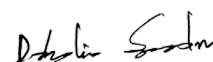


Editorial

Digital farming can be defined as the use of technology by farmers to integrate financial and field-level records for complete farm activity management. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare aimed to improve awareness, knowledge and efficiency of farmers. Keeping in view of the overall goal of increasing farmers' incomes and following the recommendations of the Doubling of Farmers Income (DFI) committee, the Digital Agriculture Division has been created by reorienting the erstwhile Information Technology Division. The National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA) has been modified to include new & emerging technologies in the field of Digital Agriculture. During the 2021-22 financial year (2021-22 NeGPA), pilot projects were sanctioned in 10 states as per this modified NeGPA. The Division was also engaged in creating a federated Farmers Database by compiling information of the farmers from various databases available with the government and linking them with land records. The Division was in the process of entering into MoUs with various leading Agriculture/Technology/Other players in the country for developing Proof of Concepts (PoCs) on the farmers' database. The IDEA Concept has been finalised. The Division also is in-charge of an attached office – Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC). MNCFC was established, initially, to provide in-season crop forecasts and assessment of drought situations using state-of-the-art techniques and methodologies developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Over the years, its scope of work has expanded, and it is now involved in various activities of the Department. Apart from the above, a comprehensive ICT strategy has been developed not only to reach out to farmers in an easy and better way, but also for planning and monitoring of schemes, so that policy decisions can be taken at a faster pace and farmers can benefit quickly. To empower different sections of rural areas, different ICT strategies have been devised. Those who have access to digital infrastructure can get the information through websites/web portals; those who have smartphones can access the same information through mobile apps. Those who have basic phones can get this information through SMS advisories sent by experts and to get the personalized information, farmers can call the toll-free number of Kisan Call Centre. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India aimed to improve awareness and knowledge efficiency of farmers. A comprehensive ICT strategy has, therefore, been developed not only to reach out to farmers in an easy and better way but also for planning and monitoring of schemes so that policy decisions can be taken at a faster pace and farmers can benefit quickly. Therefore, The Digital Agriculture Cluster is at the forefront of harnessing digital technologies to transform agriculture and empower farming communities.

Editor-in-Chief



Debashis Sarkar