriate and desired attitudes. Graduates will be able to acquire the following competencies:

i. Knowledge

- Facilitate rural and agricultural innovations (technological and institutional innovations) process through network building, social learning and negotiation using effective communicative interventions,
- Collect and analyze information and translate this in to easily manageable and understandable terms for use by the rural community,
- Promote and disseminate agricultural information and technology through training offarmers and extension workers,
- Assist in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programs extension programs related to development initiatives in sustainable manners,
- Undertaking research in the areas of agricultural extension, rural livelihoods, foodsecurity,marketing,gender, developmentand sustainabledevelopment,
- Deliverconsultancyand advisoryservices in thefieldofrural development,
- Serve as gender and development officers and promoters, social workers and community mobilizes
- Able to describe how to design, formulate, and review rural development policies
- Serve as social workers, community mobilizes and public administrators.

ii. Skill

A graduate in Rural Development and agricultural extension program will be able to:

- Applypropermethodsofhowdifferentcommunitygroupsareorganizedandenter in to development endeavors
- Evaluateproblems relatedtoruraldevelopment intervention,
- Design and conduct trainings for specialized skill and knowledge in areas of rural development in agricultural extension for farmers and experts,
- Plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate rural development programs or projects.
- Formulate and advocate rural development policies and strategies
- Disseminate new and improved technologies for the benefit of society,
- Develop communication and analytical skills,

- Attract successful rural development and agricultural extension and reforms and development plans particularly to improve the agricultural extension system.
- Mainstream gender, climate, and other cross cutting issues of rural development.

iii. Attitude

A graduate in rural development and agricultural extension program will be able to:

- Perceive the importance of rural development for poverty reduction,
- Appreciate rural development in social, economic, environmental, cultural and political context,
- Develop sense of enthusiasm to work with farmers in rural areas,
- Involve in an intellectually stimulating and satisfying experience of learning and studying,
- Desire to run private farms and agro-industries as self-employment.
- Appreciate the agricultural profession and dedicated agricultural extension who love his profession.

4. Themes and Courses to be included in the exam

No	Themes of Courses	List of Courses	Cr.Hr	ECTS	Remark
1.	Sustainable Rural Development and Livelihoods	• Introduction to Rural Development (RDAE 211)	3	5	
		• Rural Livelihoods and Social Welfare (RDAE 411)	3	5	
		• Gender and Youth in Rural Development (RDAE 421)	3	5	
		• Rural Development Policies and Strategies (RDAE 432)	3	5	
		• Environment and Sustainable Development (RDAE 431)	3	5	
2.	Agricultural Extension and Communication	• Introduction to Agricultural extension (RDAE 221)	3	5	
		• Extension Program Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (RDAE 222)	3	5	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication for Rural Innovation (RDAE 311) 	3	5	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Knowledge and Information System (RDAE 331) 	3	5	
3.	Agricultural Training and Innovation system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for Capacity Development (RDAE 332) 	2	3	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural and Rural Innovation Systems (RDAE 232) 	2	3	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Approaches and Methods for Rural Innovation (RDAE 322) 	2	3	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Learning and Audio-Visual Techniques (RDAE 321) 	3	5	
4.	Rural Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Organizations and Cooperatives (RDAE 442) 	3	5	
5.	Research Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Method for Social Sciences (RDAE 361) 	3	5	
6.	Total		42	59	

5. Conclusion

The graduating students should acquire these required competencies and lastly need to be assessed through a comprehensive and nationally harmonized form of exit exam. Ministry of Education plans to offer a comprehensive exit exam for undergraduate programs nationally as of 2022/2023 AY (2015 E.C). Exit exam is used to assess the students' level of competencies and learning outcomes by focusing on the major courses pertinent to the program. As such, 15 major courses of the department categorized under 5 themes are identified to enable students to prepare for their exit exams and for teachers to formulate exit exam questions on these courses. The core competencies and learning outcomes will be subjected to revisions and include modification and adding of courses by considering emerging issues of the department.