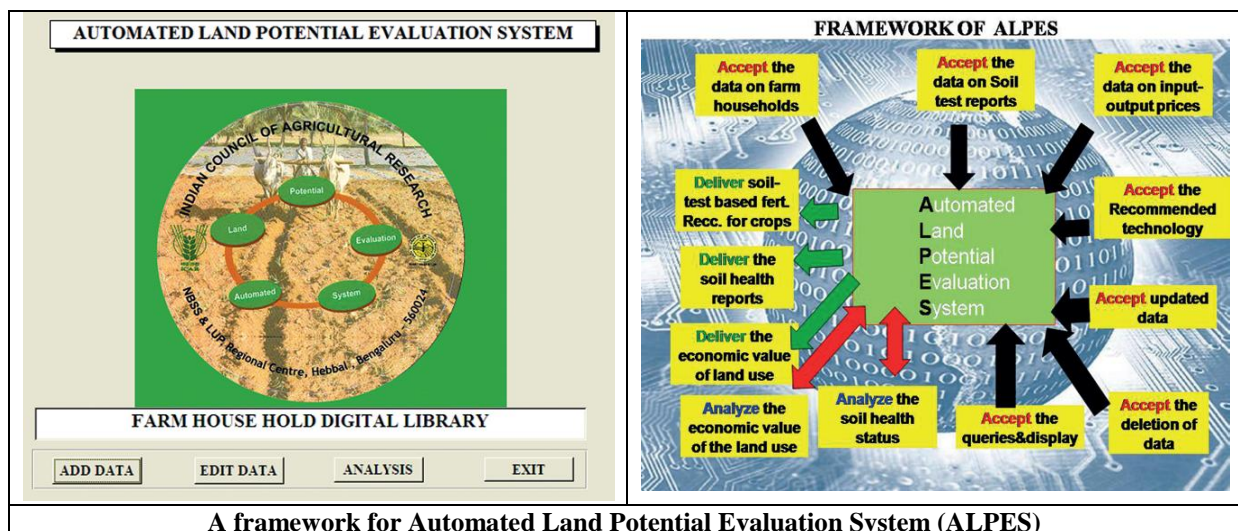


Automated Land Evaluation Technique - An Application of Information Technology

The ICAR-NBSS&LUP has developed an Automated Land Potential Evaluation System (ALPES) to create systematic database on farm households and conduct speedy analysis using MS Access program. ALPES helps in coupling the socioeconomic and biophysical data including soils for integrated land use planning and policy analysis. Framework of ALPES is given in figure. The minimum data sets needed for this software are 1) present land use and management data, 2) soil test reports and 3) best soil management practices for the crops. The software can be used: a) as an extension tool to derive recommendations concerning management of crops and soil health, b) as a business tool for deciding credit worthiness of a farmer to extend farm loans by banks, c) as a research tool to monitor the soil health by comparing the nutrient status over the years and its effect on soil health, d) as a teaching & training tool by providing interactive responses to “What & If” questions related to improved understanding of the influence of market (prices), location (site & soil) & management (input use) on land productivity and is a step closer towards e-Land Use Planning and Management in the country.



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