RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY)

PROJECT

on

CENTRE FOR E-LEARNING IN AGRICULTURE

(2010-2013)

Success Story

Objectives

a. Content creation for online courses for creating awareness among farmers, students, etc. on technical aspects of organic farming, fruit and vegetable processing, quality planting material production etc.
b. Content creation for web portal, development of AV aids and multimedia packages and hands on training.
c. Publishing e- newsletter
d. Knowledge empowerment and skill up gradation of extension persons and progressive farmers in frontier areas of agricultural technology by effectively utilizing the office facilities, infrastructure and knowledge portal created by the VUAT project.

Achievements

❖ **KAU Agri-Infotech Portal :** The indigenously designed and easy to use bi lingual Agri-Infotech Portal **www.celkau.in** is a highly user friendly platform for use in Krishibhavans, KVKs, Commodity Boards, Akshaya Kendras, Agri-kiosks, schools , colleges, libraries, training centres, Farmers' consortiums, and even in farmers' houses. The Portal has been loaded with several unique advisory and transfer of technology software.
❖ **Modern e-learning Centre**: Imparted training to agricultural extensionists in Cyber extension. Training was also given to farmers and SHG members on the use of computer and other related devices for retrieving agricultural technology information.
❖ Variety of Cyber extension activities and quick transfer of technology was provided at the fingertips of the stake holders, free of cost and round the clock.
❖ Designed and produced multimedia and audio visual aids for extension work and non-formal education, supplemented with print media formats.
❖ Published CEL Newsletter online, as was envisaged in the project.
❖ Conducted a series of video documentations including agricultural reality shows and production of complete online digital collections, DVDs, and success stories.
❖ Offered three different types of Online courses on niche topics in agriculture, based on distance education methods.

A brief description of the specific software/tools developed by CEL

a.   KAU Agri Infotech Portal (www.celkau.in)

This Portal was designed in simple English and vernacular language Malayalam that can be followed by extensionists, scientists, students and all others who like to gather information about agriculture. It has reliable, relevant information and efficient software to support agricultural education and extension. It gives information on the technologies developed by Kerala Agricultural University as well as other agricultural research stations. The 'crops section' of the portal covers more than 140 crops. There are different sections like crop producion and management, crop protection, animal husbandry, fish farming, farm mechanization etc. which give detailed accounts with illustrations.

b. Agri E-Experts

This link has agriculture advisory digital packages that pertian to application of manures and fertilizers and plant protection practices for over 140 crops of Kerala.

i. KAU Fertualtor and Fertiliser Decision Support System

This is a decision support calculator that helps in the easy and precise calculation of fertilizer doses for almost all crops grown in Kerala according to their variety, growth phase, farming situations, weather and other factors. It is available in English and Malayalam and is the first of its kind even in the global scenario. It is prepared based on the recommendations of different agricultural research stations in Kerala. The exact doses of straight fertilizers, compound fertilizers and mixed fertilizers for unit area/for number of plants can be calculated within minutes with this tool. An elaborate software for more precise recommendation based on soil testing results and targeted yield is under construction.

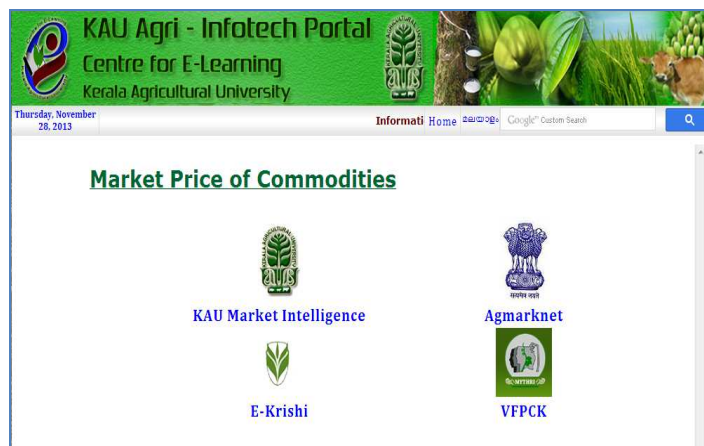### ii. KAU E-Crop Doctor and Crop Protection Advisor

Plant protection is important for getting a reasonable crop yield. The chemicals and their rate for different unit areas like cents, acre and hectare/ or based on the unit number of plants can be calculated very fast using this software. It is available in English and Malayalam. There are separate pages to describe the control and management of crop pests, diseases and weeds. Environment friendly and organic crop protection methods are also explained here. It is regularly updated with ideas that help in better crop protection through

special environment friendly agricultural practices as well as through the use of pests/diseases resistant varieties.

iii. *Market Intelligence Service*

This service provides links to KAU Market Intelligence service and other daily agricultural price information and forecast systems provided by VFPCK, Agmark Net and other popular agencies via dynamic links.

c. Other E-Resources

❖ The interactive digital information guide in Malayalam named as **'E-Agriculture Portal'**(*E-Karshakajalakam*), **'Haritha Keralam'** are made available in CEL website.

d. Agri Inputs and Services Data base

This easy to use software gives information on various agencies and institutes who provide planting materials, manures and fertilizers, plant protection chemicals and other agri inputs and materials needed for crop production, agricultural research and hi-tech cultivation. District wise and item wise information are available. Related central government agencies, state government agencies, KAU stations and other private and non-government agencies are mentioned under this section.

i.   Digital Library for farm implements and machinery

The interactive digital guide designed at KAU includes the specifications, price, use, working and details of manufacturers of different agricultural implements and machinery, covering the major crops , with photographs and illustrations is made available in the celkau.in Portal.

ii.   Weather Information and weather-based farm operations

The daily weather information reported by KAU in all districts of Kerala is made available in the CEL website. It also has dynamic links to other sites that provide daily and hourly weather data and information on local and global basis. Weekly farm advice and guidance for the various districts according to the changes in weather is also available.

iii.   Agri Almanac

The monthly practices to be followed in all the major crops of Kerala has been made into a dynamic and interactive digital calender form and is available in the Portal.

e. CEL Discussion Forum

This forum facilitates open discussion on agriculture related matters. Doubts and queries of farmers, extensionists and other stake holders can be posted here, for which answers and guidance are provided after consulting experts.

f. Repository of agricultural technology problems and FAQs

About 3,500 farm technology problems and queries collected during a recent period of three years from the state have been documented and posted in this section with answers prepared with the help of experts.

g. Other services in the Portal

Apart from the above, relevant information are also available under different links as mentioned below:

- ➢ *Farm Knowledge Bank*
- ➢ *E-Library, Farmers' Corner*
- ➢ Links to thousands of *agri related and general websites* all over the world
- ➢ Links to *popular media: print, radio* and *TV* channels
- ➢ *Photo and Video Gallery*
- ➢ *Announcements*
- ➢ *Success Stories*
- ➢ *Experience sharing*

Farmers' Corner

Video Gallery

Success Stories

KAU Agri Directory

e-Newsletter

Agriculture in Media

h. Online courses in agriculture

An indigenously designed package of content development and online course management system uses an in built digital platform for launching and managing online courses in agriculture.

In the initial phase, three Online Certificate courses were conducted.

1. Organic Agriculture Management (OAM)
2. Plant Propagation and Nursery Management (PNM)
3. Post-Harvest Processing and Marketing of fruits and vegetables (PHM)

There were learners from different states of India and also from abroad, with an age range of 17 years to 75 years, having educational qualification ranging from +2 to Doctorate. Registration, online classes, downloading of materials, doubt clearance, assignments, projects, case studies and examinations of the courses are managed online via the CEL Portal.

Online Course Login page

Outcomes

1. A well versed bilingual Agri Infotech portal
2. 6.6 lakh hits under two years of launch
3. Web portal and software are used by the farmers, scientists, students, call centres, NGOs, Agricultural Officers, etc.
4. Running three courses purely online
5. 300 online participants from all over the world
6. Grabbed International, national and state level awards

<u>Awards and Recognitions</u>

Kerala State e-Governance Awards 2011-13 to Centre for e-Learning, Kerala Agricultural University
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, KAU receiving the award from Minister for IT, Govt. of Kerala

World Education Award 2014 for Online Courses of Centre for e-Learning under the category
Government Sector Initiative in Education

Winner in the South West India Manthan Awards 2014 for KAU e-Agro-Tech platform for Farmer Outreach for the e-Agriculture Category

The Digital Empowerment Foundation South Asia-Asia Pacific Awards 2013 Certificate for e-Krishi Patashala (Online Course Platform) under the e-Agriculture category