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Prospect of ICT IN AGRICULTURE

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Intro ICT in Agriculture

Information Communication Technologies is a medium by which any form of electronic or digital device is use to exchange information or communicate.

We will take a brief look on how this means of communication can affect the agricultural sector in Liberia looking at undergraduate, agriculture extension services and pilot trainers and farmers.

Objective

To competently affect and enhance communication from traditional medium to a more digitalized medium, wherein information can be exchanged swiftly amongst stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

Designing Strategy

Needs Assessment:

Assess the availability of ICT related devices and which is the most affordable and reachable for end users then synchronizing traditional methods verses modernized equipment

Designing Strategy Cont.

Initiating ICT Related projects:

Building the capacity of stakeholders via NGOs in providing ICT resources and training in the form of donation or loan to effectively transcend to a more technological form of communicating.

Designing Strategy Cont.

Who	Strategy	Medium
Undergraduate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing training Computer based centers at learning Institutions• Inter-college network• E-learning and online training	Computers, Smart Devices etc.
Extension and Advisory Officers and Professors/ Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training of trainers workshop	In-house training/ campus based: Available Computer labs on campus
Agripreneurs and Farmers	Educating end users on the available devices that can be used to improve communication	Extension & Advisory Service Officers

Medium of Communication

Radio
Communication

Video
Production

Internet

Mobile/Smart
Devices

Modes of Communication

- ▶ Use of E-learning/Online Programs
- ▶ Inter-college network
- ▶ Video/Radio production dramatized in localized dialects
- ▶ Local based training center for semi-literate farmers
- ▶ Mobile Phones
- ▶ Internet

Implementing ICT as a Medium for Training

- ▶ Bridging the digital divide via adapting the use of e-learning/online programs for undergraduates at tertiary institutions
 - I. Raising awareness in strengthening the use of said programs amongst professors at various universities/college via training stakeholders to deliver and receive information as and when needed.
 - II. Hands on information communication tools right from the start of college will broaden the knowledge of students of the use of ICT tools as a means of communicating effectively and swiftly.

Inter-college Network

- ▶ Form research groups per interest and initiate projects along with localized farmers being full implementers of projects using different counties for research work.

Most of the livelihood of our farming activities in Liberia are mostly situated in the rural areas with over 75% of said farmers with limited knowledge on best practices and modernized methods for farming/growing a particular crop.

Inter-college Network Cont.

Information can be quickly exchanged amongst colleagues on what is obtained from one project in another county and how it can be synchronized and be useful in addressing similar program by simply text messaging/calling which is an affordable medium of disseminating information.

Video/Radio Production

Pre recorded video production preferably in local language to be used by Extension Officer in educating semi literate/illiterate on upcoming best practices and methods in farming.

Radio is one easy and affordable medium used by indigenous farmers, making such available to farmers and having programs aired in local dialects as well as English will disseminate important information on market price etc.

Training Centers

Mobile training centers set up by NGOs or public agency as well as private institutions to educate semi/illiterate farmers to surf for information using ICT devices.

Mobile Phones

Establish a central database of contacts between stakeholders, that includes: Extension advisory service agents, students, farmers and Agripreneurs. Information can easily be shared via conference call and text messaging.

Internet

- ▶ Forming of social group via internet linkages; rid off travelling long is distances to get things done.
- ▶ Interchange vital information by establishing network with other agro associations internationally.
- ▶ Enhancing training for field agents via online correspondence. In this was agent can stay working whilst acquiring knowledge.

References

Self Import

MEAS Case Studies: Exploring the Promise of ICTs for Women Farmers

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August 2015