Effects of the Emerging Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) on Agricultural Knowledge Transfer to Smallholder Farmers in Nigeria

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Abstract

The World is in the midst of what could be called a 'knowledge revolution' that is being spearheaded by the rapid advancement in Information Technology. This has significantly changed the way people communicate, live, and conduct their business. The revolution in communication has provided efficient ways for developing countries to grow economically, socially as well as increase productivity. Agriculture requires a very strong boost because of increasing population and decreasing land resources due to various environmental factors. In the agriculture sector, constant application of latest ideas and better work technologies is essential to enhance productivity. Farmers have to know about new innovations before adopting them. A lot of agricultural innovations have been developed in Nigeria such as yam minisett technique, protein rich soyabean production and utilization techniques, improved rice, cotton, cassava varieties, production and use of animal vaccines and drugs and labor saving devices but many of these improved agricultural innovations have not been properly diffused to farmers. The means of disseminating agricultural information is essential for sustainable rural development. This paper discusses the impact of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) on agriculture knowledge transfer to smallholder farmers in Nigeria . After careful assessment, the paper posits that agricultural innovations in Nigeria must be properly transferred to smallholder farmers for productivity increase in view of emerging information technology (ICTs). Some challenges facing smallholder farmers can be alleviated if they are educated on the uses and potentials of ICTs.