MKILIMO AND DASHBOARD PROJECTS

DISCUSSION ON FIXING ERRORS AND IMPROVING THE PLATFORM

Meeting Minutes

Date: 14/01/2021

Time: 1000 – 1600 hrs

Venue: KILIMO 5 CALL CENTRE ROOM

A: Participants

Ministry of Agriculture

1. Prof. Siza Tumbo
2. Mr. Godfrey Edward (Chairman)
3. Mr. Mwinjuma Savera
4. Mr. Zacharia Gadiye
5. Mr. Charles Mjema
6. Ms. Vumilia Zikankuba
7. Mr. Rashid Likiligo
8. Mr. Rajabu Nkalaghe
9. Ms. Happy Paschal
10. Mr. Andres Kakiko
11. Mr. Leah Hebron

Economic and Social Research Foundation

12. Mr. John Kajiba

Multics Systems

13. Mr. Anthony Kigombola

B: Agenda

1. Presentation on current project status
2. Discussion on challenges faced by users
3. Suggestions on improving the system
4. Way forward

C: Project Status

Mr. Rajabu Nkalaghe presented on the current status of the Mkilimo project since launch

C: Challenges

Mkilimo

1. In the incoming messages, sometimes the question is not seen or the sender's name is empty
2. When there is a question, notification goes to the outbox of extension officers instead of inbox. The messages are multiplied many times
3. Most of the time when accessing the menu, one gets message "huduma hii haipatikani kwa sasa"
4. There are farmers which have been registered but do not appear in the expected villages
5. Faulty farmers are increasing rapidly
6. Timeout session for the USSD menu is too short
7. When registering to the system, a different village is inserted
8. The filter in the consultation page is limited per page of 100 rows
9. Most registered farmers come with anonymous name
10. On the Dashboard, the graph of monthly consultation is incorrect
11. As of farmers, buyers and sellers information also miss some details such as names or location
12. Most extension officers do not know their roles in the system
13. Adoption of the system by the public is still very low
14. Bulk SMS balance is currently very low
15. On crop prices, the price figures are wrongly inserted, when one put a price of 10,000, it appears as 10 on the system

16. Some Call Sheets are missing farmer's name

Dashboard

1. There is no option to add date when importing prices

D: Suggestions

Mkilimo

1. To reduce faulty farmers it is proposed to capture even the incorrect input details which can be easily updated later by extension officers in their localities
2. The depth of the dictionary should be increased to capture most errors
3. The system should be more friendly and easy to use especially on farmers side.
4. There should be restrictions in name input to avoid blank names
5. When an item is sold, the information should be captured by the system, and the item removed from the market place. It is suggested the seller to update the info with name of buyer and location
6. Crop prices should be updated frequently
7. Extension officers should be able to register farmers on the system including updating by excel

Dashboard

1. Update Category Non Traditional to Food Crops
2. Add Horticulture category
3. Add date column in the option to import prices by excel
4. Show dates for each price shown
5. Unit of measure varies from crop to crop, add option to change unit of measure per crop e.g in Horticulture unit of measure is crate
6. When importing/inserting the price should have 2 options, low price and high price

E: Way forward

1. The listed challenges and suggestions should be worked upon and completed within a period of 2 weeks from the date of the meeting

2. There should be a meeting among project members every 2 weeks to discuss progress, one meeting should be online and the next physical.