# e-agriculture.ORG

## What is e-Agriculture?

An emerging field focusing on the enhancement of agricultural and rural development through improved information and communication processes. More specifically, e-Agriculture involves the conceptualization, design, development, evaluation and application of innovative ways to use information and communication technologies (ICT) in the rural domain, with a primary focus on agriculture.

## Why e-Agriculture?

e-Agriculture is one of the action lines identified in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

## What is e-agriculture.org?

www.e-agriculture.org is the Internet platform of this global initiative aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural development and food security by improving the use of information, communication, and associated technologies in the sector.

## What is the goal of the platform?

To enable Community members to exchange opinions, experiences, good practices and resources related to e-Agriculture, and to ensure that the knowledge created is effectively shared and used worldwide.

## How is this accomplished?

Through being one element of a Community of Expertise, which includes a range of participants, such as policy makers, planners, development practitioners, farmer organizations, researchers and information and communication specialists involved in agriculture and rural development.

Community members interact with each other though regular forums and community networking, and contribute a range of resources to the platform, including case studies, success stories, lessons learned, documents, publications, links, learning resources, news and announcements.

## What are the activities of the Community of Expertise?

- Development and facilitation of a web-based collaboration space (www.e-agriculture.org)

- Organization of face-to-face events

- In-country interventions

## Which agency is leading the initiative?

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been assigned the responsibility of organizing activities related to the action line under C7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life - and more particularly on e-Agriculture. In 2006, a multi-stakeholder working group was set up, to guide these efforts and include:

- Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
- The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CTA)
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
- Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)
- Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)

- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD)
- International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- One Laptop Per Child - World Bank

## How can you contribute?

In February 2009, over 4300 stakeholders from 155 countries were involved in the development of the e-agriculture.org platform, and will contribute in the further development of the e-Agriculture Community of Expertise. We invite you to join this growing community.

**www.e-agriculture.org**
or contact:  **info@e-agriculture.org**