DEMONSTRATION OF A SPEECH BASED INTERFACE FOR ACCESSING PRICE INFORMATION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES OVER MOBILE PHONES

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ABSTRACT
For a farmer, it would be beneficial to know the prices of agricultural commodities in a particular Mandi or in a set of Mandis. Such information helps in trading, negotiation and to maximize the profits. There have been efforts such as Agmarket (http://agmarknet.nic.in/), which provides the price information on the Internet. However, the farmers are expected to be literate and well versed with Internet technologies to make use of such solutions. Efforts are on to provide a helpline (Kissan call centre), but it requires a sufficient amount of manpower to handle the inquiries 24 × 7. In this context, information and communication technology using speech based artificial conversational agents plays an important role. A naturally speaking artificial conversational agent can crawl the information on Agmarket, on a daily basis and provide voice based services to the farmers. Both literate and illiterate will benefit from such a service. Initiated by Ministry of Communication Technology, a pilot project referred to as Mandi Information System is being developed at IIIT-Hyderabad. Mandi Information System (MIS) is a speech-based conversational system for obtaining price information of agricultural commodities like vegetables, fruits, pulses, spices, etc. MIS is a telephone-based system designed to facilitate the farmers, traders and other consumers in rural and semi-urban areas to obtain the prices of commodities that are being sold in the markets across Andhra Pradesh. This work has been published in [1, 2], and as a part of this conference, we will demonstrate the current system.

Keywords: Speech-Based Conversational System, Information Retrieval.

REFERENCES