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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 16 February 2022 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 379** | | **To:**  - Administrations of Member States of the Union;  - ITU-T Sector Members;  - ITU-T Associates;  - ITU Academia | |
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| **Subject:** | **Digital transformation for cities and communities Webinar Series**  **(New Episode: Accelerating agricultural digital transformation through AI and IoT, 29 March 2022)** | | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 I am pleased to inform you that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is organizing an additional episode of the **Digital Transformation for Cities and Communities** webinar serieswhich aims to discuss emerging topics related to digital transformation, facilitate collaboration among city stakeholders, and explore the role of standardization in the process. The series also acts as a new platform for highlighting the latest work and outcomes of [ITU-T Study Group 20 “Internet of things (IoT) and smart cities and communities (SC&C)”](https://www.itu.int/go/tsg20).

This episode on “**Accelerating agricultural digital transformation through AI and IoT**” will take place virtually on **29 March 2022** from 1400 to 1600 hours, Geneva time, and will be co-organized with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The webinar episode will be followed by the first meeting of the [Focus Group on "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) for Digital Agriculture" (FG-AI4A)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ai4a/Pages/default.aspx), which will take place on **30 to 31 March 2022**, from 1300 to 1600 hours, Geneva time.

2 This meeting will be held in English only.

3 The agricultural sector is one of the largest in the world, with an estimated global value of USD 2.4 trillion. Farming provides jobs for 1.3 billion people – 19% of the world’s population. However, to meet the needs of a rising global population that is expected to reach 9.7 billion people by the year 2050, global food production will need to be expedited by an estimated 70%.

This necessitates the adoption of emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, Big data, augmented reality, sensors, and drones for the optimization of agricultural production processes, supply chains and food systems. The incorporation and subsequent combination of these technologies have radically transformed the production processes within the agricultural domain and has resulted in the unfolding of a new concept known as “*digital agriculture*”.

The application of “digital agriculture” is on the rise, with its global market estimated to reach over USD 23 billion by 2022 – accounting for an average annual growth of nearly 20%. This concept leverages disruptive technologies to increase crop yield, maximize resource efficiency and strengthen the overall supply chains. Digital agriculture encompasses precision agriculture or precision farming as it these concepts also incorporate techniques such as controlled-environment agriculture, vertical farming and smart greenhouses.

In this context of digital agriculture, this webinar episode will delve into the various aspects of leveraging AI and IoT in accelerating digital transformation for agricultural production processes, while examining the current standardization terrain related to the agricultural sphere.

4 Participation in the Webinar is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country that is a member of ITU and who wishes to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations. Participation is free of charge.

5 Information relating to this meeting including the draft programme, speakers, remote connection details, registration link, etc. will be available on the event website at the following address: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/webinars/dt4cc/20220329/Pages/default.aspx>. This website will be updated regularly as new or modified information becomes available. Participants are encouraged to check the website periodically for the latest updates. Kindly note that registration to the webinar is mandatory.

6 For the previous episodes in this **Digital Transformation for Cities and Communities** webinar series, kindly view the recordings by following the respective links available on the main landing page found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/webinars/Pages/dt4cc.aspx).

Yours faithfully,

Chaesub Lee

Director of the Telecommunication

Standardization Bureau