

Release for NABNET/ NBSC Webpage

Programme on Digital Agriculture and Internet of Things - Revolutionizing Agriculture through ICT

Over the last few decades, massive technological development and opportunities have transformed people's lives. However, these opportunities have not benefited the agriculture sector in a significant way. Farmers and various other actors along the agriculture value chain need significant amounts of information. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) will play a key role in knowledge exchange, targeted recommendations, market integration and access to finance to make agriculture a profitable enterprise and attractive for youth.

Digital Agriculture is "ICT and data ecosystems to support the development and delivery of timely, targeted information and services to make farming profitable and sustainable while delivering safe nutritious and affordable food for ALL."

It was in this background that a customised programme was organized by NBSC, Lucknow in association with ICRISAT, Hyderabad from 12 to 14 March 2018 at ICRISAT, Hyderabad

The programme was attended by 20 participants, of which 15 were DGMs, including 8 FMs from the 04 training establishments.

The participants were given exposure in the use of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Machine Learning, satellite & drone imagery along with application of advanced analytics to empower farmers to increase their income through higher crop yield, greater price control, weather related risk mitigation measures, etc. Inputs on use of mobile apps to facilitate farmer and crop specific information on crop and livestock management, marketing and linkage of FPOs, diagnosis of pest and diseases in crops, were also given.

The participants also interacted with entrepreneurs who were developing applications for use of IOT in agriculture. These developers also demonstrated their applications which used sensors for determining various parameters such as humidity, temperature, wind speed, daylight hours, nutrient quality, etc., to help predict optimum sowing time, irrigation scheduling, nutrient management in livestock, etc., as well as easy to use net based applications to diagnose diseases in plants, optimize use of resources, streamline the businesses of FPOs to reduce costs and maximize income.

On the conclusion of the programme, some actionable points were identified for NABARD to take forward including establishment of an incubation hub to provide a creative space to agri-tech entrepreneurs, scientists and technology experts to collaborate to develop innovative cutting-edge ideas across the whole agriculture value chain for the benefit of smallholder farmers.

Shri Ram Kiran Dhulipala, Head – Digital Agriculture & Youth, Innovation Systems for the Drylands, ICRISAT and Shri S K Jahagirdar, DGM/ FM, NBSC, Lucknow designed and coordinated the programme.

A few photographs taken during the programme are appended below.



(A section of the participants in rapt attention)



(Group Photograph of participants with Dr Peter Carberry, Deputy Director General - Research (Right) ICRISAT and Dr Anthony Whitbread, Research Program Director - Innovation Systems for the Drylands (ICRISAT))



(Group Photograph of participants)



(Shri Satyajeet Mahapatra, CEO of eXabit Sysytems Pvt Ltd highlighting salient features of an automated weather station developed by his company incubated by iHub of ICRISAT)



(A view of the iHub, ICRISAT- an incubation unit for start-ups to develop their units)