Dhwani Rural Information Systems (Dhwani RIS) is a development-oriented technology enterprise that provides intelligent, integrated and affordable solutions to help social organizations to monitor, track and streamline their work effectively. Dhwani RIS strengthens the internal capabilities of client organizations through IT services including Information Communications Technology (ICT) integration and sector-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).

Innovations

Many rural non-government organizations (NGOs) and Bottom of Pyramid (BoP) level organizations have technological barriers to implement their projects in the targeted areas with inadequate infrastructure or they do not have a large capital base for digital investment to upgrade their operating system.

Dhwani RIS was founded to support social organizations to effectively carry on their missions leveraging the power of technology. It provides cost-effective on-demand software-as-a-service (Saas)-based digital platform for project-specific data collection and visualization spanning across agriculture, healthcare, sanitation, rural livelihoods, dairy, fishery, digital literacy and education.

Application to Agriculture Insurance

Through a horticulture insurance project with GIZ Germany and Karnataka Government in India, Dhwani RIS developed an ICT-enabled mobile app to enable data collection, insurance enrollment and claims management. The app comes with geofencing functionality to record land boundary and along with other farm-level data in a digital format to be sent to insurer on the other side of the platform. The associated API generates a summary of portfolio of policies to track the policy enrollment to assist insurers’ business management. Claims management solution is designed in a way to streamline the process from farmer’s claim reporting via the helpline or chatbot, issuance of incident ticket which is automatically allocated to appropriate assessors in the region to digitally transfer the information and photos taken back to the insurer.

All the data are digitalized and cataloged to enable insurers’ risk analysis, simplifying and expediting insurance process with less errors in the transaction. Dhwani RIS hopes to scale up the application with insurers who may benefit from data capturing, policy servicing and claim management for their agriculture insurance portfolio. Currently, Dhwani RIS is refining the insurance tool to improve the analytics and plan to pilot on wheat crop.

Contacts

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About the Agriculture Insurtech Challenge

The path to unlocking the full potential of agriculture insurance in improving livelihoods of 2.5 billion smallholder farmers, often poor and marginalized, comes with various challenges. Whatever changes the world undergoes in the coming decade towards the realization of SDGs by 2030, our progress can only be meaningfully measured against the welfare of those individuals. Purpose-led entrepreneurs and social enterprises perceive challenges as opportunities to stimulate creativity, progress and value creation as they envision and create a new reality, leveraging the benefits of technology. To partner with such innovators to advance insurance in rural Asia, GIIF organized an agriculture insurtech innovation challenge in 2019 to best select and endorse Asian-grown enterprises. Out of 100+ applicants, 9 startups won the financial support in the three categories: Data & Analytics, Sales & Distribution and Premiums & Claims.

About the Global Index Insurance Facility (GIIF)

The Global Index Insurance Facility (GIIF) is a dedicated World Bank Group’s program that facilitates access to finance for smallholder farmers, micro-entrepreneurs, and microfinance institutions through the provision of catastrophic risk transfer solutions and index-based insurance in developing countries. As of 2019, GIIF’s regional partners have facilitated approximately 7.6 million contracts, covering close to 38 million beneficiaries primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. GIIF’s objectives are to provide access to financing for the vulnerable; to strengthen the financial resilience of the poor against the impact of climate change and natural disasters, and to sustain food production for local communities and larger markets.