ICT for Ag: Unpacking Sustainability Journeys

Chat Transcript
February 3, 2021

Presenters
Josh Woodard, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security
Parasto Hamed, AgResults
Jean-Michel Voisard, RTI International’s Food Security and Agriculture Division
Casey Harrison, Nuru International

Moderator
Zachary Baquet, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security
Lilian Gichuru: Lilian Gichuru, AGRA Kenya, interested in learning how we can make e-extension platforms sustainable.

Donald Tambunan: Hello all. Greetings from me Donald Tambunan, USAID Indonesia, Jakarta

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Welcome All! Thank you for joining us!

Jules Kazungu: From Regional Research Centre for Integrated Development (RCID)/Rwanda

Christian Portal: Hi Ignacio

Brianna Moody: Brianna Moody, USAID Washington, RFS/C4R

Clement Igben: Hi everyone. Clement Igben, from Nigeria Agriculture Extension Activity

Philip Charlesworth: Hi, Philip Charlesworth, IFDC Myanmar

Margarita Rios: Margarita R, located in Arlington-Virginia, hello everyone.

Angelika Kessler: Hi everybody, I'm Angelika Kessler, CARE Nederland, West Africa Programme officer

Hamilton McNutt: Hi all, Hamilton McNutt in DC, glad to be here.

Md. Shafiul Alam: Hello Everyone, Have a good day! I am Shafiul from Bangladesh.


Alexander Nuer 2: Hi everyone, I am Alexander Nuer, Univ. of Cape Coast, Ghana

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Thanks for joining Margarita, Angelika, and Hamilton!

Nikki Brand: Hi everyone - Nikki Brand from Viamo

Mukti Devkota: Hi everyone

Hilary ADJALLA: Hi Everyone, Hilary ADJALLA from IFDC, Specialist ICT4Ag

Rolf Schinkel: Hello, Rolf Schinkel from Netherlands Food Partnership. Happy to join you.
Aerie Changala: Hi everyone, Aerie Changala from Nuru International

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Welcome Shafiul! Thanks for staying up late to join us!

Tatevik Markosyan: Hello everyone. I am Tatevik, Humphrey Fellow from CORnell.

Wycliffe Ngwabe: Hi everyone.. Wycliffe Ngwabe here joining from Sierra Leone.. Looking forward to learning more about innovations in agriculture!

Henry Kabango Kanyembo: Hi All, Henry K. Kanyembo from Zambia

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Welcome Tatevik, Wycliffe, and Aerie! Glad to have you here!

Aimable UWIHANGANYE: I would like to know how the could we use ICT for creating/initiating resilient Horticulture farming in developing countries(Africa)

Patrick Lee: Patrick Lee here from the UK working in digital agriculture consulting.

Oliver Furechi: Furechi Oliver Joining from Kenya

Andi Ikhwan: Hi everyone. Andi Ikhwan from Mercy Corps Indonesia

Jo Anne Yeager: Hi Everyone - Jo Anne Yeager Sallah, Peace Corps Guinea

Fernando Marquez: Hi all, Fernando Marquez from Ag-Finance Team in Washington DC (USAID)

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Thanks for your questions @Aimable!


Jean-Michel Voisard - RTI: Hi Jo Anne!

Ataur Rahman: Hi everyone! This is Ataur Rahman from Dhaka/Bangladesh Digital Agriculture Activity: DAI

Olivia Vent: Olivia Vent, based in Ithaca, NY working with Lotus Foods and smallholder rice farmers.

Phil Malone: Hi from Phil Malone Access Agriculture - farmer to farmer training videos in local languages. Also using smart projectors to reach remote areas.

Thaven Naidoo: Thaven Naidoo The Private Finance Advisory Network, Southern Africa

Jo Anne Yeager: I'll always follow you Jean Michel!
Roula Attar: Roula Attar, VP at ECODIT LLC - calling in from Beirut, Lebanon today. Thank you!

Michelle Kurian: Hi, Michelle Kurian from The Harvest Fund, a social enterprise operating in Zambia

DJEBEGOUN Romuald: Hi everyone - Romuald Djegbenou from IFDC Benin rrepublic, Youth and Ict4Ag Trainer

Schafer Castella: A bit hard to hear

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Glad to have you join us Thaven, Roula, and Michelle!

Sarah Goodwin: Hi all, Sarah Goodwin from IMC’s Inclusive Growth Team here (working in digital ag)

Olanrewaju Afolabi: Olanrewaju Afolabi from Nigeria. Livelihood Adviser the Nigeria Women Project

Katherine Vaughn: Hi all, Kathy Vaughn, Millennium Challenge Corporation based in Washington, DC

Monifa Morgan-Bell: Hello Everyone, Monifa Morgan-Bell, Cornell University Ithaca NY, Innovation Lab for Crop Improvement

Thacien MUNYAMAHAME: Thacien- Rwanda YALTA programme manger (Youth in Agroecology business learning Track Africa.

Abdoulaye Dia: Abdoulaye Dia USAID Senegal Agriculture Team Lead

Nonsikelelo Nkomo: Hi All. It's Nonsi Nkomo from Solidaridad Southern Africa.

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Welcome Sarah, Olanrewaju, and Katherine!

Ahmed Hourani: Hello everyone from Jordan

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): If you have questions for presenters, please type them into the chatbox. If possible, let us know if the questions is for a particular presenter.

Eric Lane: Greetings from Prosparity Systems: low-cost, all-terrain rural truck & tractor platform for rural farming systems.

Holiance Odhiambo: HI, Holiance Odhiambo, Vermitech Ltd, Kenya
Henry Swira: Hi all, Henry Swira, CARE USA

Paul Zaake: Hello all, I am Paul Zaake, from Uganda


Sandeep Kachhawa: hello everyone

Abdoulaye Kanté: ok Abdoulaye ulaye

Julie Howard: Hi! Julie Howard from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington. Also - a question

Eric Trachtenberg: Hello everyone. Eric Trachtenberg, Senior Director - Land & Ag Economy, MCC

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Welcome Sandeep, Abdoulaye, and Shafiul!

Julie Howard: Wondering whether any of the presenters are working with blockchain

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Hi Julie! Glad to have you join us!

Fostina Mani: Who is responsible for DCTS after the completion of the project, is it Government, Farmers, or Agro Inputs suppliers?

Gary Alex: The expected impacts seem pretty substantial. How many total farmers are expected to benefit with increased production and what is the project prize cost per farmer?

Chris Shepherd-Pratt: How do you control for service quality?

Pranata Barua: Hello everyone, good morning from Ottawa

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Hey Gary! Good to see you!

Vartika Jaini: what were insights on the reception of services by farmers? any good practices that all providers can incorporate in their input bundles?

Zachary Baquet (USAID/RFS): Thanks for your questions everyone! Keep them coming!

Jose Cruz: Hi Jose Angel Cruz from Central America

Judith Payne: Great that you pay for results. And that you encourage data for farmers but it seems, given you have a limited time to award prizes, you may not be inventing sustainability. How does that get invented?
Deborah Rubin: Who is considered the "farmer" in this project? The cow owner or the person who manages the dairy production, when these are different? Are you seeing differences in sales volume or rates of increase between men and women participants?

Vartika Jaini: the audio is not clear at all..

Onaolapo Morenike: How were you able to bridge the gap between the illiterate and literate farmers in target areas

Bello I Galoji: hello everyone I'm Galoji from Nigeria

Schafer Castella: For Jean Michel- who collected the rainfall and weather data?

Fostina Mani: @Jean can you kindly share the website for those farmer managed data resources.

Parasto Hamed: Deborah - The farmers are the cow owner. At the moment more than 30% of the farmers are female and we encourage the competitors to reach out to more women

Parasto Hamed: As part of the annual application process competitors are required to submit a gender engagement plan

Olivia Vent: In the case of AgResults, do the competitors come up with their own input components or are these prescribed by the project? And who "vets" the appropriateness of the inputs and advice, their quality and how well they address specific local conditions?

Patrick Hanemann: For all presenters: What is the annual post-project cost to maintain these systems? Who pays, and how?

sylvie desilles: What is the profile of the farmers using the data? from the tablet - phone? age, education level, financial

Malini Tolat: who "owns" the digital platform? How is the backend management sustained beyond the project?

Deborah Rubin: Thank you Paresto.

Parasto Hamed: @Onaolapo Morenike - There is a challenge with illiterate and literate farmers when responding to SMS sales confirmation but the project has a sales verifier that conducts random sales spot checks

Hamilton McNut: @Jean Michel, how was data collected? Was their a form builder via a Smartphone or tablet that then fed into the spreadsheets?

Rolf Schinkel: "The farmers Own the Data" That is different from the first presentation. Is that correct?

Parasto Hamed: @Vartika Jaini - The farmers are not the ones using the DCTS, the system is used by the input providers limiting the burden on the farmers.

Fernando Vásquez: Hi everyone I’m Fernando from El Salvador

Onaolapo Morenike: The audio quality is poor

Phil Malone: Hi Jean-Michel are their ways of using links with our videos in local Senegalese languages? Thanks Phil Access Agriculture

Judith Payne: Yes you re-purposed CommCare but it is still a software platform with on-going costs. Did farmers end up paying these costs? Would you have done this if you were to do it again?

Bello I Galoji: hello everyone I’m Galoji from Nigeria

Schafer Castella: For Jean Michel- who collected the rainfall and weather data?

Fostina Mani: @Jean can you kindly share the website for those farmer managed data resources.

Parasto Hamed: Deborah - The farmers are the cow owner. At the moment more than 30% of the farmers are female and we encourage the competitors to reach out to more women

Parasto Hamed: As part of the annual application process competitors are required to submit a gender engagement plan

Olivia Vent: In the case of AgResults, do the competitors come up with their own input components or are these prescribed by the project? And who "vets" the appropriateness of the inputs and advice, their quality and how well they address specific local conditions?

Patrick Hanemann: For all presenters: What is the annual post-project cost to maintain these systems? Who pays, and how?

sylvie desilles: What is the profile of the farmers using the data? from the tablet - phone? age, education level, financial
Malini Tolat: who "owns" the digital platform? How is the backend management sustained beyond the project?

Deborah Rubin: Thank you Paresto.

Parasto Hamed: @Onaolapo Morenike - There is a challenge with illiterate and literate farmers when responding to SMS sales confirmation but the project has a sales verifier that conducts random sales spot checks.

Hamilton McNut: @Jean Michel, how was data collected? Was there a form builder via a Smartphone or tablet that then fed into the spreadsheets?


Rolf Schinkel: "The farmers Own the Data" That is different from the first presentation. Is that correct?

Parasto Hamed: @Vartika Jaini - The farmers are not the ones using the DCTS, the system is used by the input providers limiting the burden on the farmers.

Fernando Vásquez: Hi everyone I’m Fernando from El Salvador

Onaolapo Morenike: The audio quality is poor

Phil Malone: Hi Jean-Michel are their ways of using links with our videos in local Senegalese languages? Thanks Phil Access Agriculture

Judith Payne: Yes you re-purposed CommCare but it is still a software platform with on-going costs. Did farmers end up paying these costs? Would you have done this if you were to do it again?

Gaoussou Dao 2: bonjour tout le monde Gaoussou Dao SNV mali projet STAMP+ (conseiller en économie numérique)

Julie Howard: @Onaolapo, you can turn on captions - that helped

Gene Ball: Gene Ball: pivot tables are very useful, I use them all the time

Gary Alex: If the input suppliers are using the data, does this serve to keep other input suppliers out? Or is it publically available?
Martina Vismara: Hello, Martina from Argentina, KOKUE Project to improve agroecological practices in smallholder farmers

Onaolapo Morenike: Thank you parasto for the response

Parasto Hamed: @Fostina Mani - When the competition ends the Input suppliers are the ones responsible for the DCTS. The project will work with them and the ICT provider to prepare the input providers to takeover

Judith Payne: So it sounds like CommAgri is cheap enough for farmer groups to pay for? I agree that re-purposing is the way to go.

Abdoulaye Dia: Regarding the future how do you apprehend the legal issue around farm data ownership as producer organisation leaders are now aware of the values of these data?

Philippa Zamora: Usually repurposing existing platforms has the barrier of not being designed around the user. Was this lack of human centred design a problem? who was paying?

Fostina Mani: @Parasto Thank you.

Simon Striegel: The value for farmers in these models seems a bit meager. In the end, they are spending time and effort to share quality data, and it is the downstream value chain stakeholders benefitting. I am not sure if we can always assume a win-win as suggested by the presentations so far.

Judith Payne: J-M: I agree with your point about farmer ownership of their data. Have you seen this idea being carried forward to other countries broadly? I think is one we need to talk more about across our regions.

Olivia Vent: I would echo Simon and Judith's concern.

Parasto Hamed: @Chris Shepherd-Pratt - we have a contract with the ICT provider over the life of the project but there is limited upkeep required for the platform. We are using an off-the-shelf system with only a few minor modification making it more sustainable and requiring less quality control

Kenneth Peprah: Please, is the ERP software available for use by researchers/smallholders farmers in other countries and under what conditions?

Mark Blackett: AMEA is the Agribusiness Market Ecosystems Alliance https://www.ameaglobal.org/

Elhadji GUEYE: Elhadji abdou Gueye it's necessary tou put producers at the heart of the process for the sustainability from the start
Jean-Michel Voisard - RTI: @KennethReprah This software is not accessible yet. It is a model of what is allowed by a cloud based system like CommCare. Currently Farmers use it as a data collection tools. The interface with banks is made through transfer of Excel tables. If the system is adjusted, they can be transferred directly.

Parasto Hamed: @Olivia Vent - AgResults has four input types that competitors can sell and within those four types we have listed the inputs that are eligible because we require inputs sold under an AgResults project to be quality inputs. The project and a Technical Advisory Committee that review the proposed inputs and advisory services annually

Oliver Furechi: How can one access the presentations

Adam Ahmed: Hi Oliver, we will have them available for download at the end of the webinar in the files download pod

Adam Ahmed: We will also be providing links to all of the presentations and reports as part of the post-event resources, which will be sent out to everyone early next week.

Olivia Vent: Thank you Parasto

Fostina Mani: @Jean-Michel from your presentation, it seems simple is the way to do. In your opinion does that mean African enter

Kenneth Peprah: @Jean-Michel V. - Thank you. I am grateful.

Jean-Michel Voisard - RTI: @JulieHoward Hi Julie. Blockchain is still to be explored. The Integrated ERP could benefit from the blockchain technology to allow multiple access points and maintain data integrity. However rural digital access needs to be enhanced.


Fostina Mani: @Jean-Michel from your presentation, it seems simple is the way to do. In your opinion does that mean African entrepreneurs can come up with simple projects that can be implemented without donor funding.

Phil Malone: Also data is expensive in Africa compared to South Asia.

Judith Payne: JM: is there now a umbrella farmer org carrying forward this effort in Senegal, e.g, exploring enhancements such as blockchain and some of the other functions show in your slide?
Jean-Michel Voisard - RTI: @Fostina yes, going simple is very powerful. Getting farmer organizations to build their understanding of what data really is will release a lot of skills. Training strong rural youth redefines the way we look at systems development and the costs.

Julie Howard: Thanks, Jean-Michel - really nice to hear about your ongoing work!

Ahmad Salahuddin: In NURU, it appears that you have potential to use digital technology such as farmer-farmer training videos, you may want to try videos from Access Agriculture site: www.accessagriculture.org for your farmers and extension agents.

Jean-Michel Voisard - RTI: @JudyPayne There are many initiatives. Let's call it creative Chaos. What is interesting is that the ex-Naatal Mbay networks and their database managers are often participating in these activities.

Philippa Zamora: @JulieHoward, I am working on a project looking to deploy blockchain amongst small hold farmers. My email is p.zamora@oneplanet.solutions if you'd like to hear more.

Judith Payne: JM: that's good to hear! what a legacy left for Senegalese ag..

Fostina Mani: @Jean-Michel thank you, you have really handled the sustainability component very well. This is very interesting and informative. Thank you.

Julie Howard: Thanks, @philippa! I will reach out!

Philippa Zamora: great, any problems find me on LinkedIn as my email is relatively new

Meredith Soule: Are there climate change concerns about the use of blockchain since it is so energy intensive?

Abdu Beshir: @Philipa ZAmora: any web link?

Jean-Michel Voisard - RTI: @Judy The Senegalese story is a disruption of the traditional view that they are beneficiaries of third party services. That they can't handle tech. This is not true. There is a Geek in every village. Just look for her (or him)

Josh Woodard: @Meredith, not all blockchains are energy intensive. It is really just one model, proof of work, that bitcoin uses.

Judith Payne: Casey: thx for case studies. I'm confused why NURU is center in all these slides. How do they relate to AMEA?

Philippa Zamora: not yet, Meredith and Abdu, do reach out to me on LinkedIn or on my email.
Md. Shafiul Alam: Digital literacy is an innovative idea for women empowerment. Have they any opportunity introduce this product in Bangladesh?

Leo Bill Emerson: I work with coffee coops in Nicaragua, but keep a low profile. Most of the coffee coops are run by women and in the Indigenous areas with long-term leases, for farmers to just pay taxes. Old system, new politics and finances. Do you are anyone in the group know of contacts in Nicaragua, or next door in Honduras, where I also work and farm coffee?

Philippe Okalla: @juliehoward, you can check as www.agunity.com for digital platform solution backed by blockchain

Abdu Beshir: @Philippa Zamora, thanks!

Meliss Schweisguth: @Judith, Casey explained the relationship of NURU toAMEA. NURU is an implemmenter and a member of AMEA, which has a digital text working group that Casey is in

Julie Howard: Thanks @philippa! Is your email address .org?

Casey Harrison: Sorry for the confusion. Nuru is an active member of AMEA and leading the AgTech Woring Group at AMEA

Kenneth Peprah: Please, the Nuru experience is fantastic. Are there plans to extend to other African countries? Work in other African countries?

Leo Bill Emerson: I should clarify, most of these folks have smart phone, coop PC's etc. and just need a few good academic (non-political) contacts in the ag. extension & edu sevice area.

Joseph Ubek: Did Nuru Intl. work on the limited access to feature phones in rural areas and if yes how?

Arieh Doobov: such initiatives progress in countries like ethiopia where digital infrastructure for farmers is rudimentary? how can

Philippa Zamora: not it's literally p.zamora@oneplanet.solutions

Philippe Okalla: @juliehoward, my email is philippe@agures.com, you can reach out

David Hughes: You cannot hold up Facebook or Google as "succesful". Yes, in terms of growth but in terms one negative societal efectcs they are very, very unuccesful.

David Hughes: "of negative
Meliss Schweisguth: Regarding AgResults/CommCare, please clarify how that will be sustainable. It wasn't clear from the presentation and it's a costly platform that's not open source or accessible for general use, e.g., by farmers and others in very rural areas.

Md. Shafiul Alam: My email ID is shafiul@ecouniverse-bd.com and shafiul7070@gmail.com

Phil Malone: Can we address the language issue - is it just French and English or are farmers able to interact in their own language?

Mark Blackett: If you want to find out more re AMEA, Nuru and AgTech you can go here https://www.ameaglobal.org/ag-tech

Casey Harrison: To learn more about AMEA and the AgTech working group please refer to this link https://www.ameaglobal.org/ag-tech

Judith Payne: re: data ownership. In my talks with COPs of many AG activities, they proudly described their rich databases of farmer information, evolving out of M&E systems to report results. 2 years ago, I asked them about data ownership, giving farmers access to this data, turning it over to farmer groups. That idea was not on their minds. Have things changed?

Juan Echanove: Could you elaborate a bit on the gender barrier in data access ITCs and how to avoid that gap to widen further?

Casey Harrison: To learn more about Nuru and our work collaborating with Digital Development Partners and AgTech businesses please refer here as well https://nuruinternational.org/blog/agriculture/digital-development-strategy-and-amea-agtech-guide/

Biniam Iyob: Can you share one or two example of a good policy (enabling environment) regarding ICT for Ag? And if possible, an example of top three policy challenges (I understand that these challenges may be context specific and thus differ; hence my ask is on examples)?

Judith Payne: I recall your work probably a decade ago in Ghana with the TIPCEE project, giving each farmer their data on sheets annually. That was the beginning of data ownership by farmers. Farmers would pull out those sheets and proudly show them — illiterate farmers knew the value of such data!

René Frenken: Leo Bill Emerson, the AMEA members in Honduras are working with Coffee coops in both countries. You can contact us at AMEA. Happy to talk about opportunities

Onaolapo Morenike: I will appreciate if the presentations could be made available. Kudos to all presenters and organiser
Judith Payne: Thank you, Casey. Could you briefly comment on the principle of “Transcending inefficiencies”?

Leo Bill Emerson: I work with coffee coops in Nicaragua, but keep a low profile. Most of the coffee coops are run by women and in the Indigenous areas with long-term leases, for farmers to just pay taxes. Old system, new politics and finances. Do you are anyone in the group know of contacts in Nicaragua, or next door in Honduras, where I also work and farm coffee?

Philippe Okalla: @juliehoward, you can check as www.agunity.com for digital platform solution backed by blockchain

Abdu Beshir: @Philippa Zamora, thanks!

Meliss Schweigsuth: @Judith, Casey explained the relationship of NURU toAMEA. NURU is an impelemnter and a member of AMEA, which has a digital text working group that Casey is in

Julie Howard: Thanks @philippa! Is your email address .org?

Casey Harrison: Sorry for the confusion. Nuru is an active member of AMEA and leading the AgTech Woring Group at AMEA

Kenneth Peprah: Please, the Nuru experience is fantastic. Are there plans to extend to other African countries? Work in other African countries?

Leo Bill Emerson: I should clarify, most of these folks have smart phone, coop PC's etc. and just need a few good academic (non-political) contacts in the ag. extension & edu sevice area.

Joseph Ubek: Did Nuru Intl. work on the limited access to feature phones in rural areas and if yes how?

Arieh Doobov: such initiatives progess in countries like ethiopia where digial infrastructure for farmers is rudimentary? how can

Philippa Zamora: not it’s literally p.zamora@oneplanet.solutions

Philippe Okalla: @juliehoward, my email is philippe@agures.com, you can reach out

David Hughes: You cannot hold up Facebook or Google as "succesful". Yes, in terms of growth but in terms onegative societal effetcs they are very, very unsuccessful.

David Hughes: "of negative
Meliss Schweisguth: Regarding AgResults/CommCare, please clarify how that will be sustainable. It wasn't clear from the presentation and it's a costly platform that's not open source or accessible for general use, e.g., by farmers and others in very rural areas.

Md. Shafiul Alam: My email ID is shafiul@ecouniverse-bd.com and shafiul7070@gmail.com

Phil Malone: Can we address the language issue - is it just French and English or are farmers able to interact in their own language?

Mark Blackett: If you want to find out more re AMEA, Nuru and AgTech you can go here https://www.ameaglobal.org/ag-tech

Casey Harrison: To learn more about AMEA and the AgTech working group please refer to this link https://www.ameaglobal.org/ag-tech

Judith Payne: re: data ownership. In my talks with COPs of many AG activities, they proudly described their rich databases of farmer information, evolving out of M&E systems to report results. 2 years ago, I asked them about data ownership, giving farmers access to this data, turning it over to farmer groups. That idea was not on their minds. Have things changed?

Juan Echanove: Juan Echanove CARE- Could you elaborate a bit on the gender barrier in data access ITCs and how to avoid that gap to widen further?

Casey Harrison: To learn more about Nuru and our work collaborating with Digital Development Partners and AgTech businesses please refer here as well https://nuruinternational.org/blog/agriculture/digital-development-strategy-and-amea-agtech-guide/

Biniam Iyob: Can you share one or two example of a good policy (enabling environment) regarding ICT for Ag? And if possible, an example of top three policy challenges (I understand that these challenges may be context specific and thus differ; hence my ask is on examples)?

Judith Payne: I recall your work probably a decade ago in Ghana with the TIPCEE project, giving each farmer their data on sheets annually. That was the beginning of data ownership by farmers. Farmers would pull out those sheets and proudly show them — illiterate farmers knew the value of such data!

René Frenken: Leo Bill Emerson, the AMEA members in Honduras are working with Coffee coops in both countries. You can contact us at AMEA. Happy to talk about opportunities

Onaolapo Morenike: I will appreciate if the presentations could be made available. Kudos to all presenters and organiser
Judith Payne: Thank you, Casey. Could you briefly comment on the principle of “Transcending inefficiencies”?

Eric Lane: Quick question to any: have you used any software in prototype evaluation phase, or is all tech used beyond prototype/trial phase?

Judith Payne: Casey: as lead of AMEA’s Agtech working group, is data ownership a topic members have high on their lists?

Lisa Mbwia: Hi Everyone, I am Lisa Mbwia from Solidaridad Network Organization Southern Africa


Casey Harrison: Transcending inefficiencies - The tech clearly and empirically addresses inefficiencies in at least 2 of the following focus areas: input/output markets, land tenure, labor (including costs of goods sold), productivity and on-farm risk, credit and finance, information/knowledge, human rights, and the environment

Casey Harrison: All the criteria definitions can be found in the AMEA AgTech Guide pdf download available here

Judith Payne: Parasto: What was the name of the software platform you are using? I didn’t understand the name. thank you.

Phil Malone: If your project is paid with public funds what is a "competitor"?

Judith Payne: Thanks, Casey. No link but I’ll find on AMEA website.

Michelle Kurian: Specific to off-the-shelf platforms, has any organization used Kintone or AppSheets for relatively easy, low-cost app development? With offline add-ons, they seem ideal for M&E or other farmer data collection.

Jean-Michel Voisard - RTI: @Judy Parasto’s platform is Cropin

Katie Hauser: @Judy: I heard CropIn - I believe you’re familiar with them :)

Judith Payne: thx, Katie!

Abdu Beshir: @ Biniam, Hi, thanks for raising the policy implications in ICT and wanted to add how national governments respond in case of data collection policy with these ICTs for Ag?

Judith Payne: Casey: I found the Ag-Tech Guide. Thank you for pointing it out.
Casey Harrison: No worries, I welcome any follow-up discussions (casey.harrison@nuruinternational.org)

Chris Czerwonka: Hello everyone... I'm enjoying the discussion! On the topic of client protection and understanding of data sharing and privacy: my social enterprise, Mosabi, is a platform for digital upskilling and financial literacy learning for underserved populations in sub-Saharan Africa. Part of our learning journeys are specifically on empowering users like smallholder farmers with the knowledge to understand data ownership, client protection rights, and how to use data to unlock resources. More broadly, Mosabi learning covers financial and digital literacy, skills for informal sector entrepreneurship business activity, technical knowledge for more productive small-scale farming. We have our channels and content available in numerous local African languages, as well as available for low-bandwidth and low-literacy contexts. Feel free to reach out! https://mosabi.co or email chris@mosabi.co

Simon Striegel: Hi @Chris Czerwonka: Very interesting initiative. I will take a look and might reach out to you. I am working for GIZ and we are looking into digital literary and data sovereignty aspects.

Michelle Kurian: @chriz czerwonka: thanks for mentioning your organization. do you work in Zambia? Is the platform mobile on droid and ios tablets or phones?

Chris Czerwonka: Nice to hear @Simon – I was just talking to some GIZ teams, so I'd be keen to hear if you're linked with them! Please do reach out

Phil Malone: For the farmers it is the information and interaction which is interesting not the technology.

Casey Harrison: To Kenneth Peprah - Nuru plans to expand into the Sahel region of West Africa with considerations in other regions with our Mission and Vision.

Chris Czerwonka: @Michelle Kurian – yes, we launched in Zambia late last year. Content and channels available in Zambian English and also in Nyanja and Bemba. Please give a shout!

Emmanuel Agbedanu : Edem here : I am been implementing varied ICT innovative technologies with farmers for a decade and the major challenge is how farmers can own and ass

Michelle Kurian: @Chris Czerwonka - never mind the other question, I see the app on Droid. Wonder if the content can be projected for group uptake? Will note your email address.

Henry Swira: Hi, very interesting initaitives. Out of curiousity, given that farmers depend on both on-farm and off-farm/non-farm livelihoods, are there any ICT tools/platforms being developed beyond agriculture (say non-farm livelihoods)?
Phil Malone: Hi Chris check out the training videos in Nyanja and Bemba at www.accessagriculture.org

Chris Czerwonka: Phil – wonderful! Would love to chat about linking up on the ground further sometime.

Chris Czerwonka: Sounds good @Michelle – yes, tablets work well, too. An agent or community champion or extension worker can use tablets to bring the platform to a group. We have also made it possible for savings groups or cooperatives to share a device around to members who can log in and out and have unique learning journeys – but I like the idea about different group dissemination amid COVID risks, so we’re thinking about ways to do that. Happy to chat sometime

Henry Kabango Kanyembo: @Chris, This sounds interesting, can we further engage

Emmanuel Agbedanu: The major concern with my experience implementing varied ICT innovative technologies within the value chain is how farmers especially SHFs could leverage on their data to access other interrelated services? Unfortunately most of these farmers can’t read and write and lacks the ability to demand value from their data. Data we say is the new cash. How do we ensure in our varied interventions, we do not contribute to a more digital divide and marginalising these farmers the more.

Meliss Schweisguth: @Phil here’s more info on the AgResults competition program. Inputs suppliers get prizes for sales https://agresults.org/projects/tanzania-dairy

Henry Swira: With the advent of COVID-19, most services and people have pivoted, with ICT playing a dominant role. What adaptations have the ICT initiatives made/are making in response to the COVID-19 challenges?

Phil Malone: Sorry we would call them participants thanks:-)

Chris Czerwonka: sure @Henry – give me a shout at chris@mosabi.co

Richard Lackey: For those of you who know the Mediae Company in Kenya, they have had HUGE results when promoting ag inputs and tech and are expanding from Kenya to Uganda and Tanzania if you know of companies that want to expand distribution. You are also welcome to email me and I can make the connection; rlackey@worldfoodbank.org

Meliss Schweisguth: @Emmanuel some USAID FTF Activities in Bangladesh (RDC, LPIN) and partnering with input retailers, banks/lenders and output buyers to use digital records of output sales and input credit repayments as back up for loans. The input supplier or output buyer can provide the data to lenders for farmers to get oloans (per farmer consent)
Abdu Beshir: @ Emmanuel, I agree with your concern with the SHF and that is where policy matters!

Phil Malone: Need to look at offline not just online. We have some solutions phil@accessagriculture.org

Abdu Beshir: It was difficult to hear Michel!

Elliot Faminu: wBi, I am Elliot Faminu from Lagos State Agricultural Development Authority in Nigeria. I want to know, all this be

Adam Ahmed: We will be sharing a recording of the webinar, and will clean up the audio. I'll share the recording with everyone via email early next week.

Jean Markendy CHARLES: Thank you !!!

Phil Malone: Thanks Josh and Team. Keep Safe.

Henry Kabango Kanyembo: @Chris: Cool!

Simon Striegel: Thanks for the interesting webinar!

Abdu Beshir: Thank you folks @ BRFS for organizing very useful and timely webinars as always! Kudos!

Chris Czerwonka: Thank you to the presenters!

Judith Payne: Thanks to Josh and speakers.

David Resetar: Thank you for the great talks

Doanld Tambunan: Thank you all...

Jorge Martínez Rayo: than you team

René Frenken: thanks very interesting

Clement Igben: Thanks for the rich presentations

Md. Abdul Gaffar 2: Thanks to the speakers. Bye

Deborah Rubin: Thanks Zachary and all

Philippa Zamora: Thank you so much
Christian Portal: Thanks a lot to all presenters

David OKUTU: Thanks alot

Henry Kabango Kanyembo: Thank very much!

Fernando Vásquez: thanks for all

Eduardo Centeno: tHANK YOU

Jose Cruz: Thaks for everything

Raymond Abogonye: Thank you all

Derreck Ekanem: Thank you vvery much! Great webinar!

Didier Muyiramye: Thank you

Leo Bill Emerson: Thanks as well

Sheila Halder: @chris we are using tablets and have come across some innovative distancing and covid safe workaroudns by the farmers running the trainings - in W Kenya

Hilary ADJALLA: Thank you

Sheila Halder: thanks all

Fostina Mani: Thank you