



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# STRENGTHENING THE E-AGRICULTURE ECOSYSTEM IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Five countries in Asia-Pacific, namely Bhutan, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Sri Lanka expressed the need to improve their research-extension-farmer continuum to better serve farmers and rural communities involved in agriculture, and make available the right information at the right time, through the appropriate delivery medium. The information gap between agricultural extension, outreach services and farmers has widely been attributed as one of the leading challenges of sustainable food production. In order to bridge this gap, the project aimed to assist countries to develop national e-agriculture strategies, and to identify and develop sustainable information and communication technologies (ICTs) in agriculture services and solutions, as well as creating successful partnerships among national stakeholders.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project succeeded in raising the profile of e-agriculture in Bhutan, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Sri Lanka. It helped develop the National E-agriculture Strategies of Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Philippines, and produced e-agriculture services/solutions in Fiji, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. These strategies were developed using the FAO-International Telecommunication Union (ITU) E-agriculture Strategy Guide. Capacity development was provided for government officials and other stakeholders in identifying opportunities for the use of ICTs, in order to address the challenges faced in achieving their national agricultural goals, creating an enabling environment for the effective implementation and sustainability of services, and for the planning and implementation of e-agricultural services. The fundamental building block of the project was to ensure technological sustainability. This was achieved by adopting a multistakeholder approach, as well as involving key technological players in the country. The project also brought together key stakeholders (from agriculture and non-agriculture sectors) that are crucial for sustaining e-agriculture services. It also fostered new partnerships that built the capacity of national stakeholders and bridged the knowledge gap, thereby facilitating synergies in future national e-agriculture initiatives.

## IMPACT

Improved agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods were facilitated by enhancing national capacities in identifying and supporting the development of ICT solutions to help address national agricultural goals. The development of the National E-agriculture Strategies will assist countries to strengthen agricultural advisory services, improve access to markets and finances, enhance social protection, and provide actionable disaster early warnings; as well as facilitating the sustainable development of technologies to address challenges related to climate change.

## KEY FACTS

**Contribution**  
USD 225 000

**Duration**  
April 2016 – December 2017

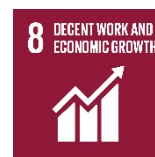
**Resource Partners**  
FAO

**Partners**  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan; Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji; Department of Agriculture and Livestock, Papua New Guinea; Department of Agriculture, Philippines; Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka; and other respective agricultural line ministry divisions, Ministry of Information Communication Technology (ICT), Information Technology (IT), telecommunication regulator, e-governance authority, etc., and in close partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**Beneficiaries**  
Smallholder farmers; producers; people involved in agricultural value chains, agriculture and allied activities, and who look to the Ministries of Agriculture's research and extension systems for content and advice on production, storage, marketing, and other activities; Ministry of Agriculture and allied departments, Ministry of ICT and related line departments

# ACTIVITIES

- Strategic context for e-agriculture based on national agriculture goals and vision identified.
- Relevant e-agriculture components identified, and information on current e-agriculture environment gathered.
- Strategic recommendations developed.
- Draft National E-agriculture Strategies developed for Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Philippines.
- E-agriculture toolkits produced for Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Philippines.
- Training events organized for government officials and other stakeholders in identifying opportunities for the use of ICTs.
- In-depth knowledge sharing workshop and training session conducted with the Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka on e-agriculture application development.
- The project also stimulated resource mobilization from other partners, such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

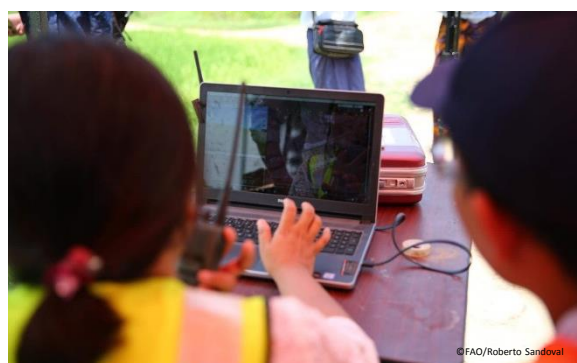


**Project Code**  
TCP/RAS/3513

**Project Title**  
Strengthening the e-agriculture environment and developing Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-mediated agricultural solutions for countries in Asia-Pacific

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