



e-Arik

For Empowerment...



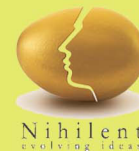
ICTs for Agricultural Extension

Volume - 1, Issue - 3
July to December, 08

A Half yearly News Letter of the DSIR, MoS&T, GoI Sponsored Research Project and Implemented by the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Central Agricultural University, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh



Computer Society of India



Computer Society of India (CSI)- Nihilent Best e-Governed Project – Special Jury Award 2007-08

The e-Arik project has been awarded the Computer Society of India (CSI) and Nihilent Best e-Governed Project – Special Jury Award 2007-08. The e-Arik project was made into the final through the two stage national level selection process; online nomination and field visit. For the final selection, the Principal Investigator of the project Dr. R. Saravanan was asked to make a presentation before the selection committee of the CSI - Nihilent e-Governance Award for the year 2007-08 and the presentation was held at the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad on 6th December, 2008. The e-Arik project was awarded at a ceremony held as an integral part of the 6th International Conference on e-Governance (ICEG) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi on 18th December, 2008.



Prof. A. Sreenivasa Raju, Dean (extreme right) and Dr. R. Saravanan, Principal Investigator, e-Arik Project (extreme left) receiving CSI-Nihilent Best e-Governed Project – Special Jury Award 2007-08 from Prof. K.K Aggarwal, President, CSI and Vice-Chancellor, Indraprastha University, New Delhi. Mrs. Shobha Agarwal, Nihilent Chief Risk Manager and Managing Consultant, Mr. B.V. Selvaraj, IAS, Hon'ble Administrator, Lakshadweep and Dr. B.K. Gairola, Director General, NIC (second row).

"Arik" means "Agriculture" in the Adi tribal dialect of Arunachal Pradesh State

Project Review Committee Meeting

The e-Arik (e-Agriculture) project review committee meeting was conducted at the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Central Agricultural University, Pasighat and committee experts also visited e-Arik: Village Knowledge Centre and farmers' field at Yagrung village on 27th August, 2008. The review committee recommended for the scaling-up of the e-Arik prototype to the entire Arunachal Pradesh State.

Prof. A. Sreenivasa Raju, Dean of the College and Chairman of the project review committee, chaired the meeting, and Shri. Rajesh Kumar, Scientist 'C' and Project member co-ordinator from the Technology Information Facilitation Programme (TIFP), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, participated in the meeting. Expert members: Arjun Singh, District Informatics Officer, NIC, Darang, District Training Officer, FTC, Yanung Jamoh, ATMA, T.N. Tripathi, GramSevek Training Centre (GTC), Dr. Kamaraj, Reader, Narmi Darang, Lecturer, JN College, Dr. P. Raja, Co-Principal Investigator, CHF faculty members, subject matter specialists from KVK, Namuk Taloh, Zilla Parishad Member (ZPM), Jokut Modi, Progressive Farmer from Napit Village and e-Arik project team participated in the project review committee meeting.

During the meeting, Dr. R. Saravanan, Principal Investigator of the project made a detailed multimedia presentation on e-Arik project activities and achievements. The committee appreciated project team for taking Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to the villages. Further, they suggested for uploading locally relevant content, especially on organic farming cultivation, input availability and market information in the e-Arik web portal (www.earik.in). They also suggested collaboration with Community Information Centres (CIC) for familiarising e-Arik web portal (www.earik.in) for the benefit of farmers and others. Arjun Singh, District Informatics Officer, NIC, assured the computer and internet facility at block level for villagers to access information from e-Arik portal. The committee members requested the project team to conduct detailed impact assessment. Considering geographical remoteness and communication problems in the villages of Arunachal Pradesh, committee suggested for the scaling-up of the project for the entire Arunachal Pradesh State. The committee also discussed market problems and lack of technological and infrastructure back-up in processing and coldstorage aspects.

Prof. A. Sreenivasa Raju, Dean, CHF, Shri. Rajesh Kumar, DSIR and other selected members visited the e-Arik: Village Knowledge Centre and also farmers' Khasi mandarin orchard at Yagrung village and had a interaction session with the farmers, project staff and school children. Most of the villagers requested the review team for the extension of the e-Arik project to other villages for the benefit of farmers.



Project Activities

Field Visits and Advisory Services



Two research fellows and four farmer facilitators regularly undertook field visit to the 500 registered farmers. Farm advisory services were given from field preparation stage to marketing of farm produces. Further, regular weekly farmers and project team members' meetings and group discussions were arranged for working out action plan, recommendations and to receive feed back.



Digital Documentation



Digital documentation of crop conditions, farm practices, field operations pest, diseases symptoms and tribal farmers' indigenous traditional knowledge practices were undertaken by the research fellows and farmer facilitators using digital cameras and mobile phones. All the digital photos were catalogued at the e-Arik laboratory at the college for future reference.



On-Farm Demonstrations



On-farm training and demonstration on advanced farming techniques, pest and diseases control measures, general crop and orchard management measures were conducted regularly by the project team members. Further, during the critical stages of the crop and pest, diseases occurrence scientists field visits were facilitated.



Multi-Media Shows



Multimedia shows on advanced farming techniques, critical stages of the crop, pest and diseases symptoms and its control measures were shown to the farmers. Further, multimedia CDs were collected from the different agricultural research institutions and shown to the farmers using Computer, LCD and TV at the e-Arik: Village Knowledge Centre, Yagrung village.



Digital Information Dissemination



Farm technological information, farm advisory publications, weather and market information were regularly disseminated through project portal and publications. Further, farmer participatory multi-media CDs on farmers training programmes, field visits, critical stages of crop, diseases and pest symptoms were also published.



Computer Training



Regular computer training to the village tribal school going students were organised. Each batch comprising 15 students underwent basic computer course at the e-Arik: Village Knowledge Centre at the Yagrung village. For this purpose, a computer instructor was appointed from the village itself.



The e-Arik & KVK's Farmers' Training Programme

The e-Arik and KVK team conducted two farmers' training programme entitled "Integrated Pig-Fish Farming System" and "Child Care Management" on 25th & 28th November, 2008 at the e-Arik (e-Agriculture): Village Knowledge Centre, Yagrung village. Sixty farmers from Yagrung and nearby villages participated in the two-day training programme.



Md. Shah Mustahid Hussain, Subject Matter Specialist (Fisheries) and Ms.Th. Eloni Vida, SMS (Home Science) conducted the training and demonstration programme. During the training, e-Arik project team and KVK staff members also participated.



International Seminar Presentation

Dr. R. Saravanan, Principal Investigator and T. Indra Devi, Project Fellow, participated in the international seminar on "Strategies for Improving Livelihood Security of Rural Poor", organised by the International Society of Extension Education and ICAR Research Complex for Goa from 24th to 27th September, 2008 at Goa; and presented a research article entitled "e-Arik: ICTs for Livelihood Security among Tribal Farmers of North- East India".

Publications

Saravanan, R. (2008), e-Arik, Arunachal Pradesh, In: Bagga, R. K. and Gupta, Piyush (Eds.) 2008, *Transforming Governments: e-Government Initiatives in India*, ICFAI Publications, Hyderabad Pp:260-269.

Saravanan, R., and Indra Devi, T., (2008). e-Arik: Using ICTs for Agricultural Extension, *Information for development (i4d) magazine*, November issue. www.i4donline.net Pp: 38-40.

Exhibition Participation

Mr. John Pathari and Ms. Supriya Devi, Research Fellows, participated in the "Farmers' Development Workshop & Kissan Mela - 2008" at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh during 4th - 8th December, 2008, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India & Department of Agriculture, Arunachal Pradesh and displayed e-Arik project posters.



For More Details

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Book -Post

To

Published by the Dean, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Central Agricultural University (CAU), Pasighat.
Edited by Dr. R. Saravanan, Principal Investigator and designed by Mrs.T. Indradevi, Project Fellow, e-Arik.

Acknowledgement: This News letter is prepared with the support from Technology Information Facilitation Programme (TIFP), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Grant No.: DSIR/TIF086/2007; Dated March, 2007.