FAO-ITU
E-agriculture Solutions Forum
29 August – 31 August, 2016

Food and Agriculture
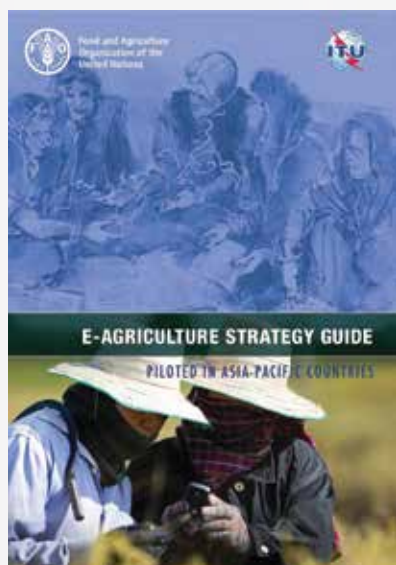Organization of the
United Nations

ITU

Background:

Setting in place a national e-agriculture strategy is an essential first step for any country planning on using ICTs for agriculture.

E-agriculture, or ICTs in agriculture, is about designing, developing and applying innovative ways to use ICTs with a primary focus on agriculture. E-agriculture offers a wide range of solutions to agricultural challenges and has great potential in promoting sustainable agriculture while protecting the environment.

Setting in place a national e-agriculture strategy is an essential first step for any country planning on using ICTs for agriculture. E-agriculture strategies will facilitate achieving the goals set by national agricultural plans by addressing holistically the ICT opportunities and challenges for the agricultural sector. It would further enhance the potential for innovation in services and rational use of resources thereby increasing business opportunities, reducing risks and improving the lives of people in rural communities.
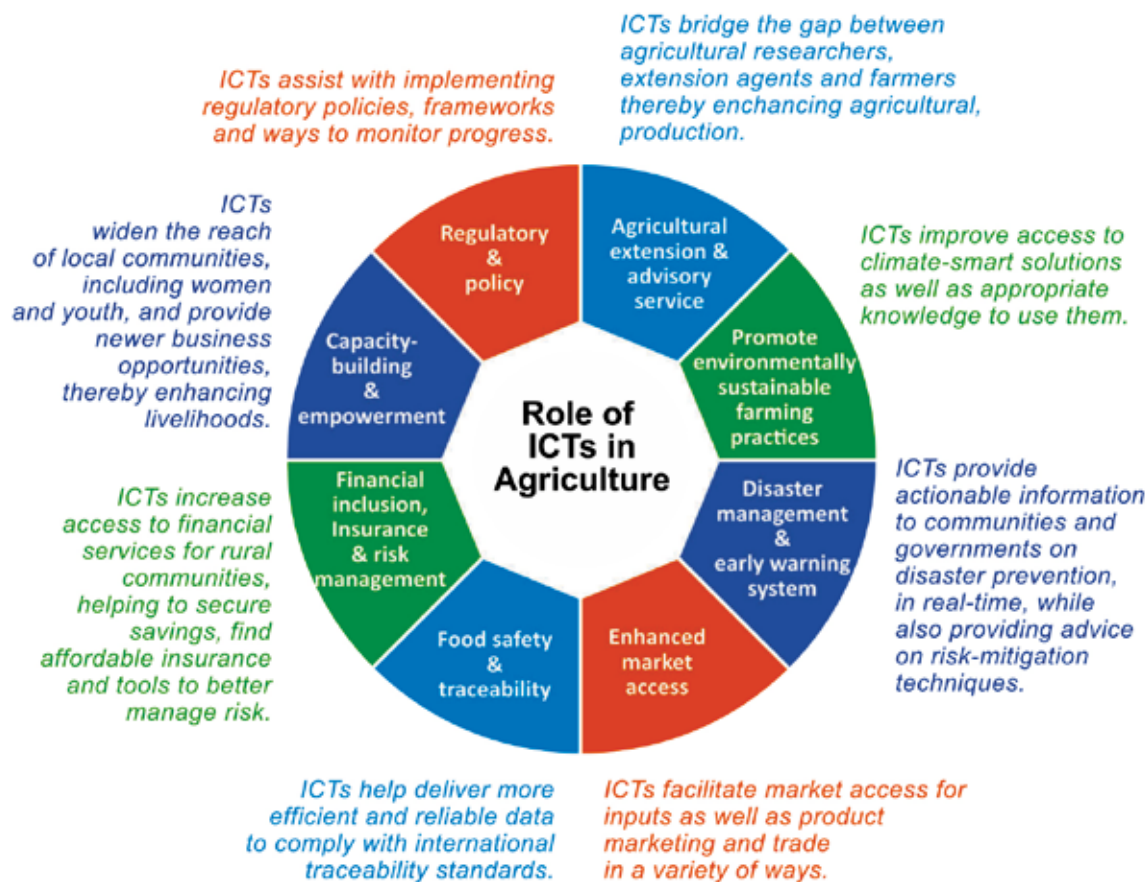

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), together with support from partners including the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), have developed the E-agriculture Strategy Guide. The guide provides a framework for countries to develop their national e-agriculture strategy, or master plan.

The FAO-ITU E-agriculture Strategy Guide is available at:
http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5564e.pdf

More information at:
http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/resources/e-agriculture/en/

To support the use of proven e-agriculture solutions and services, FAO-ITU will be conducting a 3 day **E-agriculture Solutions Forum** (29-31 August, 2016). The forum will be followed by a two day **training of trainers** (1-2 September, 2016) on developing e-agriculture strategy.

Giving the multiplicity and large diversity of developed ICT solutions for agriculture, there is a need to facilitate knowledge sharing where countries and solutions developers can share their experiences and challenges. A collaboration platform to showcase solutions to accelerate innovation and demonstrate the positive impact of ICT on the agriculture sector would facilitate the adoption of appropriate solution while avoiding duplication of efforts and reinventing the wheel.

ICTs bridge the gap between agricultural researchers, extension agents and farmers thereby enchancing agricultural, production.

ICTs assist with implementing regulatory policies, frameworks and ways to monitor progress.

ICTs widen the reach of local communities, including women and youth, and provide newer business opportunities, thereby enhancing livelihoods.

ICTs improve access to climate-smart solutions as well as appropriate knowledge to use them.

ICTs increase access to financial services for rural communities, helping to secure savings, find affordable insurance and tools to better manage risk.

ICTs provide actionable information to communities and governments on disaster prevention, in real-time, while also providing advice on risk-mitigation techniques.

ICTs help deliver more efficient and reliable data to comply with international traceability standards.

ICTs facilitate market access for inputs as well as product marketing and trade in a variety of ways.

Role of ICTs in Agriculture

- Regulatory & policy
- Agricultural extension & advisory service
- Promote environmentally sustainable farming practices
- Disaster management & early warning system
- Enhanced market access
- Food safety & traceability
- Financial inclusion, Insurance & risk management
- Capacity-building & empowerment

Objective

- Bring together proven e-agriculture solutions that will benefit various stakeholders;
- Share knowledge on successful e-agriculture solutions and identifying ways of scaling up implementations at national level;
- Establish a Community-of-Practice (CoP) among e-agriculture solution providers;
- Build capacity in Asia-Pacific through Training-of-Trainers (ToT) in developing national strategies based on FAO-ITU e-agriculture strategy guide;
- Experience sharing in implementing e-agriculture solutions.

Target audience

- E-agriculture solution providers;
- Infrastructure and service providers from sectors critical for e-agriculture (telecom, IT, agricultural machinery and implement, banking, insurance, governance etc.);
- Country representatives from Asia-Pacific (senior and middle management from ministry of agriculture and ICT);
- International, regional, national organizations working in agriculture and rural development;
- Experts involved in implementing e-agriculture strategies in Asia-Pacific countries;
- Farmer, fisher and pastorals and their organizations;
- Food manufacturing and their organizations;
- Agricultural cooperatives and
- Agriculture research institutes\academia.

Timeline

E-agriculture Solutions Forum : 29-31 Aug, 2016
Training of trainers   : 1-2 September, 2016
Venue   : Nonthaburi, Thailand

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0800 - 0830	REGISTRATION
0830 - 0930	Opening Session
0930 - 1030	Session 1: Developing E-agriculture strategy - An overview
	Objective: FAO-ITU e-agriculture strategy framework is assisting countries in developing national e-agriculture strategies. This session will detail the approach and experiences on national e-agriculture strategy development.
1030-1100	COFFEE BREAK
1100-1200	Session 2: Agriculture challenges and e-agriculture solutions
	Objective: To share experiences from case studies on how e-agriculture solutions address agricultural challenges.
	Thematic presentation followed by panel discussion
1200-1300	LUNCH BREAK
1300-1430	Session 3: National agriculture goals and challenges– country experiences
	Objective: To share national agriculture priorities and challenges faced by governments in meeting agriculture goals followed by discussions.
1430-1500	COFFEE BREAK
1500-1600	Session 4: National agriculture goals and challenges– country experiences (continued)
	Objective: To share national agriculture priorities and challenges faced by governments in meeting agriculture goals followed by discussions.
1800 onwards	NETWORKING DINNER

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30 August 2016: E-agriculture in action

0900-1000	Opening of 'E-agriculture solutions exhibition'
1000-1030	COFEE BREAK
1030-1130	Session 5: ICTs for agricultural extension and advisory service
1130-1230	Session 6: ICTs for market access and financial inclusion
1230-1330	LUNCH BREAK
1330-1430	Session 7: ICTs for climate smart agriculture and disaster management
1430-1530	Session 8: ICTs for capacity development and inclusion
1530-1600	COFEE BREAK
1600-1800	E-agriculture solutions exhibition & networking

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0900-1000	Session 9: Ecosystems required to sustain ICT solutions for agriculture
1000-1030	COFEE BREAK
1030-1130	Session 9: Sustainable e-agriculture solutions for Asia-Pacific region
1130-1200	Objective: Panel discussion on ways forward to work together in implementing sustainable ICT solutions for agriculture in Asia-Pacific region Conclusion and Forum closing
1230-1400	LUNCH BREAK
1400-1700	E-agriculture solutions exhibition & networking

Training on
**Developing
e-agriculture strategy**
1-2 September 2016

A two day train-the-trainer programme will be organized for experts, participants to build skills on developing national e-agriculture strategy based on FAO-ITU e-agriculture strategy guide and the toolkits.

The training will include

- Detailed presentation of methodology to develop e-agriculture strategy
- Working group hands on exercise
- Experience sharing in developing national strategies from Asia-Pacific countries

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