

**DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINNE TAMIL AGRICULTURE
DISCUSSION FORUM AND WIKIGOVIYA WEBSITE**

By

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural information dissemination at the correct time in the correct format is essential at the grass root level. The government of Sri Lanka has recently introduced e- Sri Lanka initiatives that use Information and communication Technologies (ICT) to develop the economy of Sri Lanka. The latest ICT initiative of Cyber Agriculture Wikipedia alias *Wikigoviya* is a participatory and interactive web tool for agriculture development in Sri Lanka through the participation of Agriculture Community (AC). *Wikigoviya* is an ideal tool to meet the needs of the farming community as a whole and especially to the Northern and Eastern province isolated due to the 30 years of civil unrest. But This Extension tool is created on Sinhala and English medium but Tamil page was kept blank.

The study was conducted at Audio Visual Center AVC, Gannoruwa to develop the participatory world wide website in Tamil ICT for North East Agriculture Community, to facilitate the transfer of agriculture information through Multi media own mother language. The authoring environment of the program is used to create the multimedia production and bring all the elements together. The basic Wikipedia was developed using Media Wiki software, discussion forum which was created as the support of ning.com.

The web pages were pre tested and evaluated with 60 participants during an Awareness work shop conducted and questionnaire survey was done. Data was collected about Content of the Learning material, Structure of the Learning material, Quality of the information, Interactivity, Availability, Liability of the information, Overall evaluation, which data were analyzed.

Around 85% of the participants were satisfied on overall structure of the three web tool components developed. Majority of workshop participants were satisfied with the content of the web tool learning materials. About 67% of workshop participants were satisfied with user friendliness of the website and 60% of respondents were positive about the participation of the agriculture community is further enhancing the contents of the web pages.

Keywords: Participatory website, Agriculture community, *Wkigoviya*, e-Learning.

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