Using technology to expand learning: helping farmers prosper

Abstract
The Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty and hunger is the focus for the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). COL operates on the principle that a massive expansion of learning is a requirement for achieving this and other MDGs. However, learning needs are so massive that conventional face-to-face instruction cannot address the scale of the challenge. There are simply not enough teachers and agricultural extension workers to go around. COL believes that using technology is the way to expand learning. Technology has already transformed most aspects of life, including agriculture. It is time to apply it to learning.

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Subject
Agriculture
Lifelong Learning
Educational Technology

URI
http://hdl.handle.net/11599/257

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Besides, technology helps using document sharing, discussion forms, and blogs, using video or micro-blogs to improve adult learning functions. However, as mentioned before, digital technologies offer new social activities and new opportunities for individuals to take part in education and workplace. The need for individuals and institutions to acquire digital empowerment in conjunction with rapid change in digital technologies and the information explosion has come to the fore (Norris, 2001). Using technology to expand learning: Helping farmers prosper. Presented at the 2006 Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting, Sri Lanka, 12-14 September. Helping Healthy Farms Prosper. Many American farmers are already using healthy farm practices, but federal farm policy still stacks the deck in favor of outdated industrial methods. Smart new policies and investments can help level the playing field and give healthy farms a chance to thrive. Here are three things policymakers can do: Offer greater financial incentives for farmers to adopt conservation measures and scientifically sound sustainable, organic, and integrated crop or livestock production practices. Expand outreach and technical assistance that will provide farmers with better information.