



## ***e-Agriculture Stakeholders Consultation***

### ***-Developing National e-Agriculture Strategy Guide – 3-5 March, Bangkok, Thailand***

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#### **BACKGROUND**

While the need for e-Agriculture strategies is acknowledged by many stakeholders, most countries are still to adopt holistic or sub-sectorial e-strategies on agriculture. e-agriculture strategies will help to rationalize resources (financial and human), harness ICT opportunities and address challenges in the agricultural sector. The existence of a comprehensive national strategy can prevent e-Agriculture projects from being implemented in isolation and develops efficiency gains from intra sector and cross sector synergy.

FAO and ITU with support from partners including CTA are developing an e-Agriculture Strategy Guide and set of resources to facilitate country decision makers in developing a national e-Agriculture vision, action plan and implementation strategy.

Starting from the goals and needs of the agriculture sector and an assessment of the current status of e-Agriculture, the process expects to result in a plan that builds on what exists already and identifies actions to be undertaken in an integrated and prioritized manner.

This workshop aims to present the case study in Sri Lanka where the e-Agriculture Strategy Guide was presented and a pilot testing done, discuss the draft e-Agriculture Strategy Guide with agriculture and ICT stakeholders, gather

comments and share experiences that would further support the development of the guide.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The Stakeholder workshop aims to:

- Present Asia-Pacific examples in e-Agriculture, especially the experience in Sri Lanka
- Discuss and finalize the e-Agriculture Strategy Guide; and to
- Discuss recommendations and identify opportunities for testing the toolkit in some pilot countries.
- The workshop will create a platform to facilitate a dialogue among various stakeholders, policy makers and ministries of agriculture, ICT and telcos in the region on the implementation and adoption of e-Agriculture services.
- To promote the knowledge sharing, and exchange current practices and public policies regarding e-Agriculture services;

The workshop will ensure that the content of the strategy guide takes into account major factors and current issues relating to agricultural and ICT development, as well as national e-strategy development in the target countries.

***Bhutan and Sri Lanka are the first pilot countries in the Asia-Pacific region where this***



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***guide would be customized through national workshops in 2015.***

national representatives, Regional Economic Commissions and other experts will attend it.

## Outputs

- The draft the e-Agriculture Strategy Guide presented, discussed and endorsed.
- Participating countries agreed to buy-in and test the e-Agriculture Strategy Guide at country level.
- Knowledge and experience shared among participating countries, including those from Africa through presentation of case-studies from e-Agriculture
- A meeting report produced which contains the conclusions and recommendations on the e-Agriculture Strategy Guide together with case-studies, success stories and experiences from participating countries.

The workshop will particularly discuss the draft strategy guide in preparation and contribute to Other exchanges will focus on how to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in ICT strategy development and implementation in a sector such as agriculture and on the pilot testing of the guide.

Participants will notably come from countries which have started e-agriculture strategy development processes, or are aiming at undertaking this process. In total, about 25 people including representatives of ministries, United Nations Economic Commissions, FAO

## DATES | VENUE | FORMAT

<b>Date</b>	3-5 March, 2015
<b>Venue</b>	Amari Watergate, Bangkok, Thailand
<b>Participants</b>	About 35 participants including from Ministries of agriculture, ICTs, telecoms and other stakeholders involved in agricultural service development and delivery