



KISSAN Kerala Project gets 'Honorable Mention' at Stockholm Challenge Award 2010

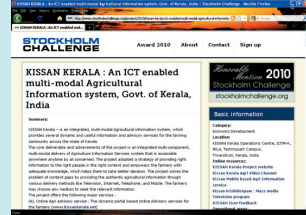
KISSAN Kerala Project - A leading farmer centric agricultural information system of Kerala has received an "Honorable Mention" in the Prestigious Global Stockholm Challenge Awards 2010. The Stockholm Challenge Award, instituted in 1994 at Stockholm, Sweden, is considered to be the highest recognition in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives worldwide.

A total of 290 projects from 90 countries were competed for the prestigious Award under six categories. KISSAN Kerala project was the finalist under the category Economic Development and has received the first "Honorable Mention" in this category.

The projects were independently evaluated by 11 member Jury chaired by Prof. Bebo White, from Stanford University and has made excellent comment that this project has been a great success in using ICT based information services to the farming community. The project has selected for its successful integration of various technologies like Television, Internet, Telephone and

mobile-based technology for delivering useful agricultural services and information to the farming.

The Jury comment "Kissan Kerala is a very nice and useful project, adding value to the local economy. It is lined



up with the successful developmental approaches of the Kerala government . It provides comprehensive and useful agricultural information to farmer and her / his business. Kissan Kerala has a plan and a vision. They are based on the concept of linking the needs of the end user, that is the farmer. It empowers the farmers because it provides the needed knowledge to enhance production and manage market relations. Very

direct, very useful. This is what is needed." More details are available at www.stockholmchallenge.org

KISSAN-Kerala is an integrated, multi-modal agricultural information system, has conceptualized, implemented and coordinated by Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K) for the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala. The project was formally launched on 2003 and has been providing several dynamic and useful information and advisory services for the farming community in Kerala. It is one of the leading citizen-centric e-governance projects of the Department of Agriculture. The dynamic portal based advisory

services (www.kissankerala.net) have become a major hit for the farmers. The Krishideepam, the leading agricultural based television program through Asianet Channel has completed the 357 weekly episodes from the last 8 years. The project has also launched the countries first online video channel in Agriculture in collaboration with Google (www.youtube.com/kissankerala) . The project also offers telephonic and mobile based crop advisory and information service for the farming community.

During the year 2009 and 2008, the project bagged the Kerala State E-governance Award, e-India National Award and South Asian Manthan Award.

Software Training on Soil Health Nutrient Management System for Agricultural Scientists

IIITM-K conducted training on Soil Health Nutrient Management System for the agricultural scientists on 26th November. Around 35 scientists from District soil testing laboratories, ICAR institutions, KVK's and other participating institutions have attended the training. Soil Health Nutrient Management System is one of the newly developed Decision Support system developed by the Agri Informatics Division to provide accurate and locations specific fertiliser recommendations and soil nutrient advisory services for the farmers based on the soil condition. The training sessions was inaugurated by Dr. K.M. Nair-NBSS-LUP, chief Investigator of the Project and facilitated by Dr. P.Rajasekharan, Agri Chief Planning Board, Dr. Suresh Kumar and Dr. Narayankutty from Kerala Agricultural University. The software training and technical sessions were lead by Sri. R. Ajith Kumar, Dr. S. Rajan and Naveen Leno from IIITM-Kerala.



IIITM-K Sets Record for TCS Placement

IIITM-K students have received attractive placement offers from TCS during campus interviews held last week. It is a moment of celebrating the success, placing 70% of the students who appeared for TCS interview got selected. The recruitment was held for Master of Science in IT during campus interview held between 2nd and 3rd Dec 2010. The offer package is for Rs 3.5 lakhs.

This was the first campus interview for the first batch of the M.Sc (IT) programme of IIITM-K, accredited CUSAT. Students from IIITM-K performed exceptionally well in the recruitment process and TCS had all praise for the quality of students passing out of IIITM-K.

In a letter to addressed to the Institute Brinda Rani, Assistant GM – HR, TCS expressed the honour for TCS at being provided the status being the 'First Company' to recruit the students from the batch of students graduating in 2011. IIITM-K is also rated A+ by TCS for recruitment.

The following students from IIITM-K have been selected by TCS in IT services and ITES categories. 1. Vipinkumar U V 2. Anju Sarah Kuruvilla 3. Binu Thampy 4. Aruna Babu 5. Snehlata 6. Parvathy Das S 7. Anu Serene George 8. Abhishek Singh 9. Sibimon Sasidharan 10. Dinesh V 11. Vishnu Priya V. H 12. Nithin Bose 13. Mahesh Kumar V 14. Ajitha A .

IIITM-K participates in ICT summit 2010 organised by CII

IIITM-K delegation lead by Dr. Elizabeth Sherly, Director, IIITM-K, Sri. Jayachandran M.B, Sri. David Mathews and Sri. Merajuddin and PGDeG students G.Prassana Kumar and Satyabrat Das from IIITM-K attended the India ICT summit 2010 - 'Changing Role of Indian IT Industry - Partnering for Transformation' organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) from December 14-15, 2010 at Hotel Le Meridian in Kochi.

Discussion with IIITM-K Faculty Telecast on the National Channel

Dr. R. Jaishanker, Assistant Professor, and Coordinator, Ecological Informatics at IIITM-K was a panelist in the discussions on Human Induced Environmental problems telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram on 18 September 2010 in Paryavaran Darshan slot. During the discussions, Dr. Jaishanker highlighted the need to concentrate on the root cause of human induced environmental problems than addressing symptoms independently.

Sri. Saroj Kumar V., participated as a subject expert in the programme on Medicinal plants cultivation in Krishidarshan Live in Programme on 24/09/2010 at Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum.

Visitors Prof. Ken Konhill, Associate Professor, Co-Director, Parliamentary Studies Unit, and Director, Monash Governance Research visited IIITM-K on Dec.15,2010 and had discussions with IIITM-K Faculty and Students. In his



note, he indicated that he was very impressed in what it has done in such a short time and in its development and expansion plans. In the discussion with Faculty of IIITM-K, explored the possibilities of collaborations of interested areas with Monash University and also Students exchange programme.

Invited Talks Sri.Radhakrishnan, Chief Technology Officer at IIITM-K delivered a talk on *Open GIS* at a "One-day National Workshop on GIS for Better e-Governance" jointly organized by C-DIT, Kerala Land Information Mission, National Rural Health Mission and Kerala State IT Mission at Thiruvananthapuram on 30-11-2010. The talk emphasized the need for the availability of dynamic geographical information for efficient planning and decision-making in e-Governance. The Web GIS technology will not only facilitate dissemination of dynamic geodata but also allows virtual integration of dynamic information from multiple sources.



Seminars



December 12, 2010: Sri. Vikas Kanungo, Chairman & Secretary General, The Society for Promotion of e-Governance (SPeG), India gave seminar on *Understanding e-Government* to the Postgraduate Diploma in e-Governance students.

Publications

Dr. T. K. Manojkumar, Assistant Professor, IIITM-K (Collaborative publications)

1. Spectroscopic investigations and computational study of 4-(3-bromopropyl)-4-azacyclo [5.2.2.0 2,6]undecane-3,5,8-trione, *Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy*, 76, (2010) 513 .
2. FT-IR and FT-Raman study of Nasicon type phosphates, $AsNFe(PO_4)_3 [A = Na_2, Ca, Cd]$ *Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy*, (In Press) .
3. Multiple Analyte Response and Molecular Logic Operations by Excited-State Charge-Transfer Modulation in a Bipyridine Integrated Fluorophore. *Chemistry: An Asian Journal* (In Press)