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Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya Training Manual

4.1 MODULE 1

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) refers to a diverse set of technological tools and resources used to create, transmit, store, and share or exchange information. The currently available ICT tools enable the collection of data, organization, processing and analysis of the data into information. The old adage that you cannot manage what you cannot measure is true, and hence measurements produce data. It is however important to understand that ICT tools are not deployed haphazardly without careful consideration of expected outcomes. All ICT systems are therefore driven by data which when well exploited provides evidence to guide informed decision-making and ultimately better outcomes. If an ICT system does not contribute to these outcomes, then it is better to avoid it altogether. In much the same way that railroads and canals dominated the nineteenth century, and roads and electricity dominated the twentieth century, ICT has become ubiquitous in the twenty-first century. Data has therefore become a necessity in people's lives. The ICT tools are no longer independent but are embedded in everything because everyone is an ICT user in one way or another. This is also true in the rehabilitation and restoration of livelihoods and ecosystems that have been degraded or devastated by calamities.