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Purpose of utilization of ICT tools by Krishi Vigyan Kendra scientists of Rajasthan

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Abstract
Information communication technology (ICT) is a multidimensional term for information technology (IT) that addresses the role of integrated communication and the integration of telecommunications (telephone lines and wireless signals) and computers as well as essential enterprise software, middleware, storage, communication which enable users to access, store, transmit and manipulate information. ICT is an emerging centre in agriculture to enhance agriculture and rural development in India. Progress in ICT is meant to provide the farmers with appropriate knowledge and services related to agriculture. Thus, in this time of information revolution, agricultural extension scientists should be encouraged to use ICT so that efficiency and effectiveness of information communication system can be increased. Krishi Vigyan Kendra has been established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) all over the country as an institutional innovation for application of agricultural science and technology in the field of farmer with the help of multidisciplinary team i.e. Senior Scientists and Subject Matter Specialists which give skill or knowledge oriented training to farmers in multidisciplinary areas like Horticulture, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, Home Science Agricultural Extension, Agricultural Science, Plant Protection Entomology/Pathology and Agricultural Engineer. The main focus of the present study is on the day-to-day duration of use of ICT tools by the scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra the study was conducted in all 33 districts of Rajasthan, Rajasthan has 44 Krishi Vigyan Kendra scientists. All scientists and subject experts were selected for the study. The total sample included 210 Krishi Vigyan Kendra scientists from Rajasthan.

Keywords: Information communication technology (ICT), utilization, purpose

Introduction
ICT in agriculture presents an extensive range of solutions to the challenges of farming. This focuses on improving agriculture and rural level development through information communication process. Thus, ICT is used as an umbrella term which includes radio, television, smart phones, computers and networks, hardware, software, satellite systems etc. The e-agriculture sector continues to grow as new ICT applications in the agricultural sector. It includes agriculture website, kiosk, farmer call centre, agriculture information portal, agriculture app, messaging app etc. Information communication technology provides information about effective purchase, sale, goods and services to farmers. On the other hand, it not only gives farmers the knowledge to grow and sell food properly but also provides them with information about weather conditions, disease outbreaks and new farming techniques. ICT is an emerging centre in agriculture to enhance agriculture and rural development in India. Progress in ICT is meant to provide the farmers with appropriate knowledge and services related to agriculture. Thus, in this time of information revolution, agricultural extension scientists should be encouraged to use ICT so that efficiency and effectiveness of information communication system can be increased.

Materials and Methods
The study was conducted in Rajasthan state of India. Rajasthan, a vast state comprises of thirty three districts and all were selected for the study. There are 44 Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Rajasthan state also (33 districts) has variety of thus geographical characteristics and all KVK engaged in various extension activities and all were considered for this study. The population of study included all Senior Scientists and Head and Subject Matter Specialists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra of all State Agricultural Universities (SAU'S) Non Government Organization (NGO'S) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) of the state. All the staff members including of SMS, Associate professor and Senior scientists and head.

The total sample comprised of 210 Krishi Vigyan Kendra Scientists. The reason being that these respondents were using the ICT tools and passing on the technical know how to the ultimate users. i.e. farmers.

Results and Discussion

It clearly highlights that the purpose behind utilization of ICT tools by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Scientists resulted in the statement "Sending and receiving e-mail" stand on the Ist Rank with (mean score-1.96) followed by "Searching new technology for farmers" is standing on the IInd Rank with (mean score-1.93) and "Gaining knowledge" stand on the rank IIIrd " with (mean score- 1.90) followed by IVth rank hold by tool "Updating new knowledge" and the lowest rank hold by tool "Cyber extension" with (mean score-1.11)

Table 1: Basic purpose behind utilization of various ICT tools

(N=210)

S. No.	Statement	Basic purpose behind utilization of various ICT tools						Mean Score	Rank
		Mostly		Sometimes		Never			
		F	%	F	%	F	%		
1	To make Teaching Interactive	158	75.24	52	24.76	0	0.00	1.75	IX
2	Gaining knowledge	189	90.00	21	10.00	0	0.00	1.90	III
3	Research information	163	77.62	47	22.38	0	0.00	1.78	VIII
4	Communication with farmers	148	70.48	62	29.52	0	0.00	1.70	X
5	Data storage	64	30.48	145	69.05	1	0.48	1.30	XXI
6	Hooked up web based information	63	30.00	136	64.76	11	5.24	1.25	XXIII
7	Typing	45	21.43	148	70.48	17	8.10	1.13	XXV
8	Printing	89	42.38	109	51.90	12	5.71	1.37	XIX
9	Report Writing	90	42.86	105	50.00	15	7.14	1.36	XX
10	Social media	171	81.43	39	18.57	0	0.00	1.81	V
11	Sending and receiving e-mail	201	95.71	9	4.29	0	0.00	1.96	I
12	Getting general information	140	66.67	70	33.33	0	0.00	1.67	XI
13	Making Presentations	148	70.48	61	29.05	1	0.48	1.70	X
14	Sending messages/video to farmers	167	79.52	43	20.48	0	0.00	1.80	VI
15	Searching new technology for farmers	196	93.33	14	6.67	0	0.00	1.93	II
16	Data analysis	74	35.24	121	57.62	15	7.14	1.28	XXII
17	Publication (Printed-Online)	170	80.95	40	19.05	0	0.00	1.81	V
18	Seminars	104	49.52	105	50.00	1	0.48	1.49	XV
19	Training	122	58.10	88	41.90	0	0.00	1.58	XIV
20	Production of video films	83	39.52	126	60.00	1	0.48	1.39	XVIII
21	Presentation of slide shows	125	59.52	84	40.00	1	0.48	1.59	XIII
22	Organizational plan for exhibition /Kisan Mela	166	79.05	44	20.95	0	0.00	1.79	VII
23	Video conferencing	53	25.24	155	73.81	2	0.95	1.24	XXIV
24	Broadcasting programmes for farmers	166	79.05	44	20.95	0	0.00	1.79	VII
25	Entertainment through film shows related to social problems	98	46.67	112	53.33	0	0.00	1.47	XVI
26	Service provider mobile based extension	91	43.33	111	52.86	8	3.81	1.40	XVII
27	Updating new knowledge	183	87.14	27	12.86	0	0.00	1.87	IV
28	Preparing Teaching aids/posters and charts	145	69.05	59	28.10	6	2.86	1.66	XII
29	Cyber Extension	64	30.48	106	50.48	40	19.05	1.11	XXVI

Conclusion

Thus it can be summarized that the statement 'Sending and receiving e-mail', 'Searching new technology for farmers', 'Gaining knowledge', 'Updating new knowledge', 'Social media' and 'Publication (Printed-Online)' with ranked I,II,III,IV,V. The categories like 'Cyber Extension', 'Service provider mobile based extension', 'Production of video films', were ranked least. It may be concluded that the purpose of utilization of ICT tools by the KVK scientists is very focused and for the benefits of the end users i.e. farmers. The study of Lal *et al.* (2006) [3] also gave a similar result stating that the internet usage was found most among the medical students. The similar study was conducted by Parameshwar and Patil (2009) [7] who reported that both faculty and research scholars used the internet for research and education. Chauhan (2010) [2] found that major of use of internet by farmers was to collect agriculture information, to assess the government programs and to know about the market values.

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