Workshop Objectives
1. To identify the current and emerging ICTs that can contribute to attaining goals of India intensifying its agriculture sustainably and with resilience, improving product quality to international standards and participate equitably and with efficiency in globally competitive markets.
2. To identify related needs for capacities development for effective use of ICTs for sustainable agricultural development in India.
3. To develop elements of a strategy for developing these capacities in public, private and community sectors with emphasis on the role of agricultural universities and related Institutes in this strategy.

Workshop Outputs
1. Identification of current and future ICTs that will contribute to sustainable agricultural development in India.
2. Identification of the technological, Institutional and community related capacities that will be needed for effective use of ICTs for sustainable agricultural development in India.
3. Identification of the Strategies for Universities and related Institutions to play a role in shaping the effective use of ICTs for sustainable agricultural development in India.
4. Proceedings of the Workshop with all above-mentioned elements with a particular emphasis on (a) Current and future ICTs that will contribute to sustainable agricultural development in India, (b) New capacities needed for effective use of these ICTs for Sustainable Agricultural Development (c) Elements of a strategy to develop the capacities needed to achieve the new vision for agricultural development in the region.

Workshop Date
11 February 2016.

Last date of receiving nomination
January 31, 2016

Registration
Name:______________________________
Company/Institute __________________________
Address_____________________________________
City_____________State_____________________
Phone___________________________
E-mail__________________________

SPACE IS LIMITED
Register early to guarantee your spot!

Mail to:
Dr Sanjay Chaudhary
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Professor and Head (Research)
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Registration:
The registration fee (DD or Cheque) for participants will be INR 500/-only that include workshop kit, lodging charges, excluding TA/DA.
Introduction

The influence and impact of Information and Communications Technology (ICTs) on agriculture, if used appropriately has the potential to surpass that of all other technologies put together so far. ICTs influence and impact not only on their own but they catalyse, accelerate and multiply the impacts of using other technologies such as biotechnology, nanotechnology and new materials in agriculture.

India’s agriculture now faces serious challenges of resilience and sustainability. With a burgeoning population of more than 1.3 billion people, India’s needs for food and industrial feedstock like cotton are vast. India’s agriculture faces many challenges. The ability of millions of smallholder and family farmers to participate equitably and efficiently in rapidly emerging, globally competitive agricultural commodities market needs to be very rapidly developed. There is an acute shortage of water for irrigation and processing agricultural products. Fertile lands are rapidly diminishing either through urbanization or degradation due to erosion, faulty agricultural practices and rising salinity. Pollution, environmental damage and waste of natural resources is endemic. Change in climate with extreme weather variability with floods, droughts and hail storms regularly plays havoc with agriculture in many parts of the country every year. With large international borders with neighbouring States that are failing in governance, the threat of transboundary spread of zoonotic, animal and plant diseases that can wreak havoc to its animals and crops is increasing. Agricultural biodiversity is rapidly being lost with increasing monoculture in agriculture, land and water degradation, climate change etc. In spite of this, certain regions of India have shown remarkable growth of more than 10 per cent annually indicating that India has high levels of hidden potential to overcome the many challenges to its agriculture.

This national workshop attempts to answer the question, how can and which ICTs can contribute to sustainable agricultural development in India? The question has to be answered by knowing what is expected of India’s agriculture by say 2030? And then answering what technologies, especially ICTs, can contribute to achieving this vision of India’s agriculture in 2030 and what capacities are needed to fruit the use of these technologies?

India has to increase its agriculture by increasing productivity not only of land but also in using all natural resources, especially water and energy. This increase has to be at least 100 per cent in 15 years. Along with increase in productivity, it has to also improve the quality of its produce. Thus, it has the challenge of sustainable intensification (or intensify sustainably) along with significant improvement in quality to meet international standards. It has to predict and act against disruption, including those of finance and markets, and disasters in its agriculture. The rapid urbanization of the country will demand new Agri-food systems which India will need to develop and nurture.

Current and soon to emerge ICTs that contribute to informing and enable learning in its vast multitude of actors and stakeholders, managing and supporting the various processes in farming, financing, processing and marketing agricultural products and those that contribute to research and innovation in agriculture and Agri-food systems are the three broad categories that these technologies can be classified and discussed.

This National Workshop will discuss the challenges and needs of India’s agriculture, with using the example of sustainable agricultural development in Western India, by 2030. It will identify the current and emerging ICTs that can contribute to attaining the vision and goals of India intensifying its agriculture sustainably and with resilience, improving product quality to international standards and participate equitably and with efficiency in globally competitive markets. It will also discuss how ICTs can contribute to overcoming challenges from climate change and extreme weather variability, spread of transboundary diseases and maintenance of biodiversity. Along with this, issues that will be discussed are the needs for Institutional, such as policies, regulations, standards etc. changes and participation of communities, including the role of the private sector, public-private and community partnerships etc., with special focus on learning together for rapid innovation in India’s agriculture and Agri-food systems.

Participation

The participants in the Workshop will be on an open call with registration fee 500 INR as also invitation for those interested in application of ICTs in agriculture including (i) ICTs experts and scientists, extension specialists, (ii) Educationists, (iii) Management experts, (iv) Policy makers and (v) Agricultural development specialists, farmers and NGO representatives.