



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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FAO DIGITAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

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Working together for Zero Hunger
through digital innovation

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND DIGITAL INCLUSION IN AFRICA

Four new apps bring agricultural services closer to farmers, providing real-time information on weather, livestock care, markets, and nutrition-related aspects of food production.

ISSUE

Digital services are changing the way farmers do business. Information and communication technologies can maximize the impact of existing rural advisory services, financial services and social protection programmes. They also facilitate access to markets, information and entrepreneurship opportunities. Digital inclusion initiatives break down barriers to mobile internet adoption through infrastructure and policy, affordability, digital literacy and availability of local content. They contribute directly to poverty reduction and food security.

FAO and its partners are therefore developing and implementing digital inclusion initiatives and scaling up innovative digital services for smallholders and family farmers, with particular emphasis on young, self-employed entrepreneurs and female-headed households.

ACTION

Using a new technology called Progressive Web App, FAO has developed four apps to scale up agricultural services:

- **Weather and crop calendar** combines information on weather forecasts and crop calendars. It provides early warning services to

- In 104 countries, more than 80 percent of the youth population are online.
- The proportion of young people aged 15–24 using the Internet (71 percent) is significantly higher than the proportion of the total population using the Internet (48 percent).
- In Africa, 37 percent of individuals using the Internet are young people aged 15–24, compared with 13 percent in developed countries and 23 percent globally.

Source: ICT Facts and figures 2017 (ITU)



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highlight potential risks and help increase resilience.

- **Cure and feed your livestock** provides real-time information on animal disease control and animal feeding strategies. It helps reduce losses in assets and optimize productivity using local resources. Through the app farmers can also exchange information.
- **AgriMarketplace** connects producers and traders. It enables farmers to obtain better information about suppliers for raw material purchases, marketplaces to sell their products, and market prices.
- **e-Nutrifood** provides inhabitants of rural areas with information and technical recommendations concerning the production,

MORE INFORMATION

www.fao.org/in-action/africa-digital-services-portfolio
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conservation and consumption of nutritious foods.

The project is supported by the Kingdoms of Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden and Switzerland through the FAO Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM), and is part of the broader FAO Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (SP3).

IMPACT

The project was launched in Senegal and Rwanda, where

respectively 77 and 90 percent of the labour force is involved in agriculture. Potentially all of the households in the two countries will have access to the “e-Nutrifood”, “AgriMarketplace” and “Weather and crop calendar” apps. The “Cure and feed your livestock” app will be of use to an estimated 5 million people working with livestock as owners or labourers. All of the apps can be adapted for use in other countries.

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