INDIA DIGITAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
ICFA

IDAC
India Digital Agriculture Council

www.icfa.org.in

BACKGROUND

Digital agriculture, which encompasses the use of technology and data-driven solutions to enhance agricultural practices, is rapidly transforming farming worldwide. In India, this transformation is gaining momentum. As of 2023, approximately 30% of Indian farmers have adopted some form of digital technology in their agricultural practices. The market for agricultural technology in India is projected to reach USD 24 billion by 2025, driven by innovations in precision farming, digital marketplaces, and financial technology. Moreover, initiatives such as the use of IoT devices and satellite imagery are expected to reduce crop monitoring costs by 20%.

Despite being a global agricultural powerhouse, India's agriculture sector is plagued by inefficiencies and challenges that hinder its potential. Key issues include low productivity, fragmented land holdings, inadequate infrastructure, the impacts of climate change, and limited market access. Yields per hectare for many crops remain lower than global averages. Small and scattered farms limit economies of scale. Poor storage and transport infrastructure lead to significant post-harvest losses. Increasing frequency of extreme weather events adversely affects crop yields. Farmers often lack direct access to markets, resulting in dependency on middlemen.

The adoption of digital technologies can address these issues by enhancing productivity, optimizing resource use, and providing farmers with better access to markets and financial services, establishment of India Digital Agriculture Council is a crucial step towards overcoming challenges, modernizing India's agriculture sector, ensuring food security, and improving the livelihoods of millions of farmers. This initiative will foster innovation and collaboration among stakeholders, driving sustainable agricultural growth. By harnessing data-driven insights and technology-driven solutions, the council aims to create a resilient and competitive agricultural ecosystem that benefits farmers, consumers, and the economy at large.

The India Digital Agriculture Council is a significant step towards using modern technologies like AI, blockchain, and drones to improve farming. This effort combines advanced computer tech with agriculture, allowing for better resource management in real-time. With digitalization changing how farms operate using AI, robotics, drones, sensors, and networks, India's agriculture is going through a big change. This shift towards digitalization not only boosts productivity but also ensures food security and economic stability for farmers across the country.

ABOUT IDAC

The establishment of the India Digital Agriculture Forum marks a pivotal moment in advancing sustainable farming practices and technological innovations across the country. This forum serves as a central gathering point for stakeholders spanning farmers, technology developers, policymakers, financial institutions, and consumers. With digital agriculture at its core, the forum aims to harness the power of technology to address agricultural challenges, enhance productivity, promote financial inclusion, and ensure food security for India's growing population. By fostering collaboration, advocating for policy changes, promoting research and development, and facilitating market access, the India Digital Agriculture Forum strives to catalyze a digital revolution in Indian agriculture, leading to a more efficient, resilient, and prosperous farming sector for generations ahead.

OBJECTIVES :

1. **Facilitate Collaborative Partnerships :** Forge alliances among government bodies, industry leaders, academic institutions, and farmers to collectively tackle challenges and capitalize on opportunities in digital agriculture, fostering a holistic approach to sectoral growth.

2. **Empower Farmers through Digital Literacy :** Empower farmers with comprehensive education and training programs focused on digital literacy, enabling them to adeptly utilize digital tools for increased productivity and sustainable agricultural practices.

3. **Promote Adoption of Cutting-Edge Technologies :** Showcase and promote the latest advancements in digital agriculture, advocating for the widespread adoption of smart farming technologies and precision agriculture solutions throughout the agricultural value chain.

4. **Develop Strategies for Digital Integration :** Strategize the integration of digital technologies into farming operations, aiming to optimize resource utilization, reduce environmental impact, and enhance the resilience of agricultural systems in the face of changing conditions.

5. **Advocate for Inclusive Policy Frameworks :** Drive policy discussions to craft supportive policies for digital agriculture, ensuring fair access and benefits for all stakeholders, with a special focus on marginalized farmers and rural communities, thereby fostering inclusive economic growth and development.

VISION

Envisioning a vibrant future for India's agricultural landscape, India Digital Agriculture Council is dedicated to driving transformative change across multiple sectors. Our vision centers on empowering farmers through digital tools and knowledge, fostering technological innovation with cutting-edge technologies, promoting sustainability and resilience, facilitating market access and value addition, advocating for supportive policies, leading global agricultural leadership, championing collaborative platforms, and boosting innovation to unlock the full potential of digital agriculture for sustainable growth and prosperity in India.

MISSION

The mission of the India Digital Agriculture Council is to propel India's agricultural sector into the digital age while bolstering its global competitiveness. Through strategic initiatives focused on policy advocacy and regulatory reform, research and development support, digital literacy and skills development, ecosystem collaboration and partnership, impact assessment and monitoring, inclusive access to digital solutions, and data governance and security, IDAC is committed to fostering innovation, empowering stakeholders, and driving sustainable growth in Indian agriculture.

AGENDA

1. **Empowerment through Digital Literacy :** Implement initiatives to enhance digital literacy among farmers and stakeholders, offering comprehensive training and resources for proficient use of digital tools and technologies in agricultural operations.

2. **Technology Integration and Innovation Drive :** Spearhead the adoption of cutting-edge digital solutions and technologies like precision agriculture, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and blockchain across the agricultural value chain to optimize efficiency, conserve resources, and foster sustainability.

3. **Policy Advocacy and Regulatory Enhancement :** Advocate for policy reforms and regulatory enhancements that bolster the growth and advancement of digital agriculture, ensuring conducive environments for innovation, investment, and wide scale adoption of digital technologies.

4. **Collaborative Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange :** Cultivate collaborative partnerships among governmental bodies, industry stakeholders, academic institutions, and farming communities to facilitate knowledge exchange, best practices sharing, and joint initiatives aimed at propelling digital agriculture forward.

5. **Accessible Resources and Support Networks :** Facilitate access to financial resources, technical assistance, and market connections for farmers and agricultural technology startups, enabling them to leverage digital solutions for enhanced productivity, profitability, and competitiveness.

6. **Sustainable Agriculture through Digital Solutions :** Advocate for the adoption of sustainable farming practices enabled by digital technologies, emphasizing resource conservation, environmental stewardship, and resilience to climate change.

7. **Capacity Building and Economic Empowerment :** Invest in capacity building programs, skill development initiatives, and entrepreneurship training to empower farmers, rural youth, and communities, unlocking the potential of digital agriculture for economic empowerment and social progress.

8. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement :** Establish robust mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment of digital agriculture interventions, ensuring accountability, transparency, and ongoing enhancement in achieving desired outcomes and societal impact

ACTIVITIES

The IDAC will transform its objectives into actionable initiatives, will embark on the following activities

❖ Organize demonstrations and showcases of innovative digital solutions and technologies in agriculture to provide stakeholders with firsthand experience of their potential impact and advantages.

❖ Advocate for policy reforms and regulatory changes that foster the adoption and growth of digital agriculture, engaging with policymakers, government bodies, and industry stakeholders.

❖ Support research and development initiatives aimed at advancing digital agriculture, including studies on emerging technologies, best practices, and policy analysis.

❖ Establish collaborative platforms, forums, and networks for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and collaborate on digital agriculture projects.

❖ Conduct capacity-building programs to enhance the technical skills, entrepreneurial capabilities, and digital literacy of farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, and rural youth.

❖ Facilitate market linkages and access to financing opportunities for farmers and agri-tech startups developing and implementing digital agriculture solutions, facilitating their scale-up and commercialization.

❖ Launch awareness campaigns and outreach activities to educate farmers, policymakers, and the public about the benefits and opportunities of digital agriculture.

MEMBERSHIP

1. Patron Membership :
(INR 10 lac each, Annual fee INR. 2.50 lacs) (Limited to 5 patron members only)

1. Will be having one guaranteed member seat to the executive committee.
2. Patron member logo will be displayed on all communication of IDAC.
3. Patron member nominee will be invited to all meetings with dignitaries (govt., international bodies, international delegations – inbound/outbound).
4. Opportunities to represent IDAC as official representative for trade show/conferences.
5. Free access to all the events organized by ICFA.
6. Invitation for general body meeting to be held annually.
7. Invitation to join physically/virtually for all meetings to discuss recommendation for various policies and other initiatives to be taken up by IDAC.
8. At least one meeting will be held in each quarter as well as multiple webinars.
9. Publication of all members in directory.
10. One vote for selection of office bearer after first term of 5 years.

2. Executive Membership :
(INR 03 lac each, Annual fee INR 10 lacs)

1. Executive member logo will be displayed on events and meetings held by IDAC.
2. Free access to all the events organized by ICFA.
3. Executive member nominee will be invited on rotation basis to all meetings with dignitaries (govt., international bodies, international delegations –inbound/outbound).
4. Invitation for general body meeting to be held annually.
5. Invitation to join physically/virtually for all meetings to discuss recommendation for various policies and other initiatives to be taken up by IDAC.
6. At least one meeting will be held in each quarter as well as multiple webinars.
7. Publication of all members in directory.
8. One vote for selection of office bearer after first term of 5 years.

3. Corporate Membership :
(INR 01 lac each, Annual fee INR 30,000)

1. Invitation for general body meeting to be held annually.
2. Invitation to join physically/virtually for all meetings to discuss recommendation for various policies and other initiatives to be taken up by IDAC.
3. At least one meeting will be held in each quarter as well as multiple webinars.
4. Publication of all members in directory.
5. One vote for selection of office bearer after first term of 5 years.

4. Ordinary Membership :
(INR 20,000 each. Annual fee INR 5,000)

1. Invite to General Body Meeting
2. Virtual joining of all IDAC meetings
3. Listing on the IDAC Website
4. Receiving quarterly Newsletter

ABOUT ICFA :

Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture is the apex body in India, working on business, policy and development agenda and serving as global platform for trade facilitation, partnerships, technology and agribusiness services towards empowering Indian farmers. A proactive approach helps ICFA in discerning critical challenges emerging in Indian agriculture along with creating opportunities for development, value addition and trade to accelerate growth in food and agriculture sector.

With its 27 industry Working Groups and sector specific Business Councils, ICFA represents the interests of key stakeholders at the national level and through its international platforms and partnerships, ICFA facilitates India's global engagement in food and agriculture sector. In a short period of five years, the Chamber has signed up MoUs nationally with APEDA, NIAM, NASSCOM, TERI etc. and internationally with the University of California, University of Maryland, Michigan State University, Iowa State University, Western Australia University, German Agribusiness Alliance, Borlaug Institute for South Asia, African Asian Rural Development Organization, Sociedad Rural Argentina (SRA), FAMATO, CCI Pau Bearn, France and IFPRI etc. Through international partnerships, ICFA envisions to mobilise technologies and investments that will catalyse agribusiness and agri start- ups. For meaningful engagement with the farmers, ICFA has also established All India Farmers Alliance (AIFA), a body representing 42 major farmers organisations.

ICFA PARTNERS

ICFA MEMBERS

For more information, please contact

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