



USE OF ICTS FOR AGRICULTURE

Nepal

Information Technology has proven potential in Agriculture, though it is yet to find major use in this sector. Poor communication infrastructure and weak institutional capacities in the farming sector mean that despite being a major economic sector, modern information technology is yet to find a diversified use in agriculture.

The project 'Use of ICTs in Agriculture' was launched at the IAAS Paklihawa Campus and a farmer's Cooperative user group in Rupandehi district of Nepal.

Following are a list of activities included in their project:

- 1) The team organized Participate, Learn and Continue, a 3 day Web 2.0 and Social Media Training event. They called for an open participation from the students and around 49 applications were registered,

The team divided the project objectives focusing on two interventions:

1. Promoting use of Social Media channels in disseminating Agricultural information and use of blogging to promote the sustainable development goals at a global level.
2. The second level concentrated on the use of mobile phone technology to disseminate the agriculture information and innovations at the farmer level, and assist them in adopting the innovation and later access the progress made.

The best blogger and the model farmers were acknowledged.



wherein 35 active participants were selected. Following are the sessions held as a part of the training program:

- a) Basic Computer Skills
- b) Blogging Sessions: Introduction to various platforms and creating a blog.
- c) Google: Introduction and use of Google apps, Google drive, Google word-processing, YouTube and Google+ etc.
- d) Bookmarking and Web browsing: GIS Enabled maps and managing browsers.

Team Members

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- e) Networking and File sharing session
- f) Online Word-processing: Using Google doc and Google sheets.
- 2) The team collaborated with IT trained professionals from Softwerica College of IT and Commerce, a reputed IT college in Nepal to train the target students on Web 2.0 and social media at a nominal cost.
- 3) They also partnered with Broadlink Communications Pvt. Ltd., one of the wireless internet service provider companies in Nepal, to manage their internet facilities throughout the training.
- 4) A Facebook page was started to monitor their activities and updates. Students shared their blog posts on the page.
- 5) To invite more participants for the cause, the team announced a 'Sustainability Blogging Challenge' online which saw a great response.
- 6) The team collaborated with other youth groups, like YPARD Nepal and Agriyouth Nepal in order to engage more youth on a national platform to share agriculture issues