



Report on Indian Society of Extension Education National Seminar-2026 “*Digital Technologies for Sustainable Food Systems and Atmanirbhar Bharat*” held at Goa, India during 29-31 January, 2026

India stands at a pivotal juncture where agriculture must evolve beyond traditional paradigms to embrace intelligent technologies that can ensure sustainability, inclusivity, and enhanced productivity. Agricultural extension services, once reliant solely on human intermediaries and field demonstrations, now have the potential to be revolutionised through digital tools, AI-driven decision-making, precision agriculture, and Internet of Things (IoT) applications. However, integrating these technologies into extension education demands critical reflection, strategic policy design, and cross-sectoral collaboration.

The ISEE National Seminar 2026 on *Digital Technologies for Sustainable Food Systems and Atmanirbhar Bharat* aimed to bring together academia, research institutions, policymakers, grassroots practitioners, Agri Tech startups, and farmers to explore how intelligent technologies can meaningfully transform agricultural extension education and services was inaugurated by Shri **Digambar Kamat**, the Minister for Public Works (PWD) in Goa, on **January 29, 2026**. It recognises that while access to technologies has expanded, their effective use is hindered by digital divides, contextual misalignments, and knowledge asymmetries. The event focused not merely on showcasing innovations but on building inclusive, scalable models that connect traditional agricultural wisdom with contemporary digital tools. Organised in collaboration with University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad; Goa College of Agriculture, Goa; ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Bengaluru and Pune; Goa Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Panjim, Goa, and Centre For Multi-Disciplinary Development Research (CMDR), Dharwad, the seminar served as a vibrant platform for senior extension professionals, policy leaders, academicians, researchers, and students to deliberate on the transformative role of digital technologies in agriculture and allied sectors. The event witnessed keynote addresses, lead papers, oral and poster presentations reflecting strong engagement across generations of extension professionals. The seminar covered nine major themes and provided a platform for deliberations on the achievements and a way forward by more than 250 scientists and delegates during three-day deliberations. A total of 310 abstracts were received, which were published in the form of a book of abstracts containing 460 pages. The major take-home emerged from presentations and discussions:

Intelligent Technologies in Digital Extension for Next Generation Agriculture—Progress and Possibilities

The deliberations emphasized the growing potential of intelligent technologies in next-generation agriculture and underscored the need for systematic capacity building of extension personnel, along with effective integration of these intelligent systems within public extension institutions for wider reach and impact.

Digital Extension and Education to Empower Farmers for Atmanirbhar Bharat – Challenges and Opportunities

The discussions focused on key challenges such as digital literacy, access gaps, language localisation, and last-mile connectivity, while also exploring emerging opportunities in digital advisory services. The deliberations emphasised the need to strengthen digital extension curricula and promote blended advisory models combining digital and conventional approaches to enhance farmer empowerment and inclusiveness.

Digital Tools to Ensure Sustainable Food Systems—Opportunities and Challenges

The deliberations highlighted the role of digital tools in enhancing transparency, improving resource efficiency, and supporting sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices. The discussions emphasized the adoption of digital technologies for systematic monitoring and assessment of sustainability indicators across food systems.

Opportunities and Advances in Digital Extension and Education – Global and Local Experiences

The deliberations highlighted the diversity of global innovations and emphasized the importance of contextualizing and adapting these best practices to local agro-ecological conditions and socio-economic realities to enhance their effectiveness and scalability.

Digital Applications in Start-ups and Entrepreneurship Development for Atmanirbhar Bharat

With emphasis on agri-startups, incubation ecosystems, fintech innovations, agritech platforms, and market-linked digital solutions supporting entrepreneurship development, the deliberations

highlighted the growing role of digital applications in fostering innovation-led enterprises and underscored the importance of strengthening collaboration among academia, industry, and start-ups to promote rural entrepreneurship and contribute to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Gender Concerns in Application of Digital Tools – Achievements and Action Points

The discussions focused on issues related to digital inclusion of women farmers, access to digital devices, relevance of content, and skill development. The deliberations emphasized the need for gender-responsive digital extension strategies and targeted capacity-building programmes to ensure equitable access and effective use of digital technologies.

Intelligent Technologies and Sustainable Food Systems

Covering smart farming systems, data-driven planning approaches, and sustainability analytics for strengthening food systems, the deliberations highlighted the potential of intelligent technologies in improving efficiency, resilience, and sustainability across agricultural value chains, and emphasized the integration of these technologies for effective and sustainable food system management.

The deliberations further highlighted the role of digital climate advisory services, early warning systems, weather-based decision support tools, and carbon-smart practices in strengthening adaptation, mitigation, and risk management. The sessions also emphasized the importance of price forecasting, e-NAM, digital marketing platforms, blockchain, and real-time market information systems in enhancing farmers' market participation through reliable and transparent digital intelligence. Further, discussions on quality control and food safety underscored the use of digital traceability tools, sensors, block-chain, and ICT-enabled quality assurance systems to improve food safety standards, transparency, and consumer confidence across agri-food value chains.

The ISEE Awards

Various awards instituted by the Indian Society of Extension Education were conferred on the extension professionals/ educationists in recognition of their meritorious works & services to the following recipients:

Life Time Achievement Award

- Dr. S. Prabhu Kumar, Former Director, ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana

Dr. D. K. Mishra Memorial Award

- Dr. Sheikh N. Meera, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad

Dr. K. N. Singh Memorial Award

- Dr. R. Venkattakumar, Principal Scientist & Head, Division of Extension Systems Management (XSM), ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad

Dr. Y. P. Singh Memorial Award

- Dr. Milind C Ahire, Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, MPKV, Rahuri

- Dr. Joginder Singh Malik, Professor, Professor, Extension Education, CCSHAU, Hisar

Dr. O. P. Dahama Memorial Award

- Dr. Kalyan Ghadei Professor & Head, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Agricultural Extension Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi Uttar Pradesh
- Dr. Surya Rathore, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad

Dr. G. S. Vidyarthi Memorial Award

- Dr. Alok Kumar, Principal Scientist & Head, Division of Social Sciences, ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla-171001, H.P.

ISEE Fellow Award

- Dr. Umesh Ramkrishna Chinchmalatpure, Deputy Director, Directorate of Extension Education, Dr. Panjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola-444104, Maharashtra, India
- Dr. M. Ramasubramanian, Professor, Professor (Agricultural Extension), Nammazhvar Organic Farming Research Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore-641003
- Dr. Itigi Prabhakar, Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension), Department of Social and Allied Sciences, College of Horticulture, UHS Campus, GKVK Bengaluru-650056, Karnataka
- Prof. K. K. Jha, Professor & Head, Professor & Ex Head, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, SAS, Nagaland University.
- Dr. Patil Sandip Dhanaraj, Assistant Professor, Govt. College of Agriculture, Muktainagar, Tal. Muktainagar, Dist. Jalgaon-425306, MS, India
- Dr. S. R. Bishnoi, Scientist, ICAR Scientist, Agril. Extension, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
- Dr. Daya Ram, Professor (Extension Education) College of Agriculture Central Agricultural University, Imphal-795004 Manipur, India
- Dr. Brijesh Kumar Gupta, Assistant Professor (Senior Scale), Department of Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda-210001, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Dr. D. K. Bose, Principal Scientist, SHUATS, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Dr. P. K. Tiwari Assistant Professor, MBD CHRS, GPM Pin - 495117, Chhattisgarh
- Dr. D. Puthira Prathap, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension) #3, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore - 641 007, Tamil Nadu, India
- Dr. Vipan Kumar Rampal, Professor & Head, Department of Extension Education, PAU, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

Young Scientist Award

- Dr. Rahul Kumar Singh, SMS (Agril. Extension), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Varanasi-221307, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Dr. Anil Kumar Rohila, Assistant Professor (Agril. Extension Education), Extension Education Institute, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Nilokheri-132117, Haryana

- Dr. Moumita Dey Gupta, Programme Coordinator, and Subject Matter Specialist (Agricultural Extension), WBCADC Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonamukhi, Bankura-722202, West Bengal
- Dr. Pankaj Kumar Ojha, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda, Uttar Pradesh
- Dr. Usha Das, Scientist, Agricultural Extension, ICAR- Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal-132001, Haryana
- Dr. Satya Prakash, Associate Professor (Agril. Extension), Department of Agricultural Extension Education, PGCA, RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar
- Dr. Manohar Bhaurao Dhadwad, Associate Professor (Agril. Extension), Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, District Ahilyanagar-413722, Maharashtra, India
- Dr. Sujay B. Kademani, Scientist, ICAR, #507, ICAR-Indian institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, Garhkhatanga, Ring Road, Opp. Biodiversity Park, Ranchi-834003, Jharkhand
- Dr. Charudatt Dattatray Autade Assistant Professor (Deptt. of Ag Extn & Communication), Assistant Professor, Department of Agril. Extension and Communication, "Bharati Vidyapeeth's", Loknete Mohanrao Kadam College of Agriculture, Samsal-Hingangaon, Sangli, Maharashtra
- Dr. J. B. Dobariya, Senior Scientist and Head, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Navsari Agricultural University, Ahwa Road, NAU Campus, Waghai, Dist. Dangs,
- Dr. Dipika Hajong, Scientist Sr Scale, Scientist Senior Scale (Agricultural Extension) Division of TOT and Training, CAZRI Road, Jodhpur-342003, Rajasthan
- Dr. Sudhir Keshavrao Deshmukh, Subject Matter Specialist, Extension Education-KVK Washim, Mahananda Colony, Loni Road, Risod Tq. Risod Dist. Washim-444506, Maharashtra, India
- Dr. Jagdeesh Morya, Scientist, Scientist Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jhabua, RVSKVV, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India
- Dr. Surya Kanta Roy, Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, Bhumi Vihar Complex, 1st Cross Rd, GB Block, Sector 3, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700097, West Bengal
- Dr. (Smt) Geeta Singh, Scientist, Agril. Extension KVK, Dindori-481880, Madhya Pradesh, India
- Dr. Narendra Prasad, Subject Matter Specialist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shahjahanpur, Village & Post-Niyamatpur, Shahjahanpur-242001, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Dr. Sarvesh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Agril Extension, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

General impressions

The seminar was attended by students, researchers, academicians, scientists, extension professionals, NGOs, FPOs, financial institutions, research organizations and policy makers, etc. and overall the national seminar provided an excellent platform for extension professionals and professional engagements who came from all over the country. The presence of Dr. Ashok Dalwai, former CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, MOA & FW, GoI, Dr. Ranjay Kumar Singh, ADG (Agril Extension), Dr. V. V. Sadamate (former advisor, Planning Commission), Dr. M. M. Adhikary, Dr. G. Eswarappa, Dr. Veerbhadaria, Dr. P. L. Patil (VC, UAS Dharwad), Dr. U. S. Gautam (Former DDG and President, ISEE), and Ms. Pratima Dhond (President, GCCCI), Dr Mahesh Patil, Chairman of Agri and Food Committee helped to shape the seminar proceedings. Important issues for professional improvement were deliberated in the Annual General Body Meeting held on 29.01.2026 evening, and the decisions that would further strengthen the ISEE functioning were arrived at.

Best KVK Scientist Award

- Dr. G. Prasad Babu, Sr Scientist & Head, Senior Scientist & Head ICAR-NIRCA-Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Kandukur Prakasam Dist-523105, Andhra Pradesh
- Dr. Vairagar Vishal Gulab, Sr Scientist & Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Mohol Tal Mohol Dist Solapur-413213, Maharashtra, India