

Session concept note of World Café

ICT Innovation Week, 5 to 9 August 2019, Montevideo – Uruguay

1. Dates of the session:

Thursday 8 August

- 9:00 - 10:30 Session 1: World Café - The needs in the Region.
- 11:00 - 13:00 Session 2: World Café - Preparing the region to adopt new technologies.
- 14:00 - 15:30 Session 3: World Café - What have we reached?
- 16:00 - 17:30 Session 4: World Café - Next steps.

2. Description of the session:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the 17 global priority goals of the United Nations which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity to be achieved by 2030. The 17 goals include a more detailed 169 targets and indicators. Some goals are directly related to agriculture, such as the Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.

According to the FAO, worldwide, 75 percent of poor and food insecure people rely on agriculture and natural resources for their living. Agriculture is therefore an important source for survival. It is an industry that requires a high level of knowledge, technology and experience to cultivate soil, efficient use of water, and grow the bounty of nature in an uncertain environment regardless of the negative consequences of climate change.

To tackle these global issues in agriculture, fishery or forestry, the agricultural sector has already started to exploit various types of ICT solutions. For example, devices, networks and applications including emergency communications are used as early warnings technical solutions for farmers in case of disasters. New technologies such as 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are highly expected to be introduced in the agricultural sector, similarly to other industries. Although there are tremendous benefits in using such technologies, because most farmers are small family farmers and generally lack digital literacy they do not always benefit from the potential gains from these technologies. Hence, to bridge the divide and ensure no one is left behind, appropriate preparations and training must be employed to adopt new ICT technologies and future networks.

In this regard, the ITU introduced the “World Café” sessions. These sessions will be the place to share some of the promising innovations and to discuss possible action-oriented proposals for initiatives that can accelerate progress and bring the potential of ICT to agriculture. The session will create the environment with specific questions based on the case studies and challenges of introducing ICT to agriculture, and reveal merits and challenges of ICT in order to promote more sustainable agriculture.

3. Objectives of the session:

- Analyze the current panorama of global agriculture, while new technologies and applications for agricultural production are developed;
 - Identify any needs of deployment of infrastructure, standardization and regulations from analysis of the current agriculture situation to have smart sound and sustainable agricultural production;
 - Propose possible ICT solutions to tackle issues that farmers face in developing countries, such as more aging workers in the rural areas, inclusion of women and biased accessibility to information;
 - Create partnerships among the attendees of agricultural relevant sectors: governments, private sectors, academia, nonprofit organizations, etc.;
 - Develop recommendations and propose further steps, supporting how to prepare to adopt new technologies and future networks in order to attain food security and end hunger of the SDG.
-