Agricultural Information Access in Guatemala
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Project Background

- Why study this topic?
- Guatemala – the Western Highlands
- Participants and approach
Research Questions

- What information do farmers want?
- Where do they currently get this information?
- What methods of information transfer are the most trusted and effective?
- Do ICTs (cell phones, radios) have potential for spreading ag information?
- Are there gender differences in information access and evaluation?
Gender and Information Needs

- Some variety based on community, crops, prevalence of migration
- Division of agricultural labor – need for different types of information
- Women responsible for home gardens, home-based animals (chickens)
- Time and literacy constraints
Information Supply

- Ministry of Ag estimates Extension reaches 50% of municipalities
  - Optimistic estimate?
  - Few female agents
  - Official policy/beliefs on gender
- Input suppliers are a major source of info: trusted if community-based
- NGOs can be good information suppliers – presence and priorities vary
- Farmer or women’s groups
- Information more easily available to men
Improving Information Access

- Input sellers are the major source info: could benefit from additional training
- Radio has good potential
- Repetition of effort may not be bad (for those who get it)
- Need for more female extension agents