AFITA / WCCA 2012
September 3 – 6, 2012
Venue: National Training Institute of Farmers' Organizations, Taipei, Taiwan

ICT Applications in Agriculture and Natural Resources

Using QR codes for context specific support around the farm

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ABSTRACT

In Denmark, running a modern farms demand that you are able to handle a wide variety of technical equipment; manage a number of farm labors and contract works and ensure, that all activities is performed following legal rules and legislation. It is a demanding job – especially as farm labors often includes persons from East Europe with less experience with Danish farming standards.

To replace the use of printed Standard Operational Procedures (SOP's) and/or precise and time consuming instructions from the manager, a project has been initiated to utilize QR codes and smartphones as means to access context specific instructions around the farm.

Until now, QR codes in relation to farming, has primarily been used for establishing links to the consumer or for marketing local products.

In this project, a package called QIC (Quick Information in Context) is being developed. QIC includes a simple web based system to create QR codes, a QR label printer and a pocket video cam. QIC will be tested on three larger farms. Our expectations are that the farmer will use QIC in cases like:

- o Tips on how to e.g. start a tractor such as "advance the throttle slightly, turn on the key, and push the ignition button". The farmer types this text into QIC and prints the resulting QR label.
- o Instructions on how to operate a control panel for some advanced technical equipment. Here the farmer can shoot a video showing how to do it; upload the video and use the QIC to create a label with the link to this video.
- o Linking to existing farm specific SOP's.
- o Linking to general, web based instructions, which could be in the farm labor's native language.

As QIC will go into testing in late spring, the proposed paper will present and discuss the experiences from using QIC in real farm setting.

Keywords: QR codes, mobile, smartphones, context specific