



K-DISHA Stakeholder Workshop

Synthesis Note



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1. Workshop Overview

The stakeholder workshop on Karnataka-DISHA (K-DISHA), the District Insights and Socio-economic Hub for Analytics, was held at the Bengaluru office of the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) on 29 July 2026. The workshop brought together researchers, government functionaries, and civil society representatives to assess K-DISHA's current design and gather insights for improving it to address real-world policy and implementation needs. The workshop was envisioned to co-develop practical use cases for the next phase of K-DISHA. Discussions covered the dashboard's role in evidence-based governance, followed by a demonstration and focused group discussions on priority use cases.

2. Keynote Lecture

The workshop opened with a keynote lecture by Dr P G Chengappa, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore, who highlighted the importance of granular, credible, accessible, and responsibly governed data for effective decision-making. Some key takeaways from his lecture are as follows:

- **Granular and trusted data:** Prioritise credible, verifiable data at district, block, and panchayat levels, with wider access for policymakers, farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and civil society.
- **User-centred and responsible design:** Identify end users and their decision-making needs, build on existing datasets and initiatives, and ensure data practices align with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
- **Phased, feedback-driven development:** Focus on high-priority gaps and use cases, pilot features with users, and scale the dashboard incrementally based on feedback and demonstrated needs.



3. Key Stakeholder Insights

CSTEP demonstrated the current capabilities of K-DISHA and the proposed next phase of development, K-DISHA 2.0, to gather feedback on its usability and applicability for policy analysis, programme design, and monitoring and evaluation. After the presentation, the feedback discussion with stakeholders yielded valuable insights and suggestions. Overall, five priorities for strengthening the dashboard emerged, which are as follows:

- **Improve the granularity of data by** incorporating district-, block-, and panchayat-level datasets; consolidating fragmented government and civil society data, linking biophysical and socio-economic indicators; and ensuring all datasets are reliable, regularly updated, and traceable to credible sources.
- **Strengthen analytical and decision-support capabilities by enabling users to** access raw data, perform analyses (e.g., trends, correlations, regression), visualise layered spatial data, generate district-level fact sheets, and export datasets for further use, including visualisations and graphs generated.
- **Develop an interactive forecasting and prioritisation module** that combines historical trends, scenario analysis, composite indices, and risk–vulnerability assessment to identify and rank priority geographies for targeted interventions.
- **Incorporate feedback and local knowledge into the dashboard by** creating mechanisms to track actions taken in response to forecasts and allowing practitioners to contribute context-specific or traditional knowledge that complements quantitative data.
- **Establish clear governance and long-term dashboard management through** defined roadmaps, standard operating procedures for data collection and validation, and quality assurance for external datasets.

4. Implications for K-DISHA 2.0

Participants worked in three breakout groups, each exploring K-DISHA from a different user perspective. Several common considerations emerged, informing future development of the dashboard, which are listed below.

- **Capture community experiences:** Complement administrative data with qualitative and community-based sources to capture informal livelihoods, unpaid care work, mental health, lived experiences, and other vulnerabilities.
- **Serve diverse users and strengthen coordination:** Tailor outputs for researchers, programme managers, and government officials while enabling coordination across departments, schemes, and civil society.
- **Align with existing systems:** Build on established planning processes, government and civil society initiatives, and familiar decision-making formats, while highlighting linkages across schemes.
- **Enable flexible implementation:** Account for differences in data availability, accessibility, institutional capacity, and local implementation contexts.



5. Implementation Considerations

The workshop participants recommended a **phased, user-driven approach to K-DISHA 2.0**, focusing first on a small set of high-priority actions, testing them with users, and scaling based on demonstrated value. Some of the key actionable outcomes are as follows:

- **Adopt clear guiding principles:** Keep development user- and decision-focused, build on existing initiatives, maintain transparent documentation, and prioritise practical, phased delivery.
- **Map existing data:** Consolidate existing government, panchayat-level, household, and civil society datasets before commissioning new data collection, thereby avoiding duplication and identifying key gaps.
- **Develop targeted pilots:** Explore a district/regional level Karnataka pilot across 3–4 districts, using K-DISHA to strengthen ongoing action planning on areas such as social security, crop diversification, water stress, and air quality, with potential for state-level scale-up.



6. Way Forward

The workshop marks the beginning of an iterative engagement process. It helped CSTEP understand stakeholder expectations around data accessibility, visualisation, and decision-support tools. The immediate focus will be to translate these priorities into a short action plan with clear ownership, timelines, and pilot partners, followed by continued stakeholder engagement to guide K-DISHA 2.0's development. The immediate next steps that will be prioritised are as follows:

- **A phased pathway for K-DISHA 2.0:** The discussions pointed to an incremental approach to the dashboard's development, starting with a focused set of high-priority use cases, testing them with users, and using the learnings to guide subsequent expansion.
- **Build strategic partnerships:** Pursue pilot opportunities with Socratus and the Puttannaiah Foundation in Melukote, as well as Common Ground and FEVOURD-K, to test K-DISHA across social, economic, climate, and cultural use cases.
- **Establish continuous engagement:** Reconvene stakeholders through a recurring forum or working group, supported by parallel data/technical and partnership/pilot workstreams, to maintain momentum and incorporate feedback iteratively.



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