

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Ref.: BDT/IEE/CYB/DM/170

Geneva, 27 May 2016

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Regional organizations
- in the Asia-Pacific Region

Subject: FAO-ITU E-agriculture Solutions Forum and Training-of-trainers program on Development of National E-agriculture Strategies, 29 August – 2 September 2016, Thailand

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the FAO-ITU E-agriculture Solutions Forum (29-31 August) and the Training-of-trainers Programme on Development of National E-agriculture Strategies (1-2 September) that will be held at Nonthaburi, Thailand. The Forum is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have great potential for countries to accelerate the achievement of the national agricultural goals and targets. Strategic deployment of these solutions would significantly advance the capability to harness potential. In this context, the ITU and the FAO have developed an **E-agriculture Strategy Guide** with support from partners, including the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and we are currently assisting countries in developing their national strategies and identifying priority solutions. The Forum will bring together stakeholders from the agriculture and the ICT sectors involved in developing and deploying ICT for agriculture solutions. The Forum and the Training aim to:

- bring together proven e-agriculture solutions that will benefit agriculture stakeholders;
- share knowledge on successful e-agriculture solutions and identifying ways of scaling up implementations;
- establish a Community-of-Practice (CoP) among e-agriculture solution providers;
- build capacity in Asia-Pacific in developing national strategies based on FAO-ITU E-agriculture Strategy Guide; and
- share experience in implementing ICT solutions for agriculture.

The three day Forum will also include an exhibition from e-agriculture solution providers and thematic knowledge sharing sessions while the training-of-trainers program will build skills in the area of how countries can develop their own national strategies. These events will also provide valuable opportunities for networking to further strengthen national e-agriculture implementation programmes and build partnerships.

Please note that all the information related to the Forum, including presentations, practical information, and registration forms will be available on the ITU website at: <u>http://itu.int/go/eagricultureforum2016</u>.

A concept note with a provisional agenda for *E*-agriculture Solutions Forum and the Training-of-trainers Programme on Development of National E-agriculture Strategies is attached (Annex 1) for your consideration. I look forward to active participation of your senior representatives in the Forum. The Forum will be paperless, conducted in English and will not require any participation fees.

ITU is pleased to provide one partial fellowship (DSA only) to one participant duly authorized by the respective ITU Administrations from Least Developed Countries and eligible Low-Income Developing Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, subject to available budget, to facilitate their participation in the Forum. The candidate nominated for fellowship is requested to be involved in developing e-agriculture strategies or ICT solutions for agriculture. The fellowship application form will also be available on the ITU event website mentioned above. The deadline for submission of fellowship application and online registration (available on the same event website) is on 24 July 2016.

Mr Ashish Narayan (tel: +66 2 5750055, email: ashish.narayan@itu.int) and Mr Takashi Masumitsu (tel: +41 22 7306026, email: cybmail@itu.int) are at the disposal of participants who require further information and/or assistance in participating in the Forum.

I look forward to your active participation and contribution to the success of these events.

Yours faithfully

[Original signed] Brahima Sanou Director

Annex 1: Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Annex 2 : Fellowship Form

FAO-ITU **E-agriculture Solutions Forum**

29 August - 31 August, 2016



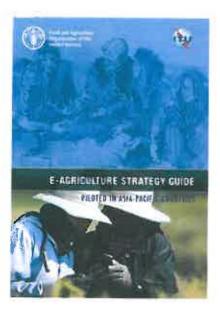
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Background:

Setting in place a national e-agriculture strategy is an essential first step for any country planning on using ICTs for agriculture. E-agriculture, or ICTs in agriculture, is about designing, developing and applying innovative ways to use ICTs with a primary focus on agriculture. E-agriculture offers a wide range of solutions to agricultural challenges and has great potential in promoting sustainable agriculture while protecting the environment.

Setting in place a national e-agriculture strategy is an essential first step for any country planning on using ICTs for agriculture. E-agriculture strategies will facilitate achieving the goals set by national agricultural plans by addressing holistically the ICT opportunities and challenges for the agricultural sector. It would further enhance the potential for innovation in services and rational use of resources thereby increasing business opportunities, reducing risks and improving the lives of people in rural communities.

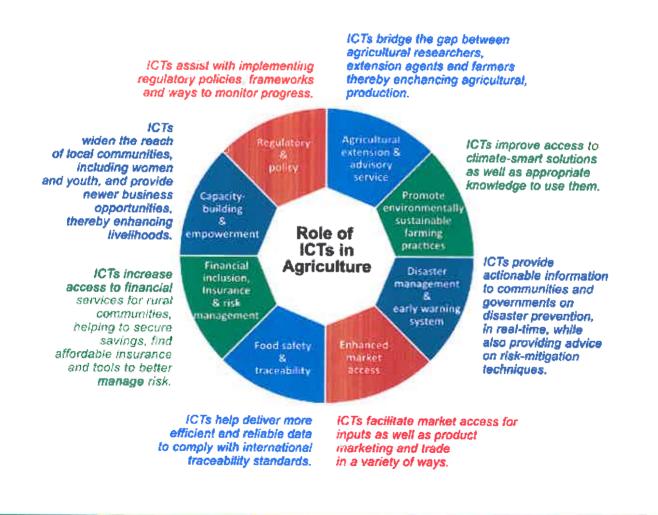


The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), together with support from partners including the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), have developed the E-agriculture Strategy Guide. The guide provides a framework for countries to develop their national e-agriculture strategy, or master plan.

The FAO-ITU E-agriculture Strategy Guide is available at: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5564e.pdf

More information at: http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/resources/e-agriculture/en/ To support the use of proven e-agriculture solutions and services, FAO-ITU will be conducting a 3 day **E-agriculture Solutions Forum** (29-31 August, 2016). The forum will be followed by a two day **training of trainers** (1-2 September, 2016) on developing e-agriculture strategy.

Giving the multiplicity and large diversity of developed ICT solutions for agriculture, there is a need to facilitate knowledge sharing where countries and solutions developers can share their experiences and challenges. A collaboration platform to showcase solutions to accelerate innovation and demonstrate the positive impact of ICT on the agriculture sector would facilitate the adoption of appropriate solution while avoiding duplication of efforts and reinventing the wheel.







- Bring together proven e-agriculture solutions that will benefit various stakeholders;
- Share knowledge on successful e-agriculture solutions and identifying ways of scaling up implementations at national level;
- Establish a Community-of-Practice (CoP) among e-agriculture solution providers;
- Build capacity in Asia-Pacific through Training-of-Trainers (ToT) in developing national strategies based on FAO-ITU e-agriculture strategy guide;
- Experience sharing in implementing e-agriculture solutions.
- E-agriculture solution providers;
- Infrastructure and service providers from sectors critical for e-agriculture (telecom, IT, agricultural machinery and implement, banking, insurance, governance etc.);
- Country representatives from Asia-Pacific (senior and middle management from ministry of agriculture and ICT);
- International, regional, national organizations working in agriculture and rural development;
- Experts involved in implementing e-agriculture strategies in Asia-Pacific countries;
- Farmer, fisher and pastorals and their organizations;
- Food manufacturing and their organizations;
- Agricultural cooperatives and
- Agriculture research institutes\academia.



E-agriculture Solutions Forum	:	29-31 Aug, 2016
Training of trainers	:	1-2 September, 2016
Venue	:	Nonthaburi, Thailand

E-Agriculture Solutions Forum Draft agenda

29 August 2016 : ICT in Agriculture: Need for national strategies

0800 - 0830	REGISTRATION
0830-0930	Opening Session
0930 - 1030	Session 1: Developing E-agriculture strategy - An overview
	Objective: FAO-ITU e-agriculture strategy framework is assisting countries in developing national e-agriculture strategies. This session will detail the approach and experiences on national e-agriculture strategy development.
1030-1100	COFFEE BREAK
1100-1200	Session 2: Agriculture challenges and e-agriculture solutions
	Objective: To share experiences from case studies on how e-agriculture solutions address agricultural challenges.
	Thematic presentation followed by panel discussion
1200-1300	LUNCH BREAK
1300-1430	Session 3: National agriculture goals and challenges- country experiences
	Objective: To share national agriculture priorities and challenges faced by governments in meeting agriculture goals followed by discussions.
1430-1500	COFFEE BREAK
1500-1600	Session 4: National agriculture goals and challenges- country experiences (continued)
	Objective: To share national agriculture priorities and challenges faced by governments in meeting agriculture goals followed by discussions.
1800 onwards	NETWORKING DINNER

E-Agriculture Solutions Forum Draft agenda

30 August 2016: E-agriculture in action

0900-1000	Opening of 'E-agriculture solutions exhibition'
1000-1030	COFEE BREAK
1030-1130	Session 5: ICTs for agricultural extension and advisory service
1130-1230	Session 6: ICTs for market access and financial inclusion
1230-1330	LUNCH BREAK
1330-1430	Session 7: ICTs for climate smart agriculture and disaster management
1430-1530	Session 8: ICTs for capacity development and inclusion
1530-1600	COFEE BREAK
1600-1800	E-agriculture solutions exhibition & networking

E-Agriculture Solutions Forum Draft agenda

31 August 2016 : E-agriculture in action

0900-1000	Session 9: Ecosystems required to sustain ICT solutions for agriculture
1000-1030	COFEE BREAK
1030-1130	Session 9: Sustainable e-agriculture solutions for Asia-Pacific region
1130-1200	Objective: Panel discussion on ways forward to work together in implementing sustainable ICT solutions for agriculture in Asia-Pacific region Conclusion and Forum closing
1230-1400	LUNCH BREAK
1400-1700	E-agriculture solutions exhibition & networking

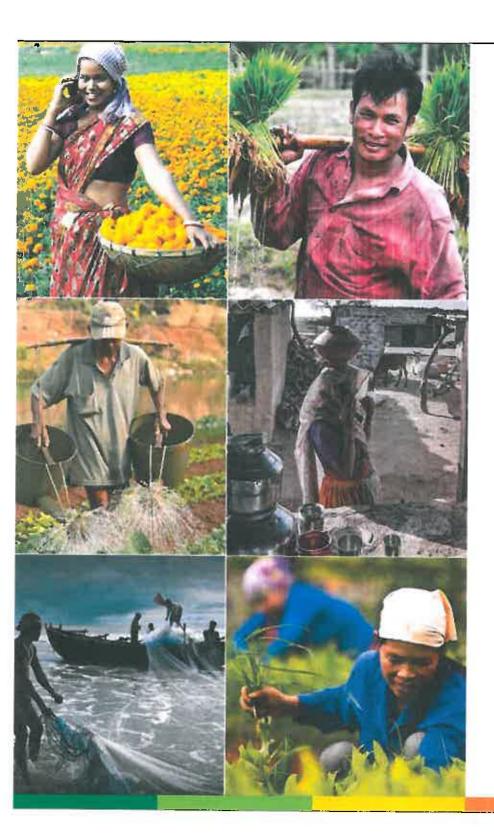


Training on Developing e-agriculture strategy 1-2 September 2016

A two day train-the-trainer programme will be organized for experts, participants to build skills on developing national e-agriculture strategy based on FAO-ITU e-agriculture strategy guide and the toolkits.

The training will include

- Detailed presentation of methodology to develop e-agriculture strategy
- Working group hands on exercise
- Experience sharing in developing national strategies from Asia-Pacific countries



Contact:

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ITU: Ashish Narayan ashish.narayan@itu.int & Takashi Masumitsu takashi.masumitsu@itu.int



FAO-ITU E-agriculture Solutions Forum (29-31 August 2016), and Training-of-trainers on Development of National E-agriculture Strategy (1-2 September 2016)

Nonthaburi, Thailand



Please return to:

Support Services Division (SUP) ITU/BDT Geneva (Switzerland) E-mail : <u>bdtfellowships@itu.int</u> Tel: +41 22 730 5487 / 5227

Copy to : ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

E-mail : <u>ashish.narayan@itu.int</u> and <u>porntip.modethes@itu.int</u> Tel.+66 2 5750055 Fax.+66 2 5753507

Request for a fellowship to be submitted before 24 July 2016

	Participation of women is encouraged			
Country		•		
Name of the Administration or Org	anization			
Mr. / Ms				
Title	(family name)	(given name)		
Tel.:	Fax			
e-mail				
PASSPORT INFORMATION :				
Date of birth				
Nationality	Passport nur	nber		
Date of issue	in (place)	Valid until (date)		
 ITU is pleased to provide one partial fellowship (DSA only) to one participant duly authorized by the respective ITU Administrations from Least Developed Countries and eligible Low-Income Developing Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, subject to available budget, to facilitate their participation in the Forum. Imperative that fellows be present from first day to the last day of the Forum and training i.e. 29 August-2 September 2016 				
Signature of fellowship candidate		Date		
TO VALIDATE FELLOWSHIP REQUEST, NAME AND SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DESIGNATING PARTICIPANT MUST BE COMPLETED BELOW WITH OFFICIAL STAMP.				
Signature:	Date:			