



Role of Translation in Agriculture Knowledge Management in India

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Agriculture Knowledge Management, Agriculture Information, Translation, Role of Translation in Agriculture KM, Best practices and translation

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ABSTRACT Agriculture is the key income source and livelihood for around three-fourth of the India's total population especially for those who live in villages. Agriculture is the only major source which can feed the nation. As we know Knowledge is the key force for every sector including agriculture we started many initiations to manage the agriculture knowledge. When we look at the initiations in India to fulfill the knowledge and information needs of the farmers we are far behind of real expectation. Majority of the Indian farmers are non-literates, neo-literates and literates only in mother language. In this situation though there is enormous knowledge resources for agriculture majority of them are other than mother language. When we see records of best practices, research outputs and initiations in agriculture are all in English language and other foreign language. As farmers are not able to utilize the existing knowledge resources due to language barrier knowledge management initiation must give primary priority to solve this problem. Here only solution for this problem is translation. Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text when we translate agriculture knowledge to every target language we can see the greater impact of that knowledge on farmers. Here we have made an attempt to discuss the importance of knowledge management in Indian agriculture and role of translation in managing and communicating knowledge to farmers.

Anthony Burgess

The above statement of Anthony Burgess demonstrates the value of translation making the culture intelligible. When we are going to make farming community intelligible by providing necessary knowledge resources translation plays very vital role making farmers intelligible by providing knowledge in their own way of understanding. When we analyze the problems of Agriculture in India there are many problems but the real and most concerned and the most ignored problems are lack of knowledge, education and awareness which are really needed to address to find the solutions for all other problems. In this direction many initiations started to collect manage and disseminate agriculture knowledge to farmers but its impact far from expectations. Agriculture knowledge and best practices across the world communicated in some internationally popular languages which is of no use to our farmers without translating it to their language. In India also the agriculture knowledge communicated in English and regional languages, in this context knowledge available in English is hard to comprehend for our farmers and the knowledge available in regional language is useful for the farmers who know that particular regional language. Because of these reasons major portion of our own and internationally available agriculture knowledge remains unused. To address these problems of language barriers in utilizing the agriculture knowledge for increasing the efficiency we need to present the knowledge in the language which our farmer understand and apply. With this concern translation can be considered tool of transformation in agriculture knowledge management to empower the farmers by making them intelligible and intelligent.

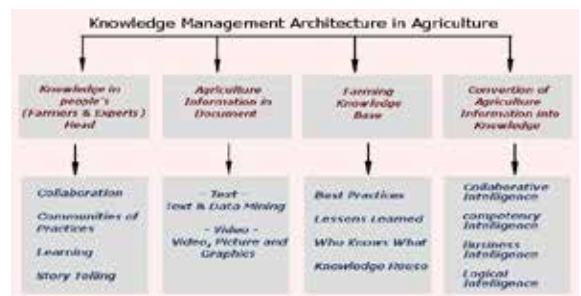
Knowledge Management

Knowledge Management is to discover, develop, utilize, deliver and absorb knowledge inside and outside the organization through an appropriate management process to meet current and future needs.

Knowledge Management in Agriculture

The success of achieving the goal of sustainable development for India lies at the heart of empowering the agriculture

sector where almost 60 percent of the population depends on the agriculture for their livelihood. If agriculture suffers with problems as it is the life blood of nation it will be a great bottleneck for the sustainable development of the nation. Understanding the alarming situation of Indian agriculture which is still far from the new developments needs serious attention from the policy makers, institutions and researchers. Keeping this in mind government and many research and development institutions took many initiations to strengthen the agriculture through knowledge management approach. KM strategies are very relevant to support and give the strength to all other programmes and agriculture activities by providing single platform access to needy Knowledge and Information, education and awareness and thus encourage the use of shared knowledge for a range of solutions which is the need of the hour of Nation. Through following architecture of KM in Agriculture we have tried to identify the application of Knowledge management in Agriculture.



The above chart shows the various applications of Knowledge management practices in agriculture. We can categorize the practices in 4 groups to manage tacit knowledge from head of farmers and experts, documented information, farming knowledge base which is more on farming experience and conversion of agriculture information in to knowledge for the competitive advantage of farmers. This architecture has taken as base for discussing the role of translation in a way to give more meaning and applicability to the model.

Significance of Translation of Agriculture Knowledge in India

In today's competitive knowledge world, translation is one of the most decisive instruments to understand, communicate and share the knowledge in every field of human activity. As the whole globe is coming together based on knowledge sharing and communicative advances, we need to give meaning for the global knowledge in all the languages to make this process more inclusive. In this juncture translation plays vital role by enabling the people of one language to understand the knowledge produced in other language. Translation is no longer just the process of translating words, but has evolved into the transformation of meaning and intentions.

India is a land of ideas and innovations it have established its own image in every field of development from beginning of human race. As compare to other nations Indian agriculture in ancient days more strategic than others but in today's development world our agriculture practices loosing competencies due lack of scientific adoptability and literacy among the farmers. Farmers of western and other developed nations are literates and able to understand and adopt research output of the globe for the benefit of their agriculture activities. It is totally different in case of Indian farmers, Indian farmers are really hard workers than any other farmers but they are not able adopt new methods and techniques due to lack of literacy and lack of ability to comprehend the literature from other language.

Illiteracy is a huge problem in scientific development of Indian farmers, but even where farmers are literate there's no guarantee that they are literate in English and any other language than their mother language. The 28 states and 7 union territories of India are home to more than 1562 languages and dialects. Despite this, research institutes, libraries, development agencies, NGOs and governments agencies frequently lack the initiations to translate agriculture knowledge material into languages of farmer's needs. Following chart shows the major Machine Translation projects in India where we can find that no initiations towards agriculture knowledge.

Summary of major MT projects in India Project

Projects	Languages	Domain/ Main Application
Anglabharati (IIT-K, ER&DCI-N)	Eng-IL (Hindi)	General (Health)
Anusaaraka (IIT-K, UoH)	IL-IL (5IL->Hindi)	General (Children)
MaTra (NCST)	Eng-IL (Hindi)	General (News)
Mantra (CDAC)	Eng-IL (Hindi)	Govt. notifications
UCSG MAT (UoH)	Eng-IL (Kannada)	Govt. circulars
UNL MT (IIT-B)	Eng/IL (Hindi, Marathi)	General
Tamil Anusaaraka (AU-KBC)	IL-IL (Tamil-Hindi)	General (Children)
MAT (JadavpurU)	Eng-IL (Hindi)	News Sentences
Anuvadak (Super Infosoft)	Eng-IL (Hindi)	General
StatMT (IBM)	Eng-IL	General

(Source: Machine Translation in India: A Brief Survey, By Durgesh Rao, NCST)

National Translation Mission

National Knowledge Commission has really taken greater step with national translation mission to work as a clearing house for all translation activities, both theoretical and practical, in as many Indian languages as possible, to provide links between users of translated material at different levels and in different activities to the public and private agencies and organisations and individuals involved in translation and translation-related activities involving Indian languages and To prioritise the translation of pedagogic materials at all levels (including primary onwards to tertiary education) specifically in natural and social sciences. This mission is focussed on education and it would be great initiation if it will take care of translating the material useful for the farmers which is also important with education.

Application and Role of Translation in Agriculture Knowledge Management

Being a strategic approach KM can play a recognizable role in addressing the major problems of agriculture through education and knowledge. Here we have tried to discuss the role of translation in agriculture Knowledge Management. We can identify the role of translations in AKM under following heads.

Translating Tacit Knowledge

Tacit Knowledge is the knowledge which is resided in human mind. We cannot view and articulate tacit knowledge. In case of AKM it includes experience of farmers, farmer's intellectual asset, intuition, expert's experience, and stories of farming and so on. Across the world and in India there are many successful and intellectual farmers and experts are doing really well in the field of experience. Sharing this kind of knowledge and experience makes lot of difference but due to language barriers our farmers are unable to utilize this huge intellectual asset. In this direction if we will translate this experience and expertise in all the local languages it will help to farmers intellectually grow and apply the successful experience for their benefit.

Translating the Agricultural Information from Documents

Today due to continuous research and study in the area of agriculture and allied areas huge amount of information produced and documented in many formats and many languages. Information management as a KM practice should address the needs of all categories of users. Information needed for the farmers should be collected, organized and presented in manner which is easy to access and use by both literates as well as illiterate farmers. In this process translating these documents in the language of farmers will serve the motto of right information for right user. If we are collecting huge amount of information in English and other language and managing it with technology will not serve the purpose unless we enable our farmers to understand and apply that information. So with this concern we should at least focus on translating very essential resources for the farmers.

Translating Farming Knowledge Base

Farming Knowledge Base includes best practices in agriculture, lessons learned from experience, specialized knowledge in farming, and reusing fruitful experiences. Today we can see the stories of many successes in farming, experience of failures, about extraordinary achievers and many more. These are the real assets for our farmers as they came from real experience and which are very practical for application. To make these sources to reach our farmers we should translate all these in all the language and facilitate the access to farmers which will be great help for our farmers.

Translating Farming Intelligence

Business strategies, planning strategies, logical intelligence are essence of every field for the success. As farmers are entrepreneurs they must have all these skills. There are many sources to improve farmer's intelligence, but most of them

are in English so we need to translate them to the language of farmers. This will help farmers to grove competitively.

Conceptual Model for Translating and Distributing Agriculture Knowledge



The above diagram shows the conceptual model for translating the agriculture knowledge essential for the farmers and distributing it through village knowledge centres.

Impact on Farmers

As transformation force translation can play vital role in Indian agriculture knowledge management. Applications of knowledge and scientific methods in agriculture need to be understood by the farmers. Translating the available knowledge resources to the language of farmers will help the farmers in following ways.

- Helps to motivate the farmers towards strategic farming.
- Easy way of enabling the farmers towards scientific farming.
- Creates interest in learning as content available is in their

own languages.

- Systematic execution of farming activities can be possible through strategic knowledge
- Brings the efficiency by avoiding the wastage through learning.
- Information exchange and sharing of best practices is easy as farmers are able to the shared ideas.
- Improve the intellectual efficiency of the farmers.
- Brings the competency in farming as farmers can learn and apply.
- Helps to use the experience of farmers and experts in a systematic manner.
- Helps to make use of best practices for successful farming by easy understanding.
- Helps to avoid unnecessary wastage of time and resources.
- Helps to create the awareness about unhealthy practices.
- Provide insight about what is good and what is not good in particular project of agriculture
- Helps to determine the best way of doing things by understanding the best practices
- Provides a platform for the potential use of human expertise and experience in the language of farmers.

Conclusion

Translation is not a matter of translating the word it is the process of transformation and empowerment. Today we have a greater responsibility of empowering Indian agriculture by making our farmers more intellectuals. Providing right information and knowledge at right time is more important and enabling our farmers to comprehend and apply the available knowledge is more important than just providing knowledge in this direction translation works as force of transformation in our farmer's life and in agriculture growth as a whole. Realizing the need of translation government agencies, research institutions and other stake holders must take inordinate step to translate at least very useful resources farmers in all the regional languages.

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