

Vellore student's voice-enabled portal for farmers wins intl award

Bosco Dominique | TNN

Vellore: A voice-enabled portal for farmers developed by a student of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Rahul Sanghi has bagged the 'most innovative award' at a students 'speech application contest, 2010'.

The project titled 'Farmers' Framework' has also been selected under the 'Next 50 global innovation challenge', an IIT Kanpur golden jubilee initiative. The application enables farmers and agriculture students to access all relevant data on a common portal using a touch screen kiosk.

The data includes salt, fertilizer and crop analysis for achieving maximum yield and lists out central and state governments'



INNOVATIVE: Rahul Sanghi

schemes and procedure to avail the schemes. It also lists out the best agricultural practices adopted worldwide and furnishes market prices of agricultural produces.

Moreover the application introduces farmers on the latest tools and solutions with audio-

video presentations and lists out the leading manufacturers of agricultural tools with their contact numbers.

"The application reduces the farmers' burden and offers a wide range of services," Rahul told The Times of India.

The application's highlight is that the farmers are offered smart cards that contain complete details about them and their agricultural produce. When a farmer inserts the card into the system, it furnishes information in his native language and lists out information specific to his requirements.

The application also includes a touch dial 'helpline' enabling the farmers to reach out to the appropriate persons for help using intelligent call routing based

on a voice dialog in their native languages.

"The application helps farmers with all his tasks served at just a touch/voice. It gives them adequate exposure on marketing trends and pricing, helping them to increase their profit margin. The application is simple enabling the farmers to use it in a hassle-free manner," he said.

Sponsored by a host of software giants including Microsoft and Google, the contest is regarded as an ideal platform for international students and researchers to innovate, design and create practical applications using advanced speech technology. The contest was organized by Applied Voice Input / Output Society (AVIOS), United States.

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