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From informatics of R&D organizations to knowledge management in field conditions: Technology, tools and processes for Indian rice sector

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Many rice growing countries started harnessing ICTs by developing the knowledge banks and repositories and India is not an exception. Indian Rice Knowledge Management Portal (RKMP) developed by Directorate of Rice Research considered as one of the most comprehensive endeavour providing a range of knowledge products. The paper provides the experiences of Indian Rice Knowledge Management Portal in building semantic portal with extension centric knowledge products and dissemination strategies.

Main portal is built on Drupal (open source) Content Management System with lot of plug ins to support to the content flow customization. The basic information unit for the portal is an RLO (Reusable Learning Object). Plugins and ad-on platforms (such as .Net and java based) give additional strength to the portal. This portal is hosted on www.rkmp.co.in connected to 100 mbps line of National Knowledge Network. Scalable 1 GBPS in two years time from now. Over a period of 3 years, one of the largest repositories of rice knowledge could be built involving 28 institutes and thousands of key actors in India.

Building repositories cannot guarantee its application at farmers' level. Under GRiSP Theme 6, it is planned to develop a model (innovation system) to harness ICTs/ KM in rice sector for knowledge dissemination based on the knowledge pathways. Re-packaging the content, making the farmers access knowledge in the formats most suited to them (video, fact sheets, audio, posters, offline CDs, mobile apps etc.,) and encouraging farmer- farmer interactions, integrating with ongoing extension programmes of the development departments. The paper essentially provides the participants with the country strategies to make rice knowledge repositories more available, accessible and applicable at farmers level, so that ICTs and knowledge management can contribute to improving the livelihoods.

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