



Information and Communication Technologies

Transforming African Agriculture



Farming communities

Mobile phones are used to empower and mobilize farmers and communities, enabling communication and interaction. Farmers use phones to negotiate with buyers, they dial-in to get local information and weather, they can send and receive money. Governments can reach out to rural communities with essential information. Markets and researchers use mobiles to collect widely scattered data so it can be re-used.



Science for development

ICTs are applied along the research for development continuum that connects agricultural science with agricultural and rural change. They are used to transform agricultural extension, facilitate the delivery of education and learning, help to empower the rural poor, and power many agricultural finance, credit, market, weather, and other services.



Market information

ICTs provide improved access to information, transforming the way farmers do business. New technologies help make supply and distribution processes more efficient; Farmers often branch out to produce more products and enter new markets.



Fisheries

ICTs offer cost-effective means to discover new fishing grounds, monitor fish populations, track and trace catches for export, and combat illegal fishing activities. Weather information delivered by radio or satellite warns when to return home.



Pest management

ICTs are used in pest identification, prevention, education, knowledge sharing and eradication. Multi-media information is shared across the Internet; farmers and extension workers post symptoms and obtain advice by email, radio and phone.



More information: <http://ictupdate.cta.int> / <http://iaald.blogspot.com>

