



Stakeholders, Needs and Opportunities



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PARTICIPATION

There has been increased involvement by all stakeholders; several institutions and organizations in the development of the ICT sector (the creation and dissemination of agricultural knowledge and information)in Ethiopia over the past years.

However, the effectiveness is inhibited due to several factors.



ICT RELATED KEY CHALLENGES

The challenges of access to ICT can be divided into two:

1. Access to ICT infrastructure

Inadequate infrastructure

- Electricity infrastructure coverage (critical prerequisite for ICT)
- Internet connectivity
- Telephone (low penetration of fixed line)

This inhibited effectiveness of FTCs

- Research-extension-farmer linkages are weak and costly physical contact such as *training, field demonstration, visits*
- Slowed the sharing and exchange of knowledge and information generated from research centers at national and regional levels

This in turns inhibited also expansion of ICT services to rural areas



ICT RELATED KEY CHALLENGES

2. Access to ICT services

Unaffordable and unavailable in venues or modes that are convenient to smallholder farmers

- ❑ Tele-centers, call-centers are not adequately available and accessible to smallholder farmers (3 tele center/10 thousand people)
- ❑ Affordability poses a great challenge to accessibility of ICT service specially among subsistent farmers



OTHER CHALLENGES

- ❑ Relevant e-content for smallholder farmers are limited
- ❑ Use of appropriate technologies
- ❑ ICT human resource (very limited or not well trained professional)
- ❑ Absence of ICT policy



Major Challenges related to G4AW

- ❑ Poor coordination and harmonization among institutions and stakeholders in data production and dissemination
 - from one sectors or institution and on same format
 - the right information at the right time (*prior knowledge and real time such as market prices , weather, and current production levels etc...*)
 - » Farmers are not being able to make the correct and optimal decisions at all stages of the farming life cycle





MAJOR CHALLENGES RELATED TO G4AW

- ❑ Data quality standard for geo information products are very low
- ❑ Human and technological capacity problem
- ❑ Financial constraints
- ❑ Awareness of the relevance of digital data and information
 - ❑ lack of Spatial Data Information awareness
- ❑ Irrelevant e-content – not context specific/language barriers
 - ❑ meeting specific user needs





MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES

- ❑ Favorable ICT Policy
 - ❑ ICT as ***the key driver and facilitator*** for transforming Ethiopia's predominantly subsistence-agriculture economy
- Continuous ***government investment*** in the communications infrastructure area to meet this growing demand
- Improved ***mobile connectivity***
 - Mobile telecommunications grew from a mere 1.2 million subscribers in 2007 to planned around 50 million subscribers in 2015





... OPPORTUNITIES

- **Radio transmission** covers over 80 percent of the country and about half of the Ethiopian households own a radio
- The **FTCs** are positioned to facilitate agricultural knowledge and information exchange.,
 - a total of 8,500 farmer training centers (FTCs) have been established and 63,000 field extension (2010)
- Presence of ICT infrastructure , **Woreda Net** . Enhance the flow of knowledge and information
- National "**ICT Park**" with the aim of attracting multi-national ICT service companies such as those involved in business process outsourcing (BPO), Software developers, manufacturers, system integrators



Thank you !

