Why Do Foreign, Rural Areas Struggle to Implement Information and Communication Technology Programs?

What are Information and Communication Technology Programs?

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) programs are electronic systems used to send and receive educational information. ICT programs include:
- Software courses
- Online library databases
- Web-based forums
- Distance education programs

ICTs spread news at a faster pace than printed media, such as newspapers, magazines, and textbooks. Developing countries could use ICT programs to inform agriculturalists of updated farming techniques that could increase their profit.

How do literacy rates affect agriculturalists’ views of ICT programs?

A large amount of farmers are illiterate in developing countries. Researchers have shown that “the level of farmer’s literacy plays an influential role in the extent of his/her use of media available.” Without proper education, farmers struggle to transfer information. In addition, farmers often lack the knowledge to effectively use ICT programs.

How does reduced government funding reduce agricultural ICT programs?

In some developing countries, such as Turkey, governments have reduced financial aid to agriculturalists. It is more difficult for farmers to receive ICT information without proper funding and support. Furthermore, without governments spreading ICT awareness, individuals are left to establish these programs. Few farmers who have attempted to adopt ICT programs individually have been successful.

Why are farmers slowly adopting ICT programs?

Although ICT programs have financially helped farmers, developing areas hesitate to adopt them for several reasons. These obstacles include:
- Low literacy rates
- Decreased government funding
- Internet and computer accessibility and comprehension

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How does computer literacy and comprehension prevent farmers from using ICT programs?

- Many agriculturalists do not know how to operate a computer.
- ICT programs are not available to many farmers.
- The software’s material does not relate to the agriculturalists’ geographic area.
- Some ICT software are not “humanized,” or user-friendly; thus, farmers struggle to interpret them.
- Many rural areas lack the technical support needed to maintain ICT programs.
- Farmers simply cannot afford ICT programs.

How must agriculturalists and government change to increase ICT program usage?

To overcome the obstacles involving ICT programs, agriculturalists need to educate themselves as much as possible. Agriculturalists must show interest in updating their farming techniques and in ICT programs. Their increased interest could influence governments to introduce ICT programs in rural areas.

Governments must establish policies that encourage farmers to use ICT programs. Since most agriculturalists live in remote areas, governments must hire people to train and educate them.

Both agriculturalists and governments must work together for ICT programs to succeed. Their efforts could increase their profit, allowing them to trade internationally. ICT programs could resolve the economic gap between developed and developing countries.

References


