GramyaVikas A Distributed Collaboration Model for Rural Development Planning (A Geo-ICT Tool)



J Adinarayana, Sami Azmi, G Tewari and D Sudharsan, International Journal of Computers & Electronics in Agriculture, Elsevier , 62(2), 128-140, 2008 Contributions from Natural Resources Engineering Faculty / Students / Research Personnel of CSRE, IIT Bombay

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GramyaVikas is a spin-off of:

GIS based rural development planning at district/sub-district level

An R&D Project from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, under the Department of Land Resources Scheme: Technology Development, Extension & Training (TDET) In the context of rural India, planning mainly consists of the distribution of resources (infrastructure, subsidies, assistance) according to various 'schemes' that are mandated by Central or State governments. These schemes are fostered by different line departments represented by various ministries

Rural Planning

Prescriptive planning

Executive Approach (Top-down)

Client : Decision-maker at district/sub-district level (*Rural Extension Community*)

Needs Assessment

(Workshop on 2005 November, 11)

Purpose

To understand the data needs/gaps, and generate the system / tool / software to suit the requirement of the User Organizations

User Departments received the Pre-Workshop Questionnaire

Agriculture, District Rural Development Agency, District Water Management Authority, Groundwater, Forests (Social), Forests (Territorial), Irrigation, Panchayat Raj, Planning, Rural Water Supply, Survey & Land Records

Pre-Workshop Questionnaire Format

- 1. Name of the Department and contact details of the Head of the Department
- 2. Major policies/objectives of the Department
- 3. Rural development planning / programmes and procedures presently carried out by Department
- 4. The data (spatial/non-spatial) / information currently used by the Department for various rural planning programmes
- 5. Data and new procedures that would be required by the Department for the modified specifications
- 6. Modifications the Department would like to introduce in the procedures, given the GIS system
- 7. Availability of hardware/software in the department for various rural development programmes (particularly on Remote Sensing and GIS)
- 8. Capacity of the Department to handle the computers/software (on Remote Sensing and GIS)
- 9. Your expectation from this Research Project
- 10. Any other suggestions for improving the informatics culture in the district

Observations

- Many Departments are equipped with software/hardware to handle digital / GIS / online data
- Many departments do not have RS and GIS software
- Duplication of data in many cases
- Interdependency of departments on various programmes
- Unavailability of Basic Spatial (Not GIS) Layers / Maps
- Essentiality of Distributed Collaboration
- Many Departments are interested in having GIS / Online system for RD planning

Expectations from the Users

- User-friendly GIS / Online system
- GIS based action plans / DSS to improve efficiency of different departments
- Effective linkages of different departments on data sharing
- Development of System/tool with user interaction
- Weather report at grass root level
- Solving instant Filed-level problems
- Monitoring of pests & deceases
- Training in RS and GIS
- Wireless LAN for remote retrieval of water levels/rainfall data
- Monitoring of soil & water conservation structures

Why Distributed Collaboration?

(In the context of Indian rural development planning)

- Allows to store / share spatial and non-spatial data from different user agencies (data dependency)
- Avoids data duplication
- Assists in implementing mutual schemes
- Allows to incorporate local knowledge-bases from different stakeholders for effective rural development planning
- Expected to allow flexibility/interconnectivity/coordination

GramyaVikas

Evolved from the <u>needs analysis</u>

- A secured, reliable and fast for distributed collaboration among the Rural Extension Community in the districts for rural development planning (local-level land based e-governance)
- Presently working on *Intranet* environment masonry work
- Used open-source platforms
 - (1) *Plone* content management system (version 2.5.3)
 - (2) Web GIS / Mapping capabilities with <u>MapServer + p.mapper</u>
 - (3) **<u>PostgreSQL</u>** for spatial/non-spatial data handling
- A <u>modular and query-based system</u> for Event/Data/User management :
 - (1) online data sharing / storing
 - (2) intra / Inter departmental communication
 - (3) database (spatial/non-spatial) query to identify candidate villages / entities for various RD schemes
 - (4) assist decision maker in rural development planning decisions



Modules

- Digital database
 - **Spatial/non-spatial database** (to store/share/retrieve/ visualize data)
 - **Google maps** (to view high resolution satellite data and to serve as ancillary/reference data)
 - **Census** (to view and download Village/Block/District wise information on physical/socio-economic dimensions)
- Communication (Webmail/ blog/ departmental communication/ chat)
- Learning repository (leaning material on various developmental issues and cutting edge technologies)
- Feedback (a liaison between user and the developer)
- Database (spatial/non-spatial) query

(to serve as a simple DSS for various rural development schemes)

• **SDSS** (to assist the decision makers in identifying the sites for various rural development schemes)



Basic Structure of GramyaVikas



GramyaVikas - a holistic model for RD planning and decision making

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# Communication component

#### **Departmental Communication**

- Real time chat/communication for inter/intra departmental activities
- To share ideas, plans, issues, methodologies, problems, etc. involved in the rural development schemes
- Communication regarding data sharing, data transfer and other aspects

#### Blog

Discussion forum on any rural development issues/topics

#### News

 To post any circulars regarding rural development schemes, articles in newspapers/journals, etc

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### Learning Repository

- Learning material for transfer of information and knowledge
- Contains e-books and documents on various rural developmental issues
- Documents on cutting edge technologies for policy makers
- Policy documents



### Digital Database Component

- This component is only for *GramyaVikas* Members (secured)
- Uploading and retrieval of spatial and non-spatial digital data
- Data privileges (for accessing data by different users)
- Data can also be shared for a defined period



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	IRS Classified Image
	Map showing Mahabubnagar District Boundary with Mandals











### The Query Component

#### **Non-spatial**

 Initially developed with <u>MS Access non-spatial</u> (example: census) database
 Presently available with better user-friendly interface (HTML/JSP front-end)

#### **Spatial**

Spatial query with ALOV MAP/TM Java GIS software

 Useful to identify candidate villages/parcels/entities for various mandated schemes

 More improved/interactrive version with the P-Mapper/MapServer (under development)

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#### select NAME, MANDAL from village where SC_POPUL>500

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### Feedback

- A liaison between the user and the developer
- Users can communicate their comments, ideas about the system/data to the administrator

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### Remarks

- A Geo-ICT system evolved from the Needs Analysis
- A suitable ICT tool for rural extension community in the districts for distributed collaboration
  - A system which may give increased
    - flexibility / autonomy in decision-making
    - interconnectivity
    - new coordination/interaction styles between people/organizations
- Serve as an aid for online data assessment
- Improve the informatics culture in the districts

# GeoSense – a Future GramyaVikas

### GeoSense A Geo-ICT and Sensor Network based Decision Support System for Agriculture and Environment Assessment (Indo-Japan Joint Venture under DST/JST Multidisciplinary ICT Programme)





NARC

独立行政法人 農業·食品産業技術総合研究機構

http://www.csre.iitb.ac.in/geosense



### Lessons Learnt / Experiences

- Develop tool in conjunction with the user community
- Develop simple Spatial Data Infrastructures and assist the users in their own existing decision making processes
- Identify the clients / users involve/train them
- Needs assessment
- Integrate Geo-ICT with Knowledge-based systems for easy technology transfer