

# Report on the World Summit on the Information Society Stocktaking 2012



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In **India**, the *Rural Technology and Business Incubator (RTBI)* enables capacity building for people at the bottom of the social pyramid and in underserved areas, by supporting socially and rurally inclusive startups. Prior experience is not always available in these segments of the population, so in order to foster rural/social inclusion RTBI also undertakes various exploratory trials, pre-incubation experiments and business and field trials, as well as technology innovation work in the areas of agriculture, financial inclusion, healthcare, energy, and such like. Development and prototyping of relevant, low-cost technologies is a core value that RTBI brings to its companies. Initiated and coordinated by ICVolunteers, the *E-TIC.net* project aims to provide tools and training components to make small farmers, herders and fishermen better able to sell their products. Through the creation of this portal and a series of training courses for field connectors (youth, women, community radio journalists), the E-TIC project aims to provide relevant knowledge for efficient and effective farm management.

In **India**, the government has developed plans to take ICT to rural areas through *common service centres (CSCs)*. CSCs are part of the *National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)*, with the following purposes:

- CSCs are envisioned as the front-end delivery points for government, private-sector and social-sector services to rural citizens of India.
- The idea is to develop a platform that can enable government, private-sector and social-sector organizations to integrate their social and commercial goals for the benefit of rural populations in the remotest corners of the country, through a combination of IT as well as non-IT services.
- The CSC concept is a strategic cornerstone of the NeGP, approved by the government in May 2006, as part of its commitment under the National Common Minimum Programme to introduce e-governance on a massive scale.
- CSCs would provide high-quality and cost-effective video, voice and data content and services, in the areas of e-governance, education, health, telemedicine and entertainment, as well as other private services.

A highlight of CSCs is that they will offer web-enabled e-governance services in rural areas, including application forms, certificates and utility payments such as electricity, telephone and water bills, etc. The government of Karnataka's vision for the CSC project is that the IT-enabled government services should be accessible to the common citizen in his/her village, through efficient, transparent, reliable and affordable means.

In **India**, *e-Agri Kiosk* has created a touchscreen kiosk for farm technology transfer among tribal farmers in the north-east Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The project's mission is to disseminate advanced technologies and information in agriculture and allied sectors through touchscreen kiosks. The proposed touchscreen kiosk provides a flexible means of supplying information on various farming practices, including crops, commodities and enterprises. It makes technical agricultural information accessible without disrupting the routine work of farmers in their daily farm activities.

In **India**, *mobile voice-based social media and information services* have been launched by *Awaaz.De*. *Awaaz.De* (which means "Give Voice") connects people to information using voice applications over mobile phones, targeting rural, remote and/or marginalized people who have low incomes, lack Internet access, speak local languages and lack literacy skills. People access *Awaaz.De* applications by dialing phone numbers to create, browse and share voice content through automated voice interfaces.

In **India**, Video Volunteers, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), has introduced a *sustainable community media research programme*. The programme is aimed at developing a business model which can be followed by various community video units (CVUs) in order to attain financial sustainability. IIM's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) and Video Volunteers are working to create business models, explore methods and design plans to help community media reach high levels of sustainability. The programme also aims to explore the possibility of generating revenue through the mainstream media, collaboration with other NGOs, and how such community video businesses can be supported by micro credit lending.