



COMMONWEALTH
of LEARNING

SHARING INSIGHTS FROM THE AgMOOCs

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COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

“Open education broke open the iron triangle of access, cost and quality that had constrained education throughout history and had created the insidious assumption, still prevalent today, that in education you cannot have quality without exclusivity”

Sir John Daniel, Past – President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning

A circular graphic consisting of a light gray outer ring and a green inner arc. The text "Quality without exclusivity" is centered within the circle.

Quality without
exclusivity

AgMOOCs



It is designed for, in theory, an unlimited number of participants and as such is related to the scalability of the education service provider.



It is accessible at no charge.



It requires no entry qualifications.



All elements of the course provision are provided fully online.

Food & Ag Sector in MOOC space

Presence is STILL limited

ClassCentral Portal: Only 276 out of 30,000 MOOCs catalogued relate to Ag topics (as of May 2021)

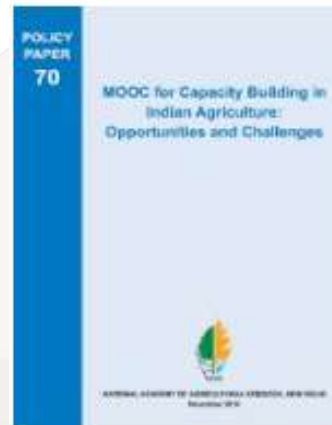
COL pioneered MOOCs in Ag




COL organised a workshop with India National Academy of Ag Sciences in 2014 on MOOCs.

Launched AgMOOCS Consortium in early 2015.

MOOC for Capacity Building in Indian Agriculture: Opportunities and Challenges



View/Open

 PDF (71.86KB)

Date

2014

Abstract

The landscape of agriculture is expanding to include agribusiness in the supply chain operations and management. Globalization is opening enormous opportunities for food and processed commodities while, at the same time bringing challenges of global competition. Linking agriculture with green economy and empowering farmers, women and youth with livelihood and entrepreneurship skills are necessary. Improving the competencies of scientists, teachers and extension workers, and delivering training in high-tech agriculture, secondary agriculture, and entrepreneurship will go a long way toward developing and adopting modern technologies that will bring more income to farmers.

The human capacities gap identified

Training

- research professionals in emerging topics
- extension personnel to solve new problems in the field quickly
- personnel in agro-industry and in agri-businesses
- farmers in emerging techniques in agricultural production, protection, and processing



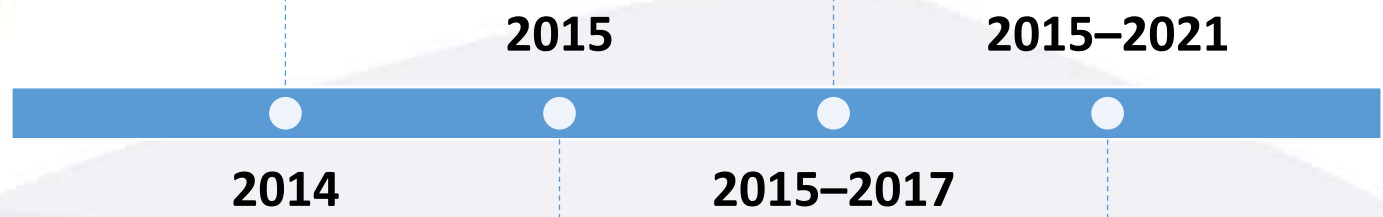
Evolution of AgMOOC S

COL organised a consultation with the Indian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences

- to gain a perspective on the usefulness of MOOCs in the food and agriculture sector.

the consortium members met every year to

- decide on the topics that needed to be addressed in the AgMOOCs
- conduct capacity strengthening programs for the faculty volunteers



2014

COL jointly with IIT-Kanpur launched the AgMOOCs India consortium

- to explore and establish the viability of the MOOC paradigm in food and agriculture

2015

2015-2017

2015-2021

the AgMOOCs consortium offered 30 MOOCs

- 19 were unique while the remainder were repeat offerings.



Archived

Conservation Agriculture-based Sustainable Intensi-



Diagnosis of Crop and Stored Grain Pests and their Management



GIS in Ag-Essentials and Applications



Fundamentals of Agricultural Extension (October, 2020)



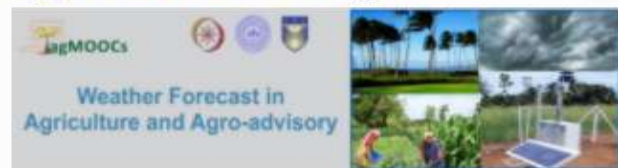
AG191B: e-Extension



AG194: Fundamentals of ICT for Agriculture



AG212: Weather Forecast in Agriculture and Agro-advisory



AG243: Agricultural Value Chain Management



AG252: Design Thinking for Agricultural Implements





AgMOOCs- key data

- Years active: 2015-current
- Number of unique courses: 19
- Number of offerings: 30
- Number of registrations: 120,000 (about)
- Certification percentage: ~23%
- Course under development: “Treatment of infertility in cattle”
 - One of less than 10 MOOCs globally on veterinary topics
- Platform: MookIT, Open Source designed and developed by Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (www.iitk.ac.in)





Certificate S

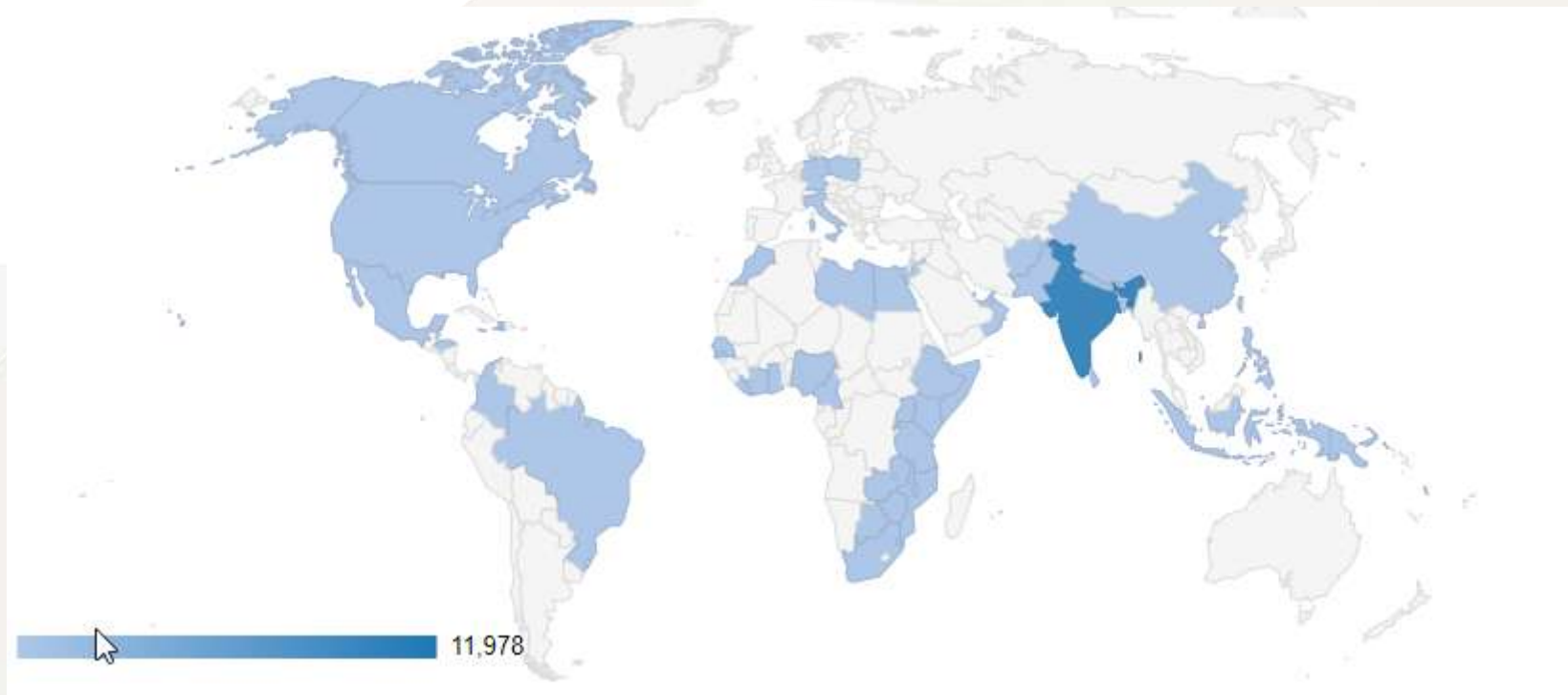
The courses and certification were offered free of cost, with the certificates carrying high credibility as they were issued by the Centre for Development of Technical Education, IIT Kanpur and COL.

Promotion of AgMOOCs

- A key activity in the consortium was to promote the courses through multiple channels.
- Standard digital media channels were used extensively, including email and social media campaigns.
- Team members at IITK would also mail out announcements and posters to hundreds of campuses, especially those located in the northern regions of India which were mostly rural.
 - Additionally, IITK personnel occasionally visited some of the campuses to conduct special orientation sessions.

Example: IPM MOOC in April 2020

11,978 registrations in a single course



Experiences of COL so far with MOOCs

- COL has been a pioneer in offering MOOCs to learners in developing countries.
 - www.mooc4dev.org
- Highlighting the policy implications of MOOCs in developing countries back when the MOOC was an emerging practice.
- Our AgMOOCs activity remains a global pioneer as well, as there are fewer than 300 MOOCs in Agriculture out of nearly 30000 catalogued in Class Central.
- Our work with Coursera, Google and Udemy is aligned with our own mission to increase access to high quality learning materials.
 - We are thus offering multiple ways for learners in member countries to increase access to quality learning.



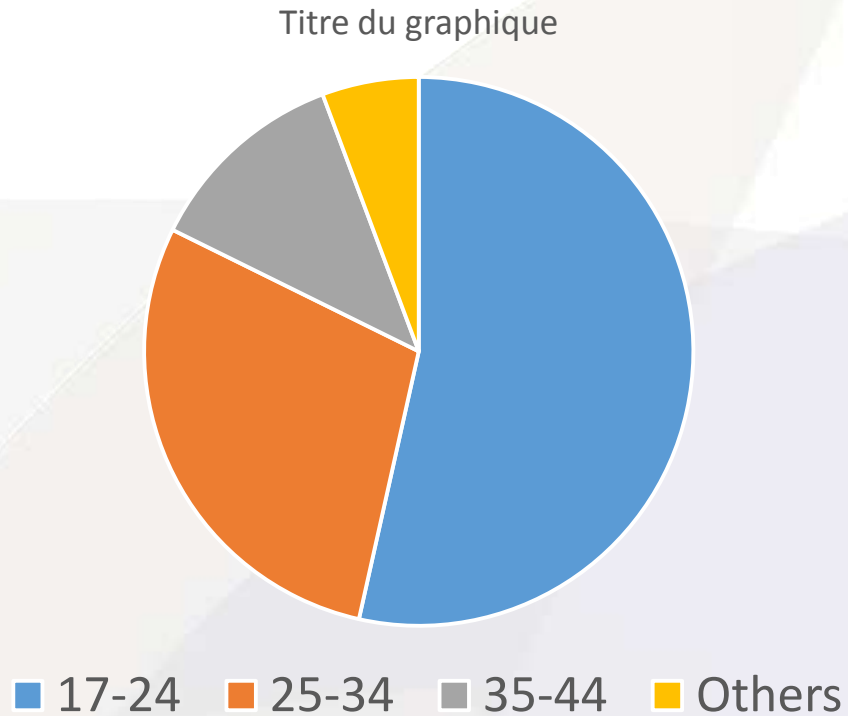
FEEDBACK FROM AgMOOC LEARNERS (PHASE 10)



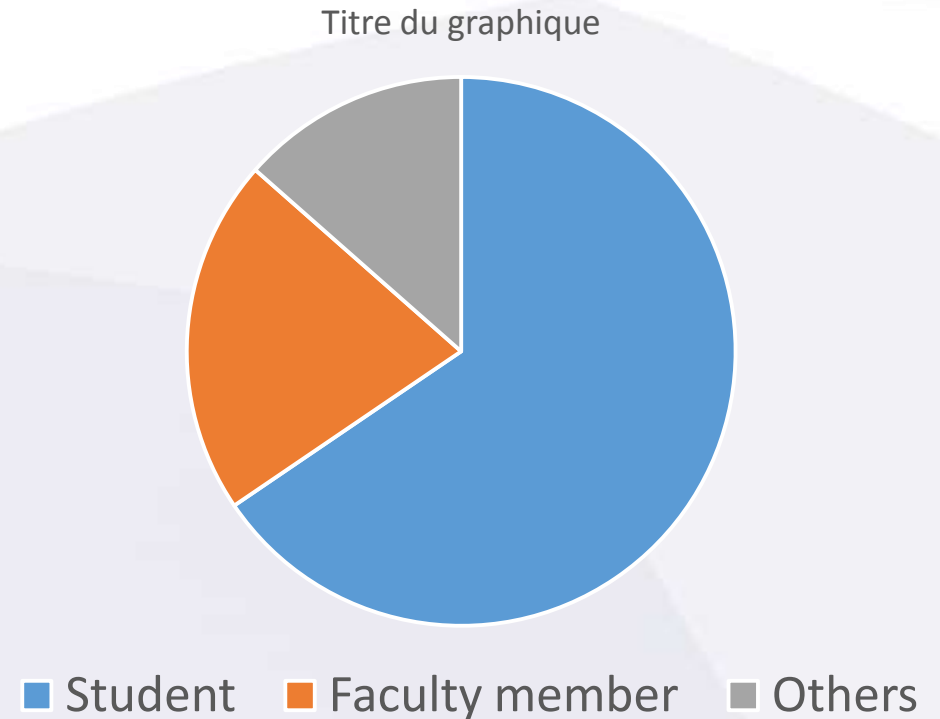
Who is doing AgMOOCs

Majority of learners students < 35 years

Age group of learners

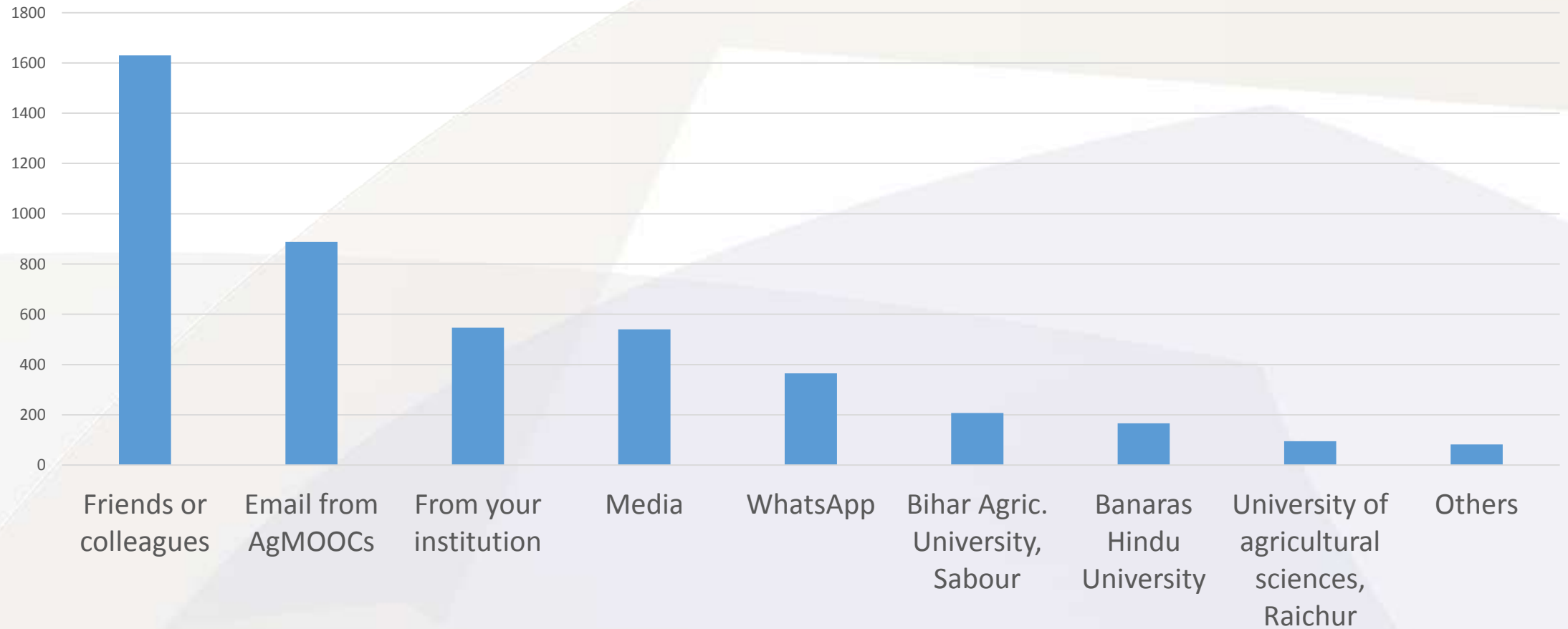


Category of learners



What is the source of information-awareness of the course?

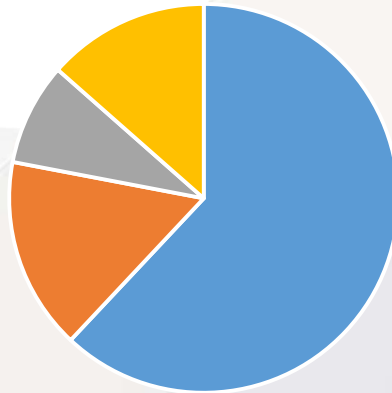
Multiple channels



Why the course and how knowledge is utilized

Reasons for taking the course

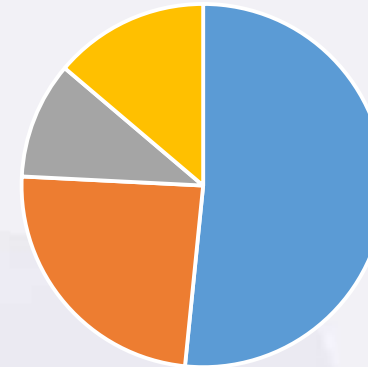
Titre du graphique



- To increase knowledge & awareness
- For professional development
- Cultivation of crops
- Others

Utilization of knowledge gained

Titre du graphique

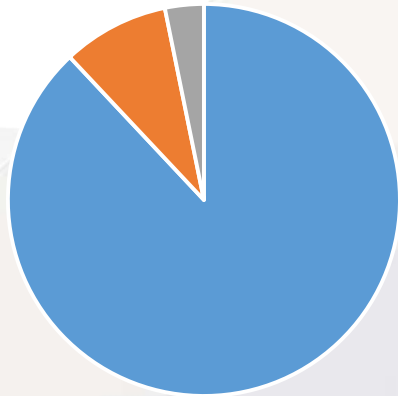


- Share with friends and colleagues
- Share with students in class
- Share with members on a project
- Others

Bandwidth and device used to access AgMOOCs

Bandwidth

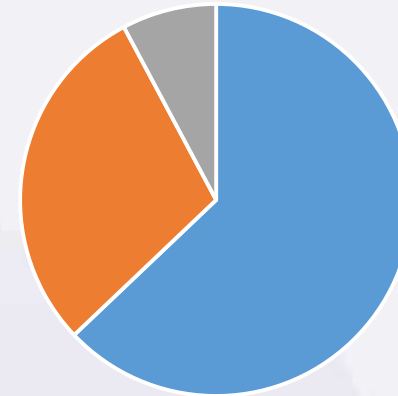
Titre du graphique



- Mobile 3G/4G
- Broadband/Cable TV
- Mobile GPRS/2G

Device used

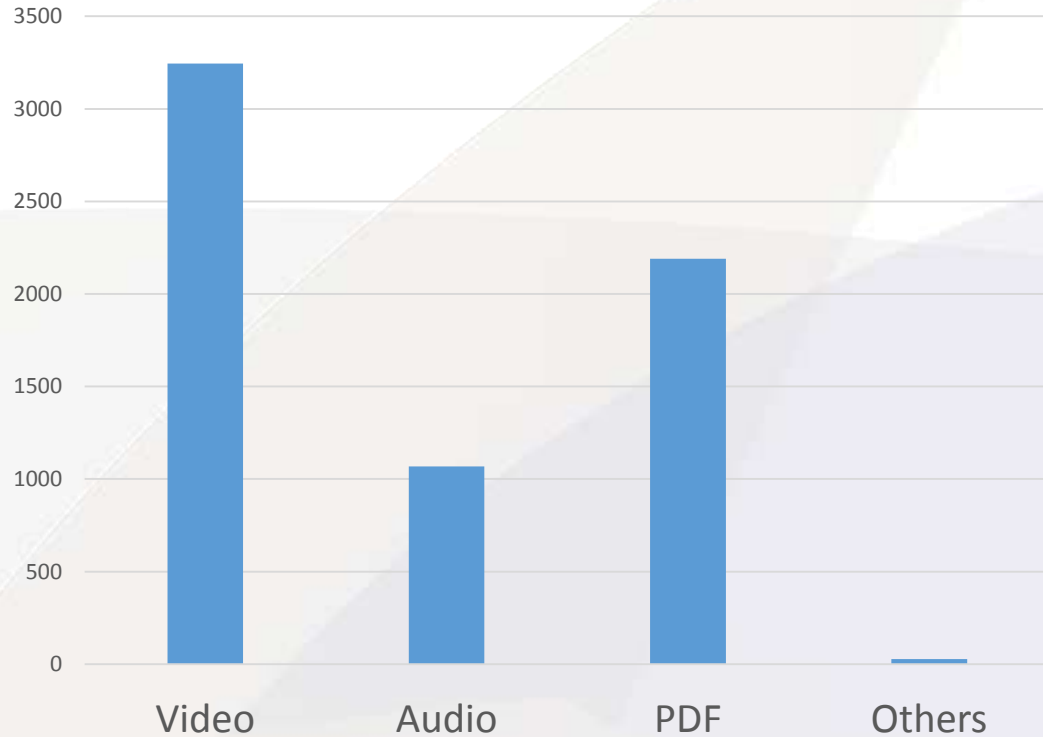
Titre du graphique



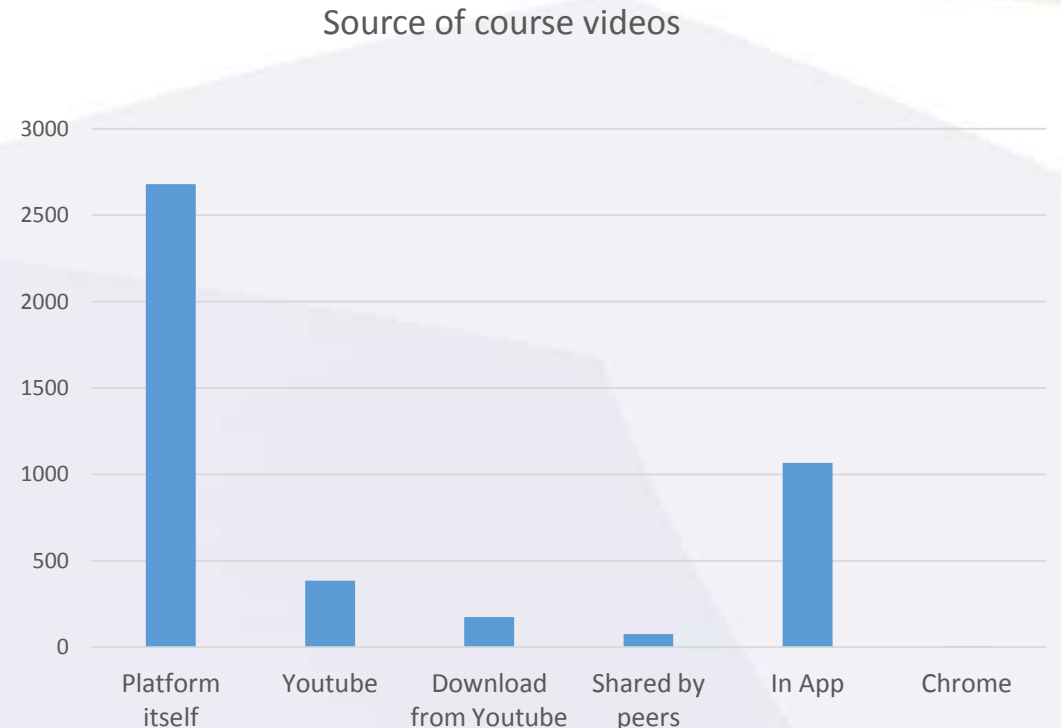
- Mobile device-smartphone/tablet
- Laptop
- Desktop

Accessing content and source of videos

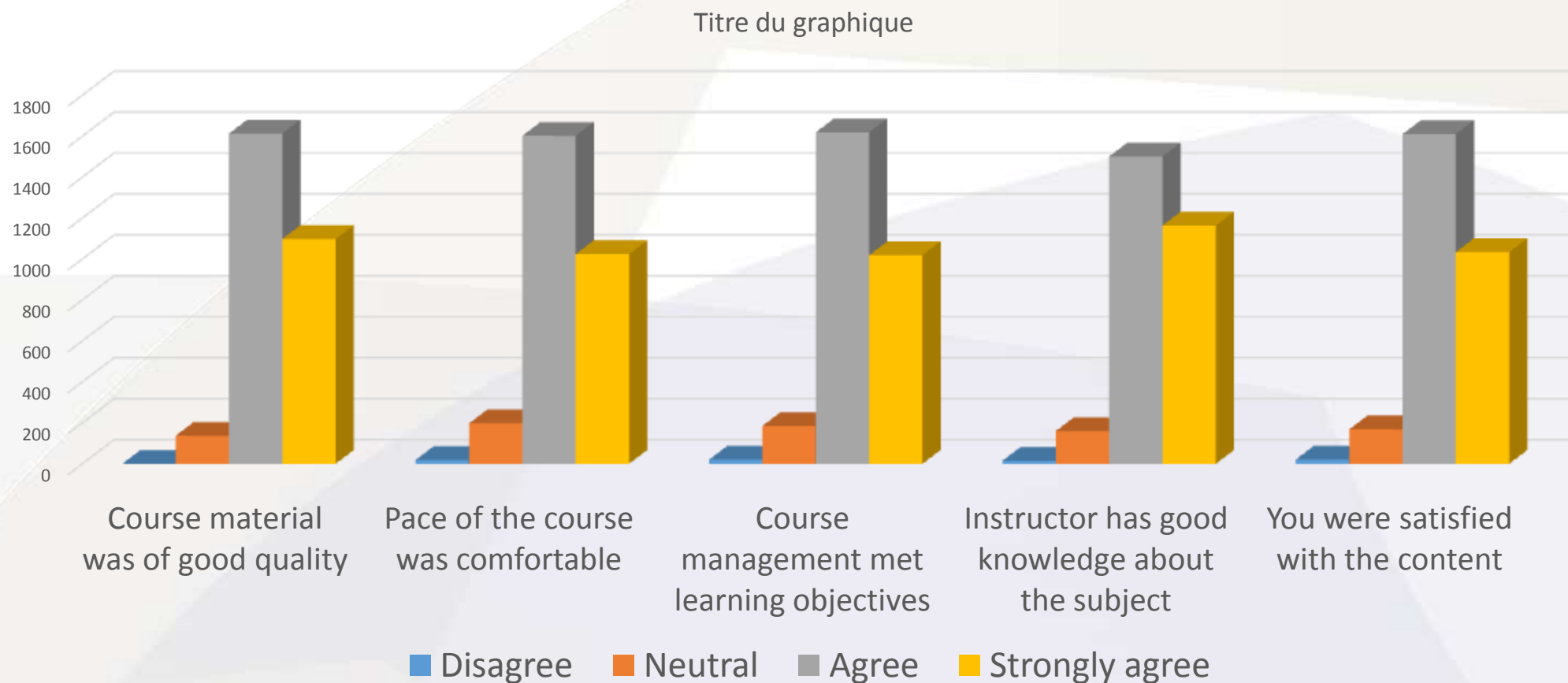
Media used to access content



Source of course videos



Integrated Pest Management feedback



Thank you



col.org