

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Disruptive technologies and innovations
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Digital farming
Keyword 2	: Big data and open access
Keyword 3	: Artificial intelligence/computer learning
Title of Entry	: Digital Tools for Agriculture: How to leverage information and communication technology for research and development
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Affiliation presenting author	: International Rice Research Institute
Affiliation 1	:
Affiliation 2	:
Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation

Abstract : As information and communication technology (ICT) has penetrated the global market – in both rural and urban areas and in both developing and developed countries – there is a high potential for ICTs to positively impact agricultural production. Information has always been a critical component of agricultural production as farmers exchange best practice, suggestions and counsel. As global food demands are steadily increasing as population growth, climate change and resources constraints make feeding an estimated 9.2 billion people by 2050 a precarious future. We know that 80% of farmland in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia is managed by smallholder farmers. Furthermore, smallholders provide up to 80% of food supply in these geographies as well. However, incomes in agriculture in Asia are the lowest of any sector in the region. In order to provide a food secure future, we must work to increase the productivity, efficiency and incomes of smallholder farmers. ICTs can alleviate some of this burden by increasing returns to agriculture through efficiency gains, time-saving and higher incomes to make rural smallholder farms as productive as possible. ICTs are being used in a multitude of ways to increase efficiencies. This presentation will explore the four categories of digital agriculture and its application to rice-based agri-food systems: access to financial services, access to agricultural extension information, data viability and supply chain efficiency and access to market prices and information. The presentation will highlight specific examples from both the International Rice Research Institute’s experience as well as the experience of other organizations to highlight the potential of this technology to have transformative impact in the sector.

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