

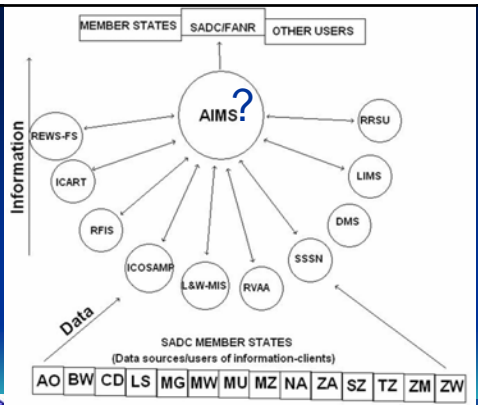
The SADC AIMS development process and the AIMS Portal

DONATA & RAILS Meeting
6th Nov 2008, Lilongwe

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ICART project

The Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) of SADC

- In 2003, as part of re-structuring of the SADC, Secretariat mandated to establish an integrated agricultural information system consisting of existing and upcoming information systems
- However, insufficient funds and human resources mobilised to implement AIMS (study on process involved by FAO in 2005)
- Meanwhile, implementation of donor-funded projects e.g. ICART, Land & Water Management, PRINT etc. with information system components and with goal of being sustainable systems
- Thus, as from 2006, through technical and financial support of these projects: the conceptualisation and prototyping the AIMS (System) (short history to follow)
- To date, the AIMS has been conceptualised, has a functional prototype of a common interface. Soon (2009) to launch feasibility study of major AIMS implementation phase for funding under the 10th EDF



AIMS consultation meeting between Member States representatives, International Cooperating Partners and SADC FANR Projects

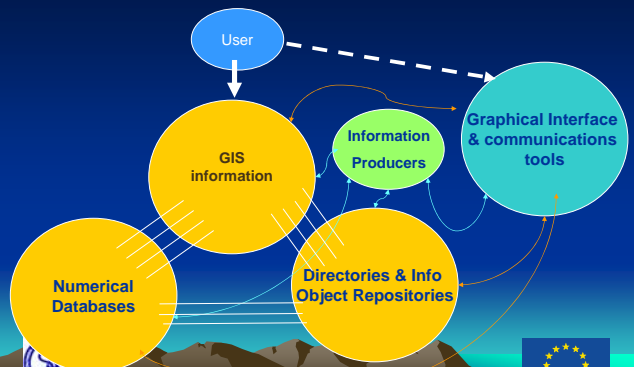


AIMS CONCEPTS: Analysis of different information systems in FANR identified 4 different categories/clusters of information systems

August 2007



Using a visual and graphical user interface to access information



Guiding principles – Focus on:-

- THE INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR STAFF: Work as a network of institutions and of their staff involved in agricultural information management
- THE CONTENT - quality, availability, timely
- ADOPTION OF STANDARDS: - international information exchange standards being developed
- USES: – Respond to national and regional information needs
- FUNCTIONALITIES: - defined by the stakeholders



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Major developments 2007/08

- Land & Water Management Information System (L&WMIS) – & AIMS Portal prototype
- Livestock Information Management System (LIMS)
- Spatial Data & GeoNetwork development
- Situation analyses of Livestock sector, Agric Research & Training, best bet technologies
- AIMS implementation earmarked for funding through the 10th EDF by 2010



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Functionalities of the AIMS portal

- <http://aims.sadc.int>
- To present spatial and non-spatial information
- To develop directories of institutions (and experts) – information exchange standards
- To carry out customised search for projects, technologies, people, institutions, publications
- To establish electronic networks- thematic & national, using tools for communication (dgroup forums), collaboration (wiki) & dissemination (mailing lists, photos, audio, video)
- To devolve content generation to level of information producer
- To aggregate national news/events at regional level using Web 2.0 tools such as RSS Feeds
- Social bookmarking and group 'tagging' (e.g. del.icio.us)
- To host Learning tools and materials for distance or face to face mode or both



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The screenshot shows the AIMS portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for 'AIMS Home', 'About AIMS', 'News And Events', 'Land & Water', 'Livestock', 'Remote Sensing & GIS', 'Non-Spatial Information', and 'Networks'. Below this, there's a 'Recent News' section with several news items, including '15th Jul 2008 Pascal's new on AIMS' and '16th Jul 2008 New search capabilities...'. A central section titled 'Agricultural Information Management Systems (AIMS)' features a map of Southern Africa and a diagram of the AIMS architecture. To the right, there's a 'Upcoming Events' section listing various conferences and workshops, such as '27th to 31st Jul 2008 DRC Mission' and '2008 Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference'.

This screenshot shows the 'About' page of the AIMS portal. It includes a navigation bar at the top and a main content area with two columns. The left column is titled 'About' and contains text explaining that AIMS events are from different sources and that individual event items are collected and listed here. The right column is titled 'Upcoming Events' and lists several events with their dates and titles, such as '27th to 31st Jul 2008 DRC Mission', '7th to 12th Sep 2008 51st Annual Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science', and '29th Sep to 3rd Oct 2008 2008 Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference'.

This screenshot shows a detailed view of the 'About' page for the '2008 Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference incorporating GISSA 2008'. It provides specific details about the conference, including the date (29th Sep to 3rd Oct 2008), location (Cape Town, South Africa), and registration information. It also lists the conference's focus on geospatial information and its incorporation of the GISSA 2008 event. The page includes a 'What' section, a 'When' section, a 'Where' section, and a 'More Info' section with a link to the conference website. There is also a 'Download' section with links to the conference logo and other resources.

Southern African Development Community
Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS)

AIMS Home | About AIMS | News And Events | Land & Water | Livestock | Remote Sensing & GIS | Non-Spatial Information | Networks

Path: AIMS Home → Land & Water → Spatial Information (Map Builder)

General geography
Abstract
General geography of the SADC region.
[Read more about this site](#)

Scale: 1:1000000

Southern African Development Community
Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS)

AIMS Home | About AIMS | News And Events | Land & Water | Livestock | Remote Sensing & GIS | Non-Spatial Information | Networks

Path: AIMS Home → Non-Spatial Information

About
This section present the user with a variety of publicly available information on the web coming from a range of selected web-sites or sub-sections from web-sites, notably from: SADC Ministers, SADC Statistical Bodies, SADC Agricultural Universities and SADC NARS

Access to Non-Spatial Information
This section present the user with a variety of publicly available information on the web coming from a range of selected web-sites or sub-sections from web-sites, by the SADC-AIMS community.

Information from Regional Websites
This section present the user with a variety of publicly available information on the web coming from a range of selected web-sites or sub-sections from web-sites, by the SADC-AIMS community.

Information from Suggested Websites
This section present the user with a variety of publicly available information on the web coming from a range of selected web-sites or sub-sections from web-sites, by the SADC-AIMS community.

Information from International Databases
This section present the user with a variety of publicly available information on Projects, Organizations, Documents, (Experts), (Images) and Good Practices on the web coming from a range of selected Databases, notably from: FAO, International Research Institutions, Wageningen International, CGIAR and more.

Organizations
The functional specifications of this controlled organization directory are fully compliant with the [Agricultural Information Management Standards](#) to facilitate interoperability, reusability and cooperation.
It caters for easy sharing of Organizational Addresses through mapping to common schemas. In this case in [vCard/CSV](#) format as well as in [Agricultural Organization Application Profile](#) format.

Library
The controlled Library can hold various types of information, text-based, images or multi-media. It is fully compliant with the [Dublin Core \(DC\)](#) and [AGRS Application Profile](#) formats to facilitate indexing by search engines.

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Southern African Development Community
Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS)

AIMS Home | About AIMS | News And Events | Land & Water | Livestock | Remote Sensing & GIS | Non-Spatial Information | Networks

Path: AIMS Home → Non-Spatial Information → Data Sources

Suggestions ?
If you have a suggestion for additional data sources or websites to be included in the searches for Agricultural Development Information relevant to the SADC region, please do send an email to the [website](#) and include the details of the resource.

Data Sources
Selected websites from the 14 Countries

Country	Agricultural Ministry	National Statistic Agency	Agricultural University
Angola	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Statistics Department	Universidade Agrotécnica Nuno Botelho College of Agriculture
Botswana	-	Central Statistics Office	Botswana College of Agriculture
Congo	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Centre National de la Statistique	National University of Lesotho
Madagascar	Ministère de l'Agriculture de l'Élevage et de la Pêche	Bureau de Statistique	University of Malawi
Malawi	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Statistical National de la Statistique	University of Malawi
Mauritius	Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries	National Statistical Office	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
Mozambique	-	Portal de Estatística de Moçambique	University of Namibia
Namibia	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry	Central Bureau of Statistics	University of Pretoria
South Africa	Department of Agriculture	Statistics South Africa	University of Swaziland
Swaziland	Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives	Central Statistical Office	Soboku University of Agriculture
Tanzania	-	National Bureau of Statistics	University of Zambia
Zambia	Ministry of Agriculture	Central Statistical Office	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-

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Southern African Development Community
Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS)

AIMS Home | About AIMS | News And Events | Land & Water | Livestock | Remote Sensing & GIS | Non-Spatial Information | Networks

Path: AIMS Home → Non-Spatial Information → Suggested Websites

About
This section present the user with a variety of publicly available information on the web coming from a range of selected web-sites or sub-sections from web-sites, by the SADC-AIMS community.

Enter your Keywords to Search for Matching Information

Search

powered by Google

Sites included:

- Journey to Forever
- Agrometeorology
- E-Agriculture
- System for Analysis, Research & Training
- Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture
- International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
- Scientific Journals

You may suggest other sites to be included yourself. Please do suggest to [Ms. Celeste Esbach](#).

Southern African Development Community
Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS)

AIMS Home | About AIMS | News And Events | Land & Water | Livestock | Remote Sensing & GIS | Non-Spatial Information | Networks

Path: AIMS Home → Land & Water → Land & Water Networks

About
The Land & Water Network uses Dgroups to discuss important topics and to report on relevant resources.

Dgroups Development Through Dialogue

Home | Messages | People | Resources | Events

Land & Water issues in Southern Africa

To be added

Recent Messages to Land & Water Networks

Message	Date
Re: Update from Namibia Zambia	07/03/2009
Re: Mozambique	07/03/2009
Re: Mozambique	07/03/2009
Re: Mozambique	07/03/2009

Recent Discussions

Discussion	Date
Call for proposals on ICT in ACP - closing next last 08	07/06/2009
Note on agro-ecological zones in the SADC region	05/10/2008
Geospatial Portal of the FAO	05/10/2008
Land and Water Development Division of the FAO	05/10/2008
Country Presentation (Swaziland)	05/10/2008

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Southern African Development Community
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Path: AIMS Home → Moodle

SADC AIMS MOODLE ENVIRONMENT

You are logged in as [User](#) | [Logout](#) | [Help](#) | [English \(en\)](#)

Available Courses

No courses in this category

Course/Site Description

Calendar

Home | My Home | Find | The First | The Last

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30 31

Block

Recent Activity

Remove RSS Feeds

Search Forums

Consultative workshop on AIMS in June 2008

- To update stakeholders on progress – from concept to functional prototype and now on to a consolidation process
- Evaluation of AIMS portal prototype



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AIMS Research and Extension Thematic Information group

- Discussion on the establishment of a Research and Extension Thematic Information Group (Agric. Research and Development?)
- Enthusiastic about using the AIMS portal functionalities for communication and info sharing
- Agreed to establish presence on AIMS portal
- Need to expand to beyond the group present at the meeting



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AIMS Consultative Workshop June 08

Some recommendations:

- To establish Thematic Information Networks and have cross-fertilisation of ideas and information exchange across Thematic Information Networks
- To have cross-fertilisation of ideas and information exchange at national level (Establish National AIMS networks/taskforces/teams/committees)
- To keep all participants informed of and involved in the AIMS development process as part of the SADC Agric Information Stakeholders Community/Network (info generators, gatherers, processors, users – from policy makers to farmer groups)
- To set up a SADC Agricultural Information Management Research & Development Network
 - Applied research on agricultural information and knowledge management;
 - Testing out functionalities of new technologies and developing methodologies to support innovation
 - Advising SADC AIMS on methods for information storage and management;
 - Interact with larger SADC Agric Information Stakeholders Community/Network



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PSTADA – DONATA & RAILS

PSTADA – 3 components funded

1. Project management
2. DONATA – Technology Transfer & Good Agricultural Practices
 - At regional level: OPV Maize, Sorghum
 - Relevance to Malawi
3. RAILS – Information and knowledge management
 - Through information exchange platforms and learning teams on specific themes (DONATA-related?)

How does the implementation of RAILS fit into the agricultural information development process at the level of SADC?



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RAILS

- Establishment of platforms at national and regional levels to facilitate
 - Management of information and knowledge on AR&D (focused on the priority commodities and technologies identified)
 - Learning about the establishment of the information exchange platforms through the process
 - Sharing/Exchanging of knowledge with stakeholders of the value chain
- Six SADC Member States involved in RAILS (AfDB criteria)
- Currently 4 MS involved in DONATA (Madagascar soon)
- Implementation of RAILS through the SADC FANR, but the SADC also has to cater for all its Member States



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The ICART Project

- ICART: Implementation and Coordination of Agric. Research and Training
- Strengthen capacity of SADC-FANR to coordinate AR&D and Training
- Steering Committee (representation of Research, Extension, Universities, Private Sector, Farmer Associations)
- Management of competitive funds for (i) Research (ii) Training MSc level
- Management of funds to support regional research networks (but also for networking of stakeholders of research)
- Establishment of an information system on AR&D
- Mid-Sept08: 2nd Stakeholders Assembly – Discussions on the development of a for Agricultural Information, Communication and knowledge Management Strategy
- End Sept 08 - Workshop with two representatives from Agric Research and Extension/Information Services from each of the 15 MS on the establishment of a platform for information exchange on AR&D (14 MS present)
- 15 SADC MS including the 6 MS involved in RAILS



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