

## DIGITAL EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

### Call for good practices in the field of digital agriculture

Within the framework of ITU - FAO Cooperation in Europe and Central Asia  
[November 2020 – January 2021]

The International Telecommunication Union Regional Offices for Europe and CIS, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia have joined forces to sustainably address the digital transformation of agriculture. As an integral part of this cooperation, they are launching this **Call for good practices in the field of digital agriculture**.

This call aims at collecting good practices in the field of digital agriculture in Europe and Central Asia (CIS). Shortlisted candidates will receive the opportunity to present their good practices and outstanding achievements during the “Digital Excellence in Agriculture” awarding ceremony, to be held within the course of February – March 2021.

#### **Background**

The year 2020 marks the beginning of the “Decade of Action” proclaimed by the United Nations for achieving the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda. In an increasingly digital world, information and communication technologies (ICTs) play a key role as development enablers that can facilitate countries’ capabilities to reach all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This regional contest is part of the FAO and ITU Regional Initiatives.

After completing a joint ITU-FAO Study on the **Status of Digital Agriculture in 18 countries Europe and Central Asia**, ICTs have been clearly recognized as having an emerging role in the regions, acting as an engine for agricultural development. The study has also highlighted the need for coordination among stakeholders, as the use of ICTs in agriculture has spawned a consistent wave of innovation.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to ravage so many of our populations and economies, we have never faced a situation of greater urgency. Renewed global recognition of the importance of digital infrastructure, services and skills presents many unprecedented opportunities to make real and rapid progress.

The **Call for good practices in the field of digital agriculture** aims at overcoming the various challenges of sustainable and resilient food systems. In accordance with the core principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this call aims at closing the digital, rural and gender divides, known as the triple divide, in order to include all members of society in this unprecedented transition.



## Call for good practices

The **Call for good practices in the field of digital agriculture** seeks submissions from individuals and organisations across the agricultural sector in the Europe and Central Asia (CIS) regions. It is expected that good practices fall into the concept of digital agriculture, centred on applying innovative methods of ICTs use within the agricultural sector in the urban and rural areas. The agricultural sector includes forestry and fisheries. Albeit not exclusively, these may include services accessible through the web, software integrated into mobile devices, on-farm hardware and software solutions. Below are the competition’s specifications:

### Requirements

- The good practice must be already **put into practice**, or have been successfully finalised within the last three years;
- The practices must originate from or be implemented within **Europe and Central Asia (CIS) regions** (list of countries available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/definitions/regions.aspx>);
- The good practice must be based on at least one or a combination of various **digital technologies** (mobile, satellite, cloud computing, machine learning, sensor network, IoT, etc);
- The solutions indicated in the submission must be accessible and affordable to stakeholders in agriculture sector, so the practices can be replicable.

### Categories

The proposals should fall in one of the following categories highlighting the role of ICTs in agriculture. Special attention will be paid to the practices targeting smallholders and family farmers.

1. **Regulatory Frameworks/ Enhanced market access/ Financial services and insurance** (practices utilizing ICTs to implement regulatory policies and monitoring progress, facilitating market access as well as increasing rural communities’ access to financial services and insurance mechanisms).
2. **Capacity Development and empowerment** (practices widening the reach of rural communities, improving access to and knowledge of good agriculture practices, stimulating relevant digital literacy and skills, creating new business opportunities, etc.).
3. **Agriculture innovation systems and sustainable farming** (practices employing various digital technologies at farm level, e.g. Farm Management Information Systems, Precision Agriculture, Internet of Farm Things, sensor networks, e-extension, etc).
4. **Disaster risk management and early warning systems** (practices focused on providing actionable (near)real-time information to communities and governments on reducing disaster risks, including potential climate change-related risks).
5. **Food safety and traceability** (delivering reliable data to comply with traceability standards and food nutrition aspects).

### Submission

To participate, please submit all information about your good practice at the following link here : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNGTDY5> (in English).

### Deadline

Submissions of good practices will be accepted **until 11 December 2020, 11:59 PM (CET)**.



**Other Information**

All submissions will be automatically considered for:

- ITU Stocktaking Report on e-agriculture,
- Digital Excellence in Agriculture Report,
- Promotional video focusing on nominated good practices,
- Social media campaign
- Awarding ceremony highlighting the outstanding achievements of the nominated good practices
- World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2021 (wsis.org/prizes).

Please be informed that there is no participation fee.

**Terms and Ethical Standards**

If applicable, please note that participants must comply with the intellectual property rights of applications and technologies used in the submitted good practice. Employees, or persons related to ITU are excluded from participating in the call for good practices.

**Evaluation**

After an initial pre-selection based on the assessment of requirements, an evaluation committee composed of digital agriculture experts from the Food and Agricultural Organization and International Telecommunication Union will evaluate each good practice according to the following criteria:

CRITERIA	SPECIFICATION	GRADE			
		LOW			HIGH
<b>Impact/Results</b>	Successful results and positive impact must be demonstrated	1	2	3	4
<b>Sustainability</b>	To what extent the practice is sustainable (socially, economically, and environmentally)?	1	2	3	4
<b>Replicability and upscaling</b>	To what extent the practice can be replicated in terms of appropriateness/ technology affordability?	1	2	3	4
<b>Novelty</b>	Are there existing analogues in other regions?	1	2	3	4
<b>Technology</b>	Complexity and combination of technologies used	1	2	3	4

The regional contest will follow six phases:

1. Submission of good practices from 4 November until 11 December 2020;
2. Nomination of three outstanding practices for each category, in the course of January 2021;
3. Production of a stocktaking report including all good practices received;
4. Selection of the finalists and awardees;
5. Production of a special promotional video focusing on outstanding good practices as well as the production of the Digital Excellence in Agriculture report;





- Award ceremony where the finalists will receive the opportunity to present their good practices and outstanding achievements during the “Digital Excellence in Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia” (February-March 2021) and the winners will be awarded with a special recognition and a trophy.

**Other Information**

For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at

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