FSD7-Webinar 4

Accelerating and amplifying systemic transformation of agri-food systems with digitalization of research and advisory services to family farmers and decision makers

Date: 24 March 2021 - 10.00AM to 12.00PM (GMT+2)

Chaired by Ram Dhulipala (ICRISAT, India), Thouraya Souissi (IRESA, Tunisia) and Bruno Gerard (CIMMYT, Mexico)

Objectives

The objective of this session is to explore the exciting prospects of the use of digital tools and technologies in agriculture and the consequent impact at a broader systems and regional scales. Facilitating and catalyzing digitally enabled systemic transformation of agri-food systems that touches upon a number of global issues like climate change, GHG emissions, resilience etc. would require a more coherent approach towards the digitalization of agri-food systems from research through to advisory systems that support farmers. Such innovations will find ready users only when agricultural research and extension interfaces with market access, government policy, social setting and a host of other local factors that influence farmer behavior and decisions. The six presentations that are part of this webinar are a mix of real world case studies and research projects that offer promising models to embed science into decision support tools for farming. The case studies and the presentations will showcase examples of the use of ICTs in thematic areas like pest and disease diagnostics, climate information services, financial services etc. The session chairs will strive to also examine issues of low integration and use of digital technologies in agriculture despite their immense transformative potential in the smallholder and resource poor contexts during session Q&A. The importance of user-centered design, digital literacy, role of research and public private sector partnerships (PPP) will also be examined in the discussions.

Program and speakers

- A short introduction on objectives and expected outcome of the webinar (*Ram Dhulipala*, *Thouraya Souissi, Bruno Gerard* 5 min.)
- **Selected presentations:** 10 min. presentation and 8 min. discussion
    1. Reinventing traditional agronomy to facilitate systems-based learning for extension (*Wallau Marcelo*, University of Florida)
    2. Integrating Systems modelling tools as decision support for promoting sustainable intensification under smallholder farming systems in semiarid tropics in India (*Shalander Kumar*, ICRISAT, India)
    3. Digital augmentation for accelerating agri-food system transformation (*Chandrashekhar Biradar*, ICARDA, Egypt)
    4. Plantix : A digital end-to-end solution to support sustainable smallscale farming (*Simone Strey*, Plantix, Germany)
    5. Digitalization for innovative financial instruments to unlock investments in agriculture (*Samyuktha Kanna*, IFPRI, India)
    6. The development of an intelligent ICT-based weather advisory to help Indian farmers manage climate risk (*Andrew Smith*, ICRISAT, India)
- Conclusion and summary (*Thouraya Souissi, Bruno Gerard*, 5 min.)