## ICT in Agriculture plays vital roles

Capacity building and empowerment ICTs serve as vital education tools for the development of local communities. They broaden the reach of women, youth, and other beneficiaries and open the doors for newer business opportunities to enhance livelihoods and incomes.
Financial inclusion and risk management ICTs strengthen rural and smallholder farmers' access to financial services, enable them to find affordable insurance schemes and tools to better manage risk, and empower them with information regarding financial services that are available to them.
Early warning system (EWS) for disaster management ICTs provide actionable and real-time information to governments and communities on disaster prevention and management. They also increase the efficiency of responding efforts during emergency situations and drive more effective communication by providing the people with timely advice on risk mitigation procedures.
Enhanced market access ICT-enabled market information services enhance farmers' access to nearby markets and their awareness of current consumer demands through the transfer of information from the traders. ICTs also foster networking among the agri-stakeholders, which facilitates increased market access for inputs and product marketing and trade.

Agricultural extension and advisory services ICT in the form of <u>innovative media platforms</u> (Mobile Phones, Videos, Radio and Television etc) bridge the gap between farmers on one end and agricultural researchers and extension agents on the other. It is a more cost-efficient method to improve smallholders' knowledge of current agricultural practices and markets.
Food safety & traceability A combination of simple and sophisticated technologies, such as mobile phones, software solutions, RFID tags, data input websites, and sensors using GPS technology, among others, enable producers to capture and monitor reliable data and also comply with international traceability and food