

TMC MM I.6 : E- Kapas network and technology documentation

Lead Centre :	CICR, Nagpur
Cooperating centres	CICR, Coimbtore; CICR, Sirsa; UAS, Dharwad; JAU, Junagarh; MPAUT, Banswara; SKRAU, Sriganga Nagar; ANGRAU, Lam Guntur; NAU, Surat; CSHAU, Hisar; PAU, Ludhiana; PAU, Faridkot; MAU, Parabhani; OAUT, Bhawanipatna; RVSKVV, Khandawa; PDKV, Akola; MPKV, Rahuri; TNAU, Coimbtore; UAS, Raichur

Introduction

E- kapas network

Indian cotton sector is facing serious challenges posed by the changes viz., changing technology “Bt cotton”, changing demands of the textile industries and non - woven sectors and changing scenario of retaining the top position in acreage and second position in production at world level. All these changes could not impact much on our productivity which is a major setback. Since information and communication support for cotton crop during last 55 years has mainly been conventional, the cotton technologies spread through extension personnel of the Department of Agriculture was mostly manual. This approach has not been able to reach majority of the cotton farmers spread across the country and the gap remains a challenge for the cotton extension system even today. To reach over 1.3 million hectare farms, spread over ten states is an uphill task. Also, the needs of cotton farmers in these states are much more diversified and the knowledge required to address them is beyond the capacity of the grass root level extension functionaries. Hence, in order to speed up the diffusion of technologies from the research system to the end users and to identify the farmers' need to formulate demand driven research, developing a novel extension mechanism for effective knowledge transfer and researchable feed back in cotton is inevitable. Today it is possible to find a solution to this situation by using the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to meet the location specific information needs of the farmers. The increasing penetration of mobile networks and handsets in India, therefore, presents an opportunity to make useful information more widely and swiftly available to all cotton growers. Hence using the modern advancements in ICT and mobile phone technology the programme of



establishing E-Kapas Network to Connect 100,000 Farmers for Technology Dissemination and Backstopping is planned.

Technology documentation

The term document has multiple meanings in ordinary language. The concept of document has been defined as "any concrete or symbolic indication, preserved or recorded, for reconstructing or for proving a phenomenon, whether physical or mental". The shift to digital technology has made a tremendous impact on the types of documents. A conventional document, such as a mail message or a technical report, exists physically in digital technology as a string of bits, as does everything else in a digital environment. As an object of study, it has been made into a document. It has become physical evidence by those who study it. There are many technologies related to cotton cultivation, which needs proper documentation. This project will help in storing all useful cotton data in a permanent documental format.



Objectives

E-Kapas

- To create software facilities and human resources using various ICT tools and establishes a network of e-Kapas centre in ten cotton growing states of India.
- To identify cotton growers as beneficiary of e-Kapas network project in ten cotton growing states with their mobile numbers and create a data base.
- To develop content of Kapas Panchang, Kapas Pedia, Weather, Market and Production Technologies.
- To collect recent FAQs from Kisan Call Centres to develop advisories / alerts for specific regions in local languages.
- To issue regular SMS and Voice Mail alerts to the registered growers.
- To offer capacity building to the stakeholders (DOCD, CCI,SAUs etc) to sustain and upscale the e-Kapas network.

Technology documentation

- To preserve the research output useful to end-users in a permanent format.
- To make the research results accessible to all in their respective languages.

Technical programme

S.No.	Activities	Cooperating centres
	E- kapas network	
1.	Establishing a network of E-kapas centre at Lead centre by creating infrastructure facilities	CICR, Nagpur
2.	Development of telecommunication software suitable to work with mobile environment	CICR, Nagpur
3.	Testing of phone recorder software with clients/users	CICR, Nagpur
4.	Identification and liaison with telecom industry	CICR, Nagpur
5.	Providing/installing the software at all cooperating centers	CICR, Nagpur
6.	Creation of web base software	CICR, Nagpur
7.	Identification & registration of cotton growers	All centres
8.	Collecting information on Frequently Asked Questions by farmers from Kisan Call Centers	All centres
9.	Creating data base of cotton question bank in regional languages	All centres
10.	Recording & storing farmers queries and answers in data base	All centres
11.	Development of content in local languages, develop popular dissemination material on cotton production / protection technologies, weather, market information	All centres
12.	Organizing training to farmers for accessing e-kapas network	All centres
13.	Sending SMS, voice alerts, advisories in local languages to farmers registered numbers	All centres
14.	Development for kapas panchang, kapas pedia in vernacular languages of ten cotton growing regions	All centres
15.	Capacity building of stake holders (DOCD, CCI, SAUs etc)	CICR, Nagpur
16.	Collection of farmers feedback	All centres
17.	Assessment of E-Kapas services in gaining knowledge, answering queries and issuing alerts	All centres
	Technology documentation	
1.	To produce documentary films on assigned topics (in English, Hindi and local language) and also on package of practices for cotton production in local languages	All centres
2.	To translate technical bulletins (prepared by CICR) in local language	All centres
3.	To publish technical bulletins on package of practices for cotton production in local languages and other relevant location specific technologies	All centres
4.	To develop cotton museum and technology park	CICR, Nagpur

Time frame

Sr. No.	Activity	Time frame									
		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
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Output

- Database of Cotton growers for ten cotton growing states in India
- Kapas Question Bank
- Kapas- Panchang and Kapas-Pedia
- Connecting more than 100,000 cotton growers with E-Kapas network
- Extension mechanism for speedy dissemination of timely and relevant information
- Farmer friendly and user friendly resource of valuable information on cotton
- Documentary films on cotton technologies
- Technical bulletins in local languages
- Cotton museum and technology park

