

Assessment of Information Technology Enabled Systems by the Agricultural Extensionists

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural information plays a crucial role in the overall development of agricultural sector. The information passed on to the farmers by agricultural extensionists will help the farmers in various agricultural work, thereby improve the livelihood of farmers. The study analyses the information needs of agricultural extensionists to be made available through selected information technology enabled systems (ITES) namely web browsing, agricultural portals, agricultural expert systems, digitized databases and online trading in agriculture and to study the level of satisfaction of agricultural extensionists in meeting information needs through ITES. Computer literate agricultural extensionists from the districts of Thrissur, Idukki and Malappuram of Kerala consisting of 120 agricultural extensionists were the respondents of the study. Based on the information, needs identified through review of literature, ranking was done on a five point scale and it was found that agricultural extensionists were more in need of plant protection followed by organic farming. Regarding satisfaction level, the agricultural extensionists were satisfied with information on crop production and moderately satisfied with rest of the variables. It is recommended to develop farmer centred ITES and update them regularly for efficient management.

Keywords: *Agricultural expert systems, Agricultural portals, Information needs, Online trading, Web browsing*