Mobile Application for Safflower technology transfer

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ABSTRACT

Safflower (Carthamus tinctorius L) is an important rabi oilseed crops of the country with its superior adaptability to scanty moisture conditions and produces oil rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids (linoleic acid 78%) which play an important role in reducing the blood cholesterol level. The productivity of the crop is low compared to the production potential. Information and communication technologies brought significant change in agriculture development. Among the ICTs Mobile technologies has better access to provide more information to the stakeholders. Towards this direction for effective technology transfer of safflower an Andrioid based mobile application "ICAR IIOR SAFFLOWER" MOBILE APP was developed at ICAR-IIOR. This APP supports English language and is available in Google play store.

Key Words: Mobile APP, Safflower, ICTs, Android

INTRODUCTION

The information and communication technologies (ICTs) brought significant changes in agriculture development and transfer information and knowledge through various technologies among farmers. ICTs are integrated with different devices such as computer, internet, mobile phones, television and radio for dissemination of information Chhachhar,, 2013 etal.,). Among the ICTs available Mobile technology provide new approach to the farmers which have the potential to offer better service that can be used to better access to the information. The mobile phones are multifunctional devices – doing much more than simply to send and receive voice calls. Technologies such as voice and SMS platforms, custom made mobile/web applications, social media platforms can offer better services to the farmers. The major benefit of using mobile phones is that they can be used as platform for exchanging the information through calling, accessing the mobile application installed in the mobile(Patel and Patel, 2016 etal).

India stands in first place in terms of safflower area and production in the world with an area of 0.82 lakh ha and production 0f 0.55 lakh tonnes (2017-18). It is mainly grown in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. Poor crop management under input starved conditions is the most important reason for low productivity. To increase

the productivity and to provide the timely information to the stake holders an initiative was taken by ICAR-IIOR, to develop a mobile app on safflower production technologies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

ICAR IIOR Safflower Mobile APP was developed by ICAR-IIOR to provide information on the safflower technologies to the stake holders. The information on different aspects of safflower viz., General information, Agronomic Practices, Preferred cultivars, cropping systems, insect pests, disease's, aicrp centres and commodity markets was compiled and categorised into major chapters with sub-topics within each. The APP is developed in English and works both online and offline mode. Once the APP is installed in the mobile the end user can retrieve the information of the choice any time.

SPECIFICATIONS

ICAR-IIOR Safflower Mobile App is developed using the open source software Android Studio which is a stack of software components which is roughly divided into five sections like Applications, Application Framework, Libraries, Android Runtime, Linux Kernel and four main layers. It uses Java development tools for coding. Once the application is developed it can be tested using virtual Android device and the functionality of the App is tested before publishing. Once the application is completed and tested it can be published in the Google play store which facilitates the stake holders to download any time.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Safflower Mobile App provides information on the aspects like General Information, Agronomic Practices, Preferred Cultivars, Insect Pests, Diseases, AICRP Centres and Commodity markets. The App can be downloaded from google play store and can be installed in the mobile and can accessed at any point of time.

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