Speaker:

P. Krishna Reddy, IIIT, Hyderabad

Title:

A Model of Crop Specific Virtual Labs as a Cloud Computing Application for Enhancing Practical Agricultural Education

Abstract:

The crop husbandry problems vary from year to year and place to place due to temporal and spatial variability of the region/country. In agricultural education, the theoretical concepts are being imparted through class room lectures and the laboratory skills are imparted in the dedicated laboratories and college farms. Further efforts are being made to give practical education by exposing the students to the field problems through RAWEP. In spite of these efforts, there is a feeling that the level of practical skills exposed to the students is not up to the desired level. Moreover, it may not be feasible to expose the students, the multitude of crop husbandry problems during the limited academic period of four to six years of under-graduate and post-graduate studies. So, we have to devise the new ways and means to enhance the practical knowledge and skills of agricultural students to understand the real-time crop problems and provide the corrective steps at the field level. Recent developments in ICTs, thus, provide an opportunity to improve practical education by developing crop-specific virtual labs by exploiting the developments in information and communication technologies such as database, digital images and text, video and internet technology. The practical knowledge of students could be improved, if we systematically expose them to virtual lab content with well organized, indexed and summarized digital data (text, digital photos and video) of diverse farm situations along with course teaching. In addition to students, such knowledge is very useful to agriculture scientists, field workers and farmers. We can employ cloud computing platform to store huge amount of data (text, image and video) and render to millions of stakeholders in an online manner. In this talk, I will discuss about the model of developing crop-specific virtual labs and discuss the related aspects.