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Constraints perceived by the farmers of Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh in use of KRISHINET portal

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Abstract

The present study was conducted purposively in Panagar Block of Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh. The total sample consisted of 125 KRISHINET Portal users as respondents for the study. The aim of this study to know the constraints in use of KRISHINET portal. The data collection was done by the use of interview schedule through personal interview. Data were analyzed with help of suitable statistical tools. Highest percentage of respondents were of the opinion that there is no recovery mechanism to recouped the technical language and vocabulary problem followed by technical problem like internet connectivity. The most important suggestions given by the users of KRISHINET portal were opinion that improve internet connection and provide training programme related to ICT.

Keywords: KRISHINET, constraints and suggestions, agricultural information, users, ICT

Introduction

In the year 2005, Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development started exploring the use of ICT in agriculture. ICT has become a global tool often used by individuals, organizations, governments and inter-governmental organizations for personnel or official activities. Department realized that ICT provides a great opportunity in reaching the unreachable. Based on discussion within department, a project KRISHINET was conceptualized. KRISHINET portal has played a significant role in bringing the new technology in agriculture to the door of farmers. It is entirely in Hindi language and accessible to more than 70 lac farming related families in M.P. through internet. "KRISHINET" portal is the only portal in M.P. operating twenty four hours and seven days a week. Farmer's community, NGOs, training centers, students and research workers, Agriculture Universities, KVK, extension workers and policy makers are target groups of KRISHINET portal. Technical language, poor internet connectivity and lack of information in regional language are major constraints faced by the farmers in use of KRISHINET portal. Considering an importance the present study was carried out with the following specific objective to determine the major constraints faced by the Farmers in use of KRISHINET portal.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted purposively in Panagar Block of Jabalpur district Madhya Pradesh due maximum number of KRISHINET users and it is a biggest block of the district during 2010-11. The selected block comprises of 200 villages. Out of which 5 villages were selected randomly. A village wise list of KRISHINET portal users who using the KRISHINET for seeking the agricultural information, were prepared from each village. KRISHINET portal users were selected by using simple random sampling method. Thus, the total sample consisted of 125 respondents for the study. Respondents were interviewed through personal interview. Prior to interview, respondents were taken in to confidence by revealing the actual purpose of the study and full care was taken in to consideration to develop good rapport with them. For the data collection well designed and pre-tested interview scheduled were used. Collected data were analyzed by the help of various statistical tools i.e. frequency, percentage and correlation coefficient.

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Results and Discussion

Constraint perceived by the farmers in use of KRISHINET portal

The constraints reported by the users in using of KRISHINET portal are presented in Table No.1. It is evident from the data that the major constraints as expressed by the users were, There is no recovery mechanism to recouped the technical language and vocabulary problem 78.40 per cent, followed by

Technical problem like poor internet connectivity 60.00 per cent, Lack of information in regional language 52.00 per cent, Lack of awareness of services provided by KRISHINET PORTAL 48.00 per cent, Low literacy 44.00 per cent, Erratic Power supply 32.00 per cent, Difficult to use 28.80 per cent, Lack of confidence in operating of KRISHINET 28.00 per cent.

Table 1: Constraint reported by users while using KRISHINET portal

S. No	Constraint	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of confidence in operating of Krishinet	35	28.00	VIII
2.	Erratic Power supply	40	32.00	VI
3.	Technical language	98	78.40	I
4.	Poor internet connectivity	75	60.00	II
5.	Lack of awareness of services provided by Krishinet Portal	60	48.00	IV
6.	Low literacy	55	44.00	V
7.	Lack of information in regional language	65	52.00	III
8.	Difficult to use	36	28.80	VII

Table 2: Suggestions given by respondents to improve KRISHINET portal

S. No	Suggestion	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Training Programme related to ICT for farmers	65	52.00	II
2.	Improve internet connection	70	56.00	I
3.	Aware farmers about benefits of KRISHINET portal	40	32.00	VI
4.	Information should be in regional language	61	48.80	III
5.	Use of sufficient visual-aids	30	24.00	V

The Table 2 shows the suggestion offered by the users for the use of KRISHINET portal. Out of the total users, 56.00 per cent suggested that Improve internet connection, 52.00 per cent suggested that provide Training Programme related to ICT for farmers, 48.80 per cent said that Information should be in regional language, 32.00 per cent suggested that aware farmers about benefits of KRISHINET portal, 24.00 per cent expressed that Use of sufficient visual-aids.

Conclusion

From the above research works it can be concluded that the highest percentage of users were opinion that there is no recovery mechanism to recouped the technical language and vocabulary problem followed by technical problem like internet connectivity, lake of information in regional language were reported as major three important constraints in the use of KRISHINET portal. Regarding suggestions given by the users of KRISHINET portal were opinion that improve internet connection, followed by provide training programme related to ICT, information should be in regional language, aware the farmers about the benefits of KRISHINET portal and use sufficient visual-aids.

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