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"Integrated e-learning course for SMEs and trainers of Post Harvest Technology focused on improved marketability of indigenous, tropical and subtropical, fruits and vegetables"

Research Training Workshop on Facilitating uptake by SMEs of Research on New Processing Technologies for Underutilised Fruits. 13^{to} 15^{to} May, 2013, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradentya, Sri Lanka

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E-Learning Platforms to Manage Training

- E-Learning ideally complements the classical teaching methodology by providing :
 - interactivity
 - evaluation and feedback capabilities, and
 - integration of multiple media formats (animation, video, audio, interactive activities, etc.).

AMITY UNIVERSITY	Traditional and E-learning approaches			
	Traditional Classroom	E-Learning		
Classroom	 Physical – limited size Synchronous 	UnlimitedAnytime, anywhere		
Content	PowerPoint/transparency/ etc Textbooks/library Video Collaboration	Multimedia / simulation Digital library On demand Syn & Asyn. Communication		
Personalisation	One learning path	Learning path and pace determined by the learner		

	Objectives			
•Testing the Integrated Po •Designing, c system for th greater sprea •Disseminatio tools and hur knowledge m rural sector	applicability of the e-learning model in the st Harvest Management. development, and implementation of e-learning le SMEs and farm trainers laying emphasis on d and use of technologies in everyday life on of technology through the integrated system of man mind in implementing the overall process of lanagement in the organizational context of the			
 Creation of technology fo of production 	network for training of farmers by transfer of r increasing market share and reduction of cost and including 100% utilization of the produce.			





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Methodology

Prepare modules and evaluation sheets :The technology will be applicable for settings as diverse as training courses, applications/ procedures, knowledge management systems, Synchronous communication platforms based on videoconferencing, collaborative applications, etc,

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M - 1 : Importance of post harvest management in reduction of food loss.
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- M 2 : Concept of Harvesting of fruit and vegetables
- M 3 : Perishable nature of indigenous fruits and vegetables
- M 4 : Integrated Post Harvest Management
- M 5 : Low Cost Techniques of Preservation of fruits and vegetables
- M 6 : Utilization of fruit and vegetable waste
- M 7 : Marketing practices
- M 8 : Evaluation/assessment and Conclusion

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Online Forum

- Synchronous discussions
- Group discussions
- · Questions for entrepreneurs to comment
- Community participation
- Collaborative learning
- · Feedback from diverse culture

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WEB

- Wide range of available teaching resources
- · Sharing of resources supported by
 - images,
 - audio,
 - simulation and
 - multimedia

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Video Conference

- · Live lecture supported by audio, chat and whiteboard
- Communication with entrepreneur /trainers
- · Sharing of applications
- · Recordable and reusable lectures
- Demo

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Many of the issues and challenges associated with elearning is lack of good monitoring and evaluation tools and processes.
- Often quantitative data related to infrastructure are emphasized rather than data that can help the impact of elearning interventions on the farm trainers/SMEs.
- If e-learning has to become effective, an integral tool is accountability.
- Therefore, in the project ,the best way to manage resource usage on an ongoing basis is to have a time-sheeting system.
- Resource usage will be monitored on a weekly/monthly/ quarterly basis by using online time-sheet system at specific task levels.

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Sustainability of the action:

- This project would result in the implementation of a set of postharvest technologies that will be cost effective and appropriate for reducing losses by keeping perishable produce fresh in case of indigenous fruits and vegetables for longer period or processing them into durable products to fetch a better return.
- An integrated post harvest management approach will achieve for the target population
 - (i) Better market access
 - (ii) Nutrition Security
 - (iii) Poverty alleviation
 - (iv) Employment generation
 - (v) Environment protection
 - (vi) Economic transformation of rural population.
- In fact, every farmer can utilize a substantial amount of indigenous fruits and vegetables by adopting simple techniques of storage, preservation and processing to uplift their livelihood.

SNo	Activity	Location	Foreign	No. Of	Host	Local	Training
			Resource Persons	Training in a Year	country Resource Persons	Participan ts	groups
1	Training – cum Workshop – (3 Days)	India	4 (2 each from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh)	2	8	50	2 groups (25 In each group)
2	Training – cum Workshop – (3 Days)	Sri Lanka	4 (2 each from Bangladesh and India)	1	0	50	2 groups (25 In each group)
3	Training – cum Workshop – (3 Days)	Bangladesh	4 (2 each from Sri Lanka and India)	1	0	50	2 groups (25 Ir each group)
4.	3 -day Conference- cum-Seminar	India	4 (2 each from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh)	0	10	75	0
5	Reporting, Monitoring	and Evaluation					



