**ICT4Ag Conference Recommendations**

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Following the successful ICT4Ag event in Kigali last year, the organizing committee together with the Knowledge Management (KM) team have come up with nine (9) Conference Recommendations as the voice of all conference participants. (NB: Detailed description of each of these recommendations is being written).

**Recommendation 1: Develop partnerships for ensuring positive impact of ICT4Ag initiatives**

• Experiences suggest that the most successful e-agriculture programmes involve the public and private sector, as well as local communities

• Without partnership/collaborations among the various actors, it is difficult to achieve any impact,

• Provide platforms to encourage the convergence of ICT channels for agriculture

**Recommendation 2: Support ICTs for extension and advisory services**

• ICTs are tools, and the tools should be developed with the intention to support the act of extension and advisory service

• Diversify tools and channels to meet beneficiary needs.

• Explore integration of the various ICT channels (radio, video, mobile, web, etc.) for efficiency and effectiveness

**Recommendation 3: Support open and big data management for smallholders**

• Make the smallholder benefit from the “big data” – efforts must be made to make data available in a format that farmers can utilize

• Emphasize importance of data visualization

• Create a public information platform to reduce data duplication

**Recommendation 4: Ensure availability of reliable and quality ICT4Ag content**

• Minimize the information overload on the smallholder by filtering and making available trusted content for their use,

• Develop farmers’ trust in ICT value added service providers through reliable content delivery,

• Promote accurate and reliable agricultural content on ICT platforms

**Recommendation 5: Ensure grassroots' access to ICT solutions**

• Ensure access (in terms of cost/affordability, availability, and usability) to ICTs in rural areas as well,

• Take local context into account when designing apps,

• Recognise the multidimensional needs of farmers and their families

**Recommendation 6: Strengthen youth and women involvement in ICT4Ag initiatives**

• Strengthen ICT capacity of the youth (including young women) to be able to support other members of the smallholder farmers,

• Boost the role of women in extension and advisory services through the use of ICTs

• Support youth’s ICT innovations that enhance ARD

**Recommendation 7: Support ICT4Ag entrepreneurship and promising business models**

• Ensure scale and sustainability of ICT4Ag initiatives by building into them exit strategies from the onset through sound business models

• Scale more than ICTs – also scale processes.

• Support the adoption of innovative business models for ICT4Ag applications

**Recommendation 8: Support sound strategies and high level political buy-ins for ICT4Ag**

• Develop sound ICT4Ag strategies to inform the deployment of the applications

• Secure high level political buy-ins from ICT4Ag champions

• Take advantage of the successes from other countries and build upon them

**Recommendation 9: Promote adequate infrastructure and energy for ICTs in rural areas**

• Support network access (phone & internet) and dependable energy/power sources in rural areas where agricultural production is dominant

• Explore innovative models of funding and alternative low-cost gadgets/devices

• Provide access to energy, devices and infrastructure.