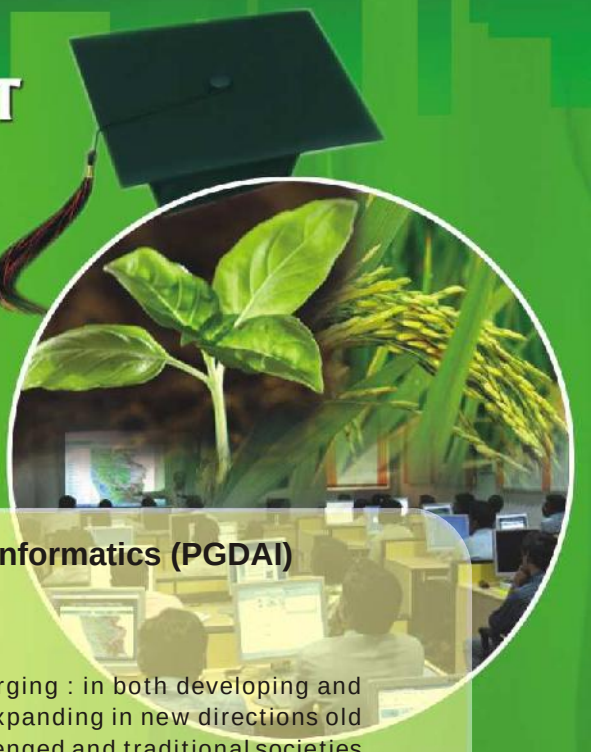
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT - KERALA

(An Autonomous Institution Established by the Govt.of Kerala)

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATICS (PGDAI)

please visit: www.iiitmk.ac.in/agris



About Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Informatics (PGDAI)

Introduction

Today a new paradigm of agricultural development is fast emerging : in both developing and developed countries the overall development of rural areas is expanding in new directions old ways of delivering important services to citizens are being challenged and traditional societies are being transformed into knowledge societies all over the world. The report of the ?Task Force on India as Knowledge Superpower (GOI, 2001) emphasized the necessity of developing the capacity to generate, absorb, disseminate and protect knowledge and exploit it as a powerful tool to derive societal transformation. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is seen as an important means of achieving such a transformation.

When used as a broad tool for providing local farming communities with scientific knowledge, ICT heralds the formation of knowledge societies in the rural areas of the developing world. However, this can only be realized when knowledge and information are effectively harvested for overall agricultural and rural development. The development of precision farming in countries of the North emphasizes knowledge-intensity hence the agricultural paradigm in the developing world will have to be recast to take advantage of knowledge availability to achieve multiple goals: of income, food, jobs, etc. ICT has a significant role to perform in evolving such a paradigm, as was evident from the Interdisciplinary Dialogue on IT: Reaching the Unreached (Swaminathan MS, 1993). The role of ICT to enhance food security and agricultural livelihoods are widely recognized and discussed world over. This includes the use of computers, Internet, Geographical Information Systems, mobile phones, as well as traditional media such as radio or

Convergence of ICT with Agricultural development

Agricultural extension activities; developing farming system, research and extension having location-specific modules of research and extension and promoting market extension, sustainable agricultural development, participatory research, etc. are some of the numerous areas where ICT can play an important role. Several research studies conducted on extension organisations have revealed that the delivery of goods is effective when the grass roots extension worker covers a small area of jurisdiction, with multiple purposes (broad basing).
The existing system of large jurisdictions, each with a narrow range of activities, is less effective. However, broad basing requires grass roots workers to be at the cutting edge of extension and master of many trades, which is not really possible. ICT can help here, by enabling extension workers to gather, store,

retrieve and disseminate a broad range of information needed by farmers, thus transforming them from extension workers into knowledge workers. The emergence of such knowledge workers will result in the realisation of the much talked about bottom-up, demand driven technology generation, assessment, refinement and transfer. ICT helps the extension system in re-orienting itself towards the overall agricultural development of small production systems. With the appropriate knowledge, small-scale producers can even have a competitive edge over larger operations.

Objective of the course

The objective of this course is

1. To impart conceptual, theoretical and applied knowledge of Information Technology, Management, Informatics, and Agriculture

2. To impart sound knowledge in Science, Technology and Management related to Agriculture Information Systems and their applications in relevant fields with the latest technology and tools.

3. To cater the needs of industry, research, extension and scientific organizations in global era in emerging field of Agri Informatics and related areas.

3. Generating human resources with the right skills, knowledge, aptitude and leadership qualities for effective the effective design and implementation of ICT enabled agricultural production and extension services for the country

4. Conceptualization of ideas and development of various e-enabled agri information services, systems and process for improving the agricultural production and marketing system

5. To broaden the scope of Agri e-extension services in the country

About the Program

The Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Informatics programme aims at high standards in Information Technology, Information Systems, ICT enabled Agricultural Production/Extension Systems, Management and focuses on capacity building in Agricultural production and Extension through developing foundations in Information Technology, Information management, Media communication and Managerial Skills.

The duration of the programme is one year and the courses are carefully designed to attain both technical and managerial aspects, which enable them to grow into competent professionals. There are 10 core courses spread across 2 semesters accumulating 35 credits. Students are also required to take up 3 electives of 9 credits and the total requirement of credit is 50. As part of the course the candidates are required to undertake a project work in the final semester in any allied departments, Organizations within or outside the state including leading R&D organizations of 6 credits. The programme also includes lab sessions, field trips, visits and managerial skills development.

Salient Features of the program

1. The Students are selected through competitive entrance examinations and followed by an interview at IIITM-K

2. Students will be provided with 24x 7 lab with high-end network, high speed internet and software services

3. Active involvement with live project development exposure through Agri informatics Projects of IIITM-K.

4. Curriculum is designed carefully by eminent scientists and academicians, Government and IT industry with fully

Customized syllabus, covering basics and advanced levels with cutting edge technologies and also orient them more into the understanding of ICT enabled agricultural information services and Projects

5. Field visits/Trips/ organizational visits to familiarize the participants with e-extension projects in the country

6. Faculty are drawn from leading research and academic organizations, who are highly competent, recognized and proven track record of implementing such high value Agri Informatics Projects in the country.

7. Equipped with IIITM-K`s web based e-learning tools and pedagogy model for learning, Technology Enhanced Learning and Teaching (TELT)

8. Exchange of Information using virtual teamwork, and online collaboration and community interaction tools

9. Supported with Learning Management System, Digital Library, Multi media based video lectures, and Wiki for open content generation

10. Training is held in IIITM-K, Technopark, with state of the art Agri Informatics laboratories like advanced GIS lab, Digital Video/Audio Production Studio, Information Systems and Content Development labs which provides ample opportunity for the participants to work with various developments.

Program Syllabus

Core Courses

There are 10 core course and the students have to earn 35 credits from the following core courses:

- AI1C1: Fundamentals of Agricultural Information and Communication Management
- AI1C2: Introduction to Information Technology and Information Systems
- AI1C3: Agricultural Extension Strategies and cyber extension
- AI1C4: Managerial Economics and Statistical methods in Agriculture
- AI1C5: Geo Informatics and Remote Sensing Applications in Agriculture
- AI1C6: Database Management Systems
- AI1C7: Principles of Agri Business Management
- AI2C1: Fundamentals of Programming and Web Technology
- AI2C2: Agri Journalism and Mass Media Communication
- AI2C3: Advanced Project Management

Elective Courses

The student is required to earn at least 9 credits in 3 Elective courses from the following list of courses:

- AI1E1: Expert Systems and Decision Support Systems
- AI1E2: Precision-farming Techniques
- AI1E3: Media Journalism and Digital Audio/Video production
- AI1E4: Entrepreneurship Development

- AI1E5: Datamining
- AI1E6 : ERP

Internship/Project

Students have to carry out their internship project in any reputed academic/research institutes or Government departments or organization or industry. The internship project aims at giving the student an opportunity to participate and work in a substantive project activity. The students may also get a chance to work with any of eh Agri informatics projects of the institute. The project is worth 6 credits.

Semester wise Break up of Courses

Semester : I

Sl. No	Course Code	Course Title
1	AI1C1	Fundamentals of Agri. Information and Communication Management
2	AI1C2	Introduction to IT and IS
3	AI1C3	Agricultural Extension Strategies and cyber extension
4	AI1C4	Managerial Economics and Statistical methods
5	AI1C5	Geo Informatics and Remote Sensing Applications in Agriculture
6	AI1C6	Database Management Systems
7	AI1C7	Principles of Agri Business Management
8	AIXXX	Elective 1

Semester : II

Sl. No	Course Code	Course Title
1	AI1C1	Fundamentals of Programming and Web Technology
2	AI1C2	Agri Journalism and Mass Media Communication
3	AI1C3	Advanced Project Management
4	AIXXX	Elective - I
5	AIXXX	Elective - II
6	AIXXX	Internship Project

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Employment Opportunities

The interface between agriculture and industry has become more intense. Hence, agri-informatics and agri business management has emerged as a major attraction for those seeking to join in this stream

The policies of globalisation and liberalisation have also contributed to the significance of this specialized stream, because they have renewed the interest in agri-business and in international trade in agriculture.

As per reports, only 500 Master of Business Administration seats are now available in the country in agri-business management, though about 10,000 agricultural graduates pass out from the various State agricultural universities and institutions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) every year. (Report Source Hindu)
There are high demand for the agricultural graduates with techno-management skills. Several national and international agencies like FAO, USDA are looking for candidates with right mix of technology skills and managerial skill to manage their activities. Major Nationised banks and financial institutions in the country recruits agricultural graduates with adequate technology skills.
The spurt in government support for export of agri - products has evoked considerable interest among the large business houses which have worked out agreements for technology transfer, marketing tie - ups, and management and trading contacts with leading foreign counterparts.

Many agro based industries are moving towards precision farming and hightech agriculture. It requires ICT enabled knowledge and skills to manage such farms.

Eligibility for Application

Entry-level requirement of this course is
First class or equivalent professional Bachelors Degree (BSc) in Agriculture/ Horticulture/Sericulture/Forestry/Co-operation and Banking

OR

First Class or equivalent professional Bachelors Degree (BVSc/BFSc) in Fisheries/ Animal Sciences/veterinary/ Diary Sciences

OR

First Class or equivalent professional Bachelors Degree (BTech/MBA) in Agricultural Engineering/Diarying/ Food Sciences/ Food processing /Agri Business Management

OR

Masters Degree (MSc) in Botany/Zoology/Biotechnology with adequate knowledge in the application of ICT/Information Systems and Internet based applications.

Selection Process

The Students shall be selected through an entrance examination conducted by IIITM-K followed by an interview. The total intake of the programme is 40 of which 20 are from open quota. 15 seats are reserved for the extension officers officers working in Government Departments like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Diary and allied sectors. Reservation of seats for SC/ST applicable as per government rules.

5 seats a reserved for Sponsored Category : Interested agricultural related organizations, NGO`s, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments, Private Organizations may sponsor their employees. For those sponsored candidates, only interview may be conducted.

Course Faculty

All the core and visiting faculty members of the programme have been carefully chosen from various National and International Organisations of repute, Academia and Research organisations, Government Department and Industry with several years of experience, quality of instruction, proven track record in implementation of various ICT enabled systems. The students here are hence exposed to the best learning environment. Besides the faculty, institute has several competent senior academic and technical staff with considerable experience in the design, development and management of Agri Informatics, Information Systems and e-Governance related projects.

Apart from the core and visiting faculty, several expert scientists from leading National organizations like Indian Council of Agricultural organization (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities, research laboratories International Developmental Organizations, Experts from Rural Development organizations, media journalists, also be actively involved in teaching and share their their experience. Students will also get exposure to learn from some of the leading National and International leaders and their award winning projects in Application of ICT in the area of Agriculture and Rural Development.

F e e

Course Fee

The programme fee is Rs. 75,000/-. For open candidates this may be paid in two installments of Rs. 37,500 at the time of admission and Rs. 37500 at the beginning of second semester. There is also a refundable caution deposit of Rs. 5000

Application Fee

The application fee for the program is Rs. 250 (non-refundable) drawn as Demand Draft in favour of Director, IIITM-K, payable at Thiruvananthapuram. All category of applicants need to pay the fee.

Certification of PG Diploma

The Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Informatics (PGDAI) is awarded by Directorate of Technical Education, Government of Kerala.

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How to Apply : Application process

How to Apply

The applications are received only through online. The candidates are requested to fill all the relevant fields in the online application form. Please read the instructions before filling up the online application

please visit: www.iiitmk.ac.in/agris

Open candidates

Attach copies of relevant certificates and the demand draft and send the application form to "The Program Co-ordinator- Agri Informatics, IIITM-K, NILA Building, Technopark, Karyavatom PO, Thiruvananthapuram - 695581" on or before : 2010.

Government Officers

Attach copies of relevant certificates, the demand draft and NOC in the prescribed format from the Departments and send the application form to "The Program Co-ordinator- Agri Informatics, IIITM-K, NILA Building, Technopark, Karyavatom PO, Thiruvananthapuram - 695581" on or before : 2010.

Sponsored Candidates (Research, Central, State Govt., Public Sector, Banks and Private Organizations)

Attach copies of relevant certificates, the demand draft and consent from the sponsor and send the application form to "The Program Co-ordinator- Agri Informatics, IIITM-K, NILA Building, Technopark, Karyavatom PO, Thiruvananthapuram - 695581" on or before : 2010. However candidates could send the advance copy in case of delay in getting the sponsorship formalities.

Online application will be processed further only after receiving the printed application duly signed along with all enclosures as described above on or before the last date (31-1-2011) at IIITM-K. Any further claim in this regard will not be considered.