WSIS Forum 2011: Open Consultations on Thematic Aspects and New Innovative Format

Review Meeting: Action Line C7 – e-Agriculture (Remote Intervention)

Last year’s collaborative effort between UNCTAD, ITC and FAO with support from several other key partners including, the Republic of the Maldives, Brazil Information Network for the Third Sector, CivicTEC, IICD, IFAD, and the World Summit Awards, combined the e-agriculture and e-business sessions to talk about ICTs and rural enterprise, and related policy challenges.

Based on the consistently positive feedback received, FAO is planning to again collaborate with UNCTAD to hold back-to-back action line facilitation sessions this year. Holding the e-agriculture and e-business sessions in tandem will allow for a more thorough analysis of the important role of ICT in development of improved livelihoods, and in creating entrepreneurial and business opportunities in agricultural and rural communities. These themes have reoccurred in several events organized in the past 12 months by GIZ (ex-GTZ), ICTD2010, FAO and others.

As mobile technology continues to occupy the minds of many in the ICT4D field, we proposed to focus on the issues where mobile technology is having particular impact in rural areas. Under consideration is a focus on mobile financial services and other inputs provided to the WSIS process.

We will also look to expand participation in the sessions through appropriate moderation in the room and by using social media to reach outside of room.

Thank you.

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