



Study on knowledge and use of ICT by scientists of Agricultural University

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ABSTRACT

Access of information and improved communication is a crucial requirement for agricultural development which is directly related to social and economic development. However it is observed that rural population still have difficulty in assessing crucial information in forms to make timely decision. There is gap between information rich and information poor is getting wider, new technologies generating possibilities to solve problem of rural poverty, inequality and getting opportunity to bridge gap between information rich and information poor to support sustainable development in rural and agricultural communities. Hence present investigation was undertaken with an objective to study the extent of knowledge and extent of use of various information and communication technologies by Scientists, Teachers and Extension workers in State Agriculture Universities and to study perception about information and communication technology facilities provided by State Agriculture Universities. Present study was conducted in Dr. P.D. K.V. Akola during the year 2005-006. For this investigation, respondents were selected randomly from colleges covered under university. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Data was analyzed by SPSS software developed by TISS, Mumbai. Present investigation showed that only half of respondents had high level of knowledge about ICT facilities. Hence, there is a need to improve this situation in further unless the teachers and scientists possessing adequate knowledge about ICT, its use can not be accelerated in fact efforts to me ICT also helps to improve knowledge and skill involved. More than half of the respondents, teacher and scientists were found to be in low and moderate use of ICT. The mean of utility perception had found to be 77.85. About 83.83 per cent of the respondents reported it as highly useful for collecting data, storing and processing data, secondly 77.50 per cent said that internet was highly useful to them, 24.16 per cent reported highly facility utility, E-mail for research purpose. Correlation showed that age, experience, training received, availability of material were highly significant with knowledge about ICT gadgetry where as qualification, post held, background, nature of work were non significantly correlated with the knowledge about ICT.

INTRODUCTION

Information Technology encompasses development and use of electronic and allied gadgetry for effective generation, documentation, processing, storage, retrieval and use of information for maximum and speedy output (Chatuvedi and Khare, 2004).

The convergence of information and communication technology includes commonly computer, Internet, ID-mail,

Mobile, WAP application etc, too often enhance to reach penetration of ICT facilities. Information Technology has been one of the most / ambitious field in the present world. Information Technology and Agriculture amalgamation caused our country to regulate overall economy and Trade. The country is having rapid computerization in different field of agriculture *i.e.* from \weather forecasting for crop production to protection of crop. Different IT Technologies like Remote Sensing Experts System, Database of research project, modeling