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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | Geneva, 24 January 2024 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 170**  FG-AI4A/MM | **To:**  - Administrations of Member States of the Union  - ITU-T Sector Members  - ITU-T Associates  - ITU Academia  **Copy to:**  - The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-T Study Groups;  - The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;  - The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau | |
| **Tel:** | +41 22 730 5697 |
| **Fax:**  **E-mail:** | +41 22 730 5853  [tsbfgai4a@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgai4a@itu.int) |
| **Subject:** | **Ninth meeting of the ITU/FAO Focus Group on “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) for Digital Agriculture” (FG-AI4A) and ITU/FAO Workshop on “Cultivating tomorrow: Advancing digital agriculture through IoT and AI”, New Delhi, 18-19 March 2024** | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the ninth meeting of the ITU/FAO Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) for Digital Agriculture (FG-AI4A), scheduled to take place at the National Agricultural Science Complex (Nasc) in New Delhi, India, on 19 March 2024. The meeting will be preceded by the ITU/FAO Workshop on “Cultivating tomorrow: Advancing digital agriculture through IoT and AI” that will take place on 18 March 2024, at the same venue.

The meeting and workshop are kindly hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, India, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare.

**1 Ninth Meeting of the Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things for Digital Agriculture**

The meeting will take place on **19 March 2024** (0900-1700 hours IST). The draft agenda, meeting documents, and additional information will be available on the [FG-AI4A homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4a). The discussions will be held in English only via the [MyMeetings platform](https://www.itu.int/myworkspace/#/MyMeetings).

The main objective of the ninth meeting of FG-AI4A is to further the FG-AI4A deliverables.

Written contributions are pertinent for the eventual success of the focus groups and are strongly encouraged in line with the terms of reference, and to address the objectives highlighted above. Written contributions should be submitted to the TSB FG-AI4A Secretariat ([tsbfgai4a@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgai4a@itu.int)) in electronic format using the templates available from the [FG-AI4A homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4a). **The contribution deadline for the meeting is 11 March 2024.**

**2 ITU/FAO Workshop on “Cultivating tomorrow: Advancing digital agriculture through IoT and AI”**

The ITU/FAO Workshop on “Cultivating tomorrow: Advancing digital agriculture through IoT and AI” will take place on **18 March 2024** (1000-1600 hours IST). The workshop will explore the current conversation surrounding the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and other cutting-edge technologies in aiding tasks like harvesting, weed detection, irrigation, and pest identification.

The workshop programme along with the registration details will be made available on the [FG-AI4A webpage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4a).

**3 Participation Information**

Participation in FG-AI4A is free of charge, and open to individual experts and organizations from all sectors and relevant disciplines, including but not limited to artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IoT), agricultural sciences, and other related areas of digital agriculture. Anyone interested in following or participating in this work is invited to subscribe to a dedicated mailing list. Details on how to subscribe can be found at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ai4a/Pages/quicksteps.aspx>.

**4 Pre-registration**

To enable the host to make the necessary logistics arrangements, participants are required to **pre-register online** via the [FG-AI4A homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4a) as soon as possible, and no later than **26 February 2024**. Places are limited and registration will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is required for remote participation as well as on-site participation. Please note that pre-registration of participants for the events is carried out exclusively online.

**6 Visa support**

Please be reminded that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend any time in India. If required, visas must be requested before the date of arrival in India from the embassy or consulate representing India in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure. Deadlines vary, so it is suggested to check directly with the appropriate representation and apply early.

Additional details and documentation needed for visa processing, if any, will be provided in the logistics document for the meeting that will be made available on the [FG-AI4A website](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4a).

**Key Deadlines:**

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| 26 February 2024 | * Pre-registration (online via the [FG-AI4A homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4a)) * Submit requests for visa support letters (Additional details and documentation needed for visa processing, if any, will be provided in the logistics document for the meeting that will be made available on the [FG-AI4A homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4a)) |
| 11 March 2024 | * Submit written contributions (by e-mail to [tsbfgai4a@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgai4a@itu.int)) |

I wish you a productive and enjoyable meeting.

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| Yours faithfully,    Seizo Onoe  Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau | A qr code with a white background  Description automatically generated  Latest meeting information |

**Annex 1: Background**

The [ITU-T Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) for Digital Agriculture (FG‑AI4A)](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4a) explores the potential of leveraging emerging technologies such as AI and IoT for data collation and handling, improving modelling from a growing volume of agricultural and geospatial data, to enable effective interventions related to the optimization of agricultural production processes. The activities of this Focus Group will be conducted in close collaboration with FAO.

Established by ITU-T Study Group 20 at its meeting of 21 October 2021, FG-AI4A is co-chaired by Dr Ramy Ahmed Fathy (Egypt) and Dr Sebastian Bosse (Fraunhofer HHI, Germany), along with Mr Marco Brini (EnvEve, Switzerland), Mr Zhongxin Chen (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations-FAO), Mr Ted Dunning (Hewlett Packard Enterprise), Mr Paolo Gemma (Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.), Mr Long Hoang (John Deere, United States), Mr Sushil Kumar (Department of Telecommunications, Government of India), Mr Gyu Myoung Lee (Republic of Korea), Mr Chunlin Pang (Telematics industry Application Alliance‑TIAA, China) and Mr Guillermo Ariel González Conosciuto (Argentina) serving as Vice‑Chairs.

The FG-AI4A structure is as follows:

* Working Group on Glossary (WG-Gloss)
* Working Group on Digital Agriculture Use Cases and Solutions (WG-AS)
* Working Group on Data Acquisition and Modelling for digital agriculture (WG-DAM)
* Working Group for Mapping and Analyzing AI and IoT standards related Activities in Digital Agriculture (WG-Roadmap)
* Working Group on Ethical, Legal, and regulatory Considerations relating to the use of AI for agriculture (WG-ELR)
* Working Group on Collaboration and Outreach (WG-CO)

Currently, FG-AI4A has six active Topic Groups:

* Topic Group on Data science for surface and underground water monitoring
* Topic Group on Georeferenced data management
* Topic Group on Weather modelling and forecasting
* Topic Group on Yield monitoring and prediction
* Topic Group on Irrigation strategy and smart water management
* Topic Group on Pest detection

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