

Harnessing ICT to scale-up agricultural solutions: gender equality considerations

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Sustainable agriculture solutions have been heavily researched and field-tested in recent years. A vast array of solutions, like mobile money, farmer-field schools, cooperatives, radio education programmes, and fertilizer-minimization techniques, among others, have showed promise for improving the social and environmental sustainability of agriculture. But when it comes to uptake of these initiatives on a broad scale and at a farm level, these solutions have faced difficulties being implemented effectively and universally. The goal of my research is to examine what role ICT does and can play in more effectively scaling up agricultural solutions. Further, I will adopt a gender-responsive framework to take into account common barriers faced by women farmers in both agriculture and access to ICT.

This project fits into the thematic area of “New Technologies and Solutions for Development Practice” because it will survey a broad range of ICT-enabled scaling projects internationally, and identify success factors and lessons learnt from those programmes. Development practitioners, researchers, and other actors will be the main subjects targeted by surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews to gather these results. The project will also survey women farmers with and without access to ICT. Ultimately, the research and its recommendations should provide a valuable resource for the development community to use in better integrating ICT and gender equality to maximize agricultural scale up.