

Key Lessons for MIS from the CTA Conference on “Role of Information Tools in Food and Nutrition Security in ACP Countries”

Maputo, 8-12 November 2004

Market Information Systems (MIS)

- Role and importance of ICM highlighted
- MIS are necessary accompanying measure to market liberalization
- The challenge is high start-up cost and sustainability

Information and communication tools: key issues

- Challenge: to improve access of rural people to information and communication tools
- Great need for more:
 - hardware (infrastructure) and software (skills upgrading-capacity building)
 - a conducive policy environment needed for all players (govt, NGOs, private sector and farmers)

Information and communication tools: key issues

- Rural radio will remain the major tool for a long time
 - decentralized
 - local language
 - responsive to local needs
- Modern ICT tools do not substitute for conventional communication tools
- Recommendation: encourage community participation in data collection and processing

Conference's Findings on MIS

- Too much classified information, too much raw data, not packaged for use and communication
- National market information came up as very important
- Information on nutritional value of local foods unknown
- Local/household: all information needs to be made available to policy makers, but in a useable form

Conference's Findings on MIS

- Information needs to be packaged in a usable form for dissemination: this requires a special skill
- Priority information needs relate to:
 - market information
 - agriculture policies
 - weather information
 - access to services