



World Summit Geneva 2009
Tunis 2005
on the Information Society
Turning targets into action



Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015

C7. ICT Applications: E-Agriculture

Considering the central role information and communication technologies play in the development of sustainable agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods;

Recognizing the growing importance of e-agriculture to ensure the exchange of information on agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and food, in rural areas; and, the need for new models of public-private partnerships to maximize the positive impact of ICT as an instrument to improve production (quantity and quality) and reduce environmental impact; emerging trends and challenges to overcome have been identified.

Following provides guidance and priorities for implementation of WSIS Action Line C7 (e-agriculture) beyond 2015.

a) Exploring and expanding the role of ICT

1. Greater emphasis must be placed on **exploring and expanding the role of ICT** to assist farmers, foresters and fisherfolk in developing countries, including services from mobile, fixed line, satellite and broadband technologies.

b) Partnerships

2. Collaboration and **multi-stakeholder partnerships** are an essential approach to develop and implement e-agriculture strategies, products and services, as well as build capacity.

c) Enabling Environment

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3. Systematically **integrate ICT policies, content and capacity development into national and regional agricultural policies.**
4. **Integrate agriculture into national and regional ICT policies.**
5. **Promote e-agriculture as an efficient mechanism to improve rural areas**, in particular to boost entrepreneurship and economic growth.
6. Raise awareness and create ICT tools to enhance agriculture as a way to help development.
7. **Reduce the costs** associated with information access in **rural areas**, with the goal of ensuring **direct individual access** to relevant content for smallholders.

d) Capacity Development

8. Foster **digital literacy** and provide specialized training for girls and women, people with disabilities, children and young people to overcome illiteracy and/or to improve existing skills.
9. Ensure capacity development occurs at the **individual and institutional levels.**
10. Develop a **capacity assessment framework** with clear indicators that are relevant and acceptable.
11. Continue to develop **information and experiences sharing networks** in the agriculture sector, including the e-Agriculture Community.
12. Make **agriculture and related economies knowledge-based** economies with ICT and agri-informatics.

e) Content

13. Improve the availability of **quality content**, including **hyper-local information.**
14. Facilitate the appropriate **digitization of local knowledge**, including the know-how of farmers, foresters and fisherfolk.

f) Tools and Processes

15. Promote **mobile technology** and **mobile information services** as an important tool in agricultural development and business.
16. Develop **traceability systems** that connect farms to consumers' tables, providing quality data and securing reliability of our foods.
17. Improve agriculture and food production and management utilizing **sensors, cloud computing** and other forms of ICT.
18. Facilitate the **information flows** and **social networks** that will maximize the positive impact that the ICT can have on the livelihoods of people in rural agricultural communities.
19. Expand upon the **success of farmers and business peoples** using mobile technology to access real-time data and to sell their crops/produce remotely.

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20. Use **ICT to enable a value chain** that more closely collaborates with producers.

g) Women and Youth

21. There is an urgent need for **affordable and quality ICT access** providing relevant, quality and actionable content in rural areas, with a particular focus on agricultural smallholders, women and youth.
22. **Empower and ensure access for rural women and girls, and youth** with the capacity to use ICT in agriculture.
23. Youth must be **mentored and encouraged** to enhance the agricultural sector through their own ICT innovations.

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