

E-Governance in Agriculture

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ABSTRACT

India is evolving as a developing country with the help of e-governance. In India numbers of experiments of e-governance are taken place. E-governance is defined as e-governance or electronic governance concern to the utilization of ICT by government department. Refers to Indian economy, the basic unit of Indian economy is farmer and farming/agriculture is his livelihood. The aim of this paper is to use of ICT tool for communication to be establish between government and farmer. Further it tries to analyze how e-governance is helpful for both government and farmer.

Keywords: Economy, E-governance, Farmer, ICT.

1. INTRODUCTION

E-governance can be called as citizen centric government. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) refer by government department for the following purposes:

- Establishing the communication with citizen.
- Faster delivery of government services and Schemes to citizen.
- Decreasing in cost by increasing in productivity.
- Improving the quantity and quality in services.

ICT is the major component of E-governance. It may be considered as a backbone for E-governance. [1] In short E-Governance is application of ICT to bring Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency in processes or operations of government and provide different types of services to citizens at affordable cost. Similarly in terms of Indian economy Agriculture is considered as a backbone of Indian economy. Around 60% of Indian population earns their livelihood from agriculture directly or indirectly. Agriculture sector of India has made considerable progress in the last few decades. Use of latest technology can make revolutionary changes in agriculture. E-governance is the way through which farmer can make communication with government. Also transparency would be improved between farmer and government.

2. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The need for improved computer connectivity up to village level was recognized by the central government in 1998 and drafted a National IT Policy[2] recommending the states to create infrastructure to facilitate improved data communications. The aim of agricultural department is to help the rural community to achieve higher productivity in agriculture. Agriculture department connects nearby villages in his locality to help farmers and is situated at taluka level. Farmer can get information about latest schemes and other ideas related to agriculture.

Agriculture department is always beneficial for farmers. Government of India issues new schemes for farmers so that farmer can utilize these schemes for his beneficial. Farmer also wants to take advantages of government schemes. But due to the lack of communication and information sharing these schemes are not reachable to the farmer directly.

To know the information related to the government schemes farmer would have to come at taluka in agriculture department. Then agriculture department gives related information required by farmer. Or combining two or three village government, there assign one person known as Gramsevak who knows all the information related to government schemes. Farmer would have to ask him and get his information. But the problem is same; there is no direct communication between government and farmer.

2.1 Existing Concept

Government of India had issued a scheme related to seeds sack that helps farmer to get seeds at very low cost. According to session government issues these schemes to encourage the farmers. Farmer can utilize these schemes which would directly and indirectly benefits both government and farmer. This scheme provides seed sacks to agriculture departments and from there farmer can receive these sacks on the basis of their land 7/12 certificate. But seed sack is provided in limited quantity. Reason for this is divided in two issues

2.2 Government Issues

Government doesn't have exact count that how many farmers are interested in this scheme. As the government provide various types of schemes to the farmer, but the government are less confident about the business transaction in between the government and the farmer. Because of the financial conditions, farmers are unable to purchase services or the scheme, which are provided by the government.

2.3 Farmer Issues

Farmer is totally unaware about these schemes. As the farmer did not get the notification from the government regarding various types of schemes and information, which are available for the farmer, because of lack of the communication the information related with scheme did not reach towards them as there is no any way that information can easily reach towards the farmer. Again farmer suffer from problem of money. Farmer generally doesn't have enough money to buy these seeds from government. If the farmer purchased the product from the government, then they have to pay money in the exchange of those services. Alternately farmer would like to buy seeds form private shops called Krushi Center as these private shop lend farmer seeds.

3. ANALYSIS OF PROBLEM

There are certain parameters, which are to be considered while calculating problem analysis for the agriculture, which involves as follows:

1. Finding out the possible problems involved in this process.
2. Deciding what precautions we can take if that problem has occurred.

There are various types of problems that are associated with the agriculture development process they are as follows:-

1. Problem related to inadequate and communication facilities.
2. Problem related to technology.
3. Problem related to city market.
4. Existence of mediators in market changes multiplicity.

1. Problem related to inadequate and communication facilities:

As the farmers are illiterate and they lack the communication skill with real world technology. So they remain unaware about the technologies and new facilities which government provides for the farmer.

2. Problem related to technology:

As there are various types of recent technology available but due to lack of communication and lack of knowledge that technology cannot reach to them.

3. Problem related to city market:

It is found that farmers dislike the city market. As the farmers are unknown about city market strategy and their facilities. So marketing problem is one of the biggest problems of farmers.

4. Existence of mediators in market changes multiplicity:

As while marketing or doing business farmer must have to deal with brokers. These brokers have different demands and various on demand high prices from farmers. This is one of the big problematic issues in front of farmers.

4. E-GOVERNANCE IN AGRICULTURE

4.1 New concept

Connecting these two entities the above problem should be solve. E-governance is the only way to connect these two entities. ICT tool helps government to get exact information of the farmers. With the help of Aadhar card & 7/12 government can get contacts of farmer.

With providing online seeds information and prices for seeds (including schemes) farmer can do registration for this scheme government can get exact count that how many farmers are interested in this scheme. Registration could be done at village in Gram Panchayat or farmer can directly visit agriculture department. By getting valid information about scheme farmer can convey his interest to government directly and government can directly make communication to farmer with the help of these ICT tools. After getting information from farmer government can provide exact counted seeds sack to agriculture department and from there interested farmer can utilize this scheme.

4.2 E- Market

Providing online seeds price (Including schemes) and crop information creates online market for the farmer. Online market will provide the global and broad market to the farmers. As the farmer will get the information of the online market, they can make direct business with the government without involving third party brokers (Private Agriculture Center). In this the concept of intermediate brokers is totally deleted unlike usually happens in traditional marketing. And thus the profit will directly goes to both farmers and the actual government. Thus it will solve the problem of visibility.

4.3 Notifications using ICT tools

Prior problem for unawareness of government scheme would be solving ICT Tools. Considering today's farmer government can communicate with him through SMS (contact number can get from Aadhar card, Registration on basis of 7/12 certification) SMS will inform farmers about new notices so that they can get information at anytime from anywhere, through radio or through Gram Panchayat. Whenever there will be new schemes available farmer should be notify with SMS. Or government can notify on radio news or with the help of Gram Panchayat government can notify farmer.

4.4 How this concept is beneficial to farmer and government?

Consider one seeds sack prices Rs. 1000 at private Agriculture center. Private Agriculture center doesn't give convenience to farmer in terms of money while buying seeds. But under the scheme and with the help of government convenience same seed sack would be provided at Rs.600. It is defiantly beneficial for farmer to buy seed sack at Rs.600 price instead Rs. 1000 price.

It is parallel beneficial for government that there productivity would be increase if totally all farmer would buy there seeds form government.

5. WORKING

5.1 Registration

Firstly farmer will makes online registration with getting proper id for seek sack scheme. After the registration current schemes will be shown to farmer on online market portal. Selecting required seeds schemes farmer can apply. Farmer then provides exact count of seeds sack that he wants for his farm. Submitting request farmer will have to wait for seeds receiving date. Still request of farmer is under process. After total registration Government gets exact count of total number of sacks of seeds required for farmers in a local agriculture department

5.2 Agriculture department

Government send exact total counted sacks to requested agriculture department. On receiving date farmer would have come at agriculture department to receive his request for seeds sack. With proper id farmer would be identified and agent at agriculture department processes farmers under process request. Farmer only have to give money for requested seeds sack.

5.3 Loan Concept without money transaction

Considering exception that farmer should not have money to buy seeds sack from government. Government should provide scheme for these farmers. This scheme would be described below.

5.4 Loan connect with bank transaction

Farmer who applied for seed sack scheme would have to come at agriculture department from there all the process related to valid documents requirements would be completed by government agents. And from there agent can forward his request to bank. Farmer only has to visit bank and submit his request sent by agent. All the documents related process would be completed at agriculture department with the help of ICT tool.

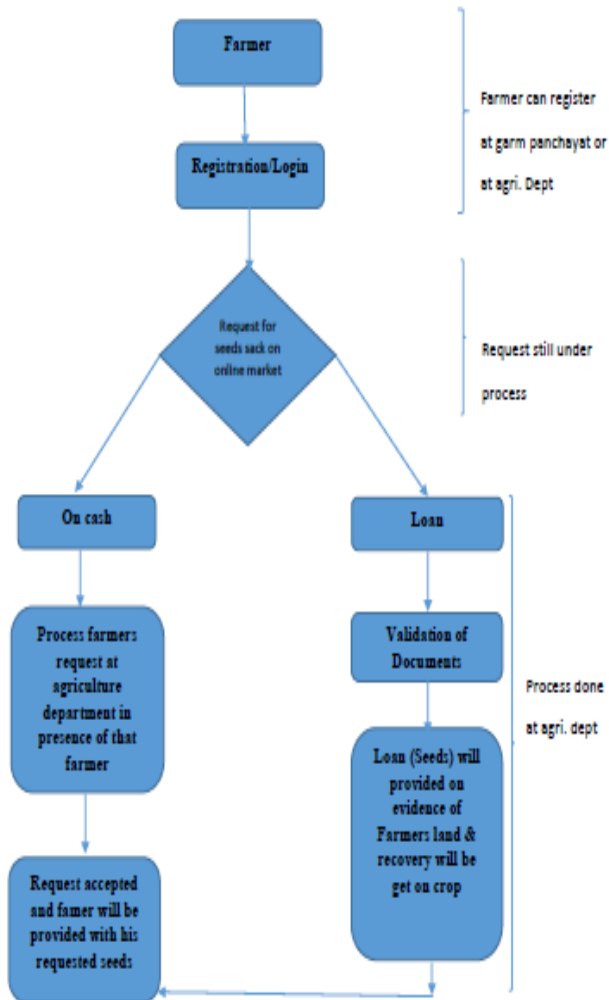


Fig: Working Flow of New Concept

Related process would be completed at agriculture department with the help of ICT tool.

6. NEW LOAN CONCEPT

Following the bank process is very inconvenient for the farmer and it takes longer time. To remove bank concept between government and farmer, Government can implement new scheme in which farmer who requested for seeds sack scheme online would be provided with seeds sack from agriculture department without giving money by farmer, But before giving seeds sack to the farmer. Department have to takes farmer's land documents as evidence and farmer have to fill agreement with government terms online and have to submit request. If the farmer is illegible, farmer then provided with seeds sack he requested.

Government doesn't give money to farmer. There is no transaction would be occurs between government and farmer. Although after applying for loan at agriculture department farmer would be provided with seeds sack he wants.

Government gives loan in terms of seeds sack on the evidence of land papers of farmer and recovery of loan would get on crops after cropping.

7. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

7.1 Advantages:

- Profitable for farmer in terms he gets seeds at very low cost
- Transparency should be seen between government and farmer
- Seeds provided by government would be get at low cost
- Profitable for government in terms productivity is increases of seeds
- Transaction is increases of government
- Loan schemes would be provided to farmer without money transact
- Bank concept is removed

7.2 Disadvantages:

- If a farmer apply for seeds sack and submit request, farmer can cancel this request till receiving date. After that farmer must have taken these seeds sack from government.
- SMS service should be extra chargeable to government.

8. CONCLUSION

For transformation of India towards development it is necessary to focus on major sector of Indian economy. Agriculture is considered as a backbone of Indian economy. With the help of E-Governance and ICT tools government can connects farmer and put on one platform.

With creating such platform will helps to make transparency between these two entities. It would be consider as major step of government of India towards the farmer. Although it is difficult for farmer to come in concern with online activity but using ICT tools and government's beneficiary schemes it will give more strength to the farmer which is actual needed to the farmer from the government of India.

Providing online seed market for farmer makes beneficial for both government and farmer. E-governance can play major role in it. E-governance can helps in making communication between famer and government efficiently. And this architecture helps in online seed market for better communication and economically beneficial for both government and farmer.

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