

What is the Web 2.0?



Web and AR4D: context & mindsets

- We use the web to find information... but not often as a medium to provide information to others
- Websites usually seem to be not much more than electronic versions of corporate brochures
- The technology is moving so fast... should we bother trying to catch up?
- I need training to be able to use the technology (again?)
- Using Web 2.0 means that I have to be connected to the Internet 24/7



6

Status of web connectivity in the region

- Agricultural institutions and staff have access to email
- More agricultural institutions are gradually getting access to broadband internet
- Situation may significantly improve by mid 2010?
- Mobile telephony increasingly playing a role in constant access to the web for individuals
- More AR&D stakeholders are ready to make use of web2.0 technology



7

What can we do today?

- **CONTEXT:**
- Web2.0 technology does not require you to be online 24/7, but frequent connection preferred (just like telephony going mobile)
- The more we familiarise ourselves with the technology the more we benefit from it
- Several initiatives have taken place in the region to promote greater use of ICT-ICM to promote information exchange in AR4D (RAILS, SADC-AIMS-ARD; ICART; CTA-Regional studies & ICM workshop)
- The establishment of electronic networks on AR&D information management (RAILS Learning Teams, AIMS Committee, LIMS Task Force & now ZAR4DIN)
- The formation of a Network of AR&D Information Managers in the SADC region, and their exposure to web 2.0 technologies (May 2009 onwards)



8

What can we do today?

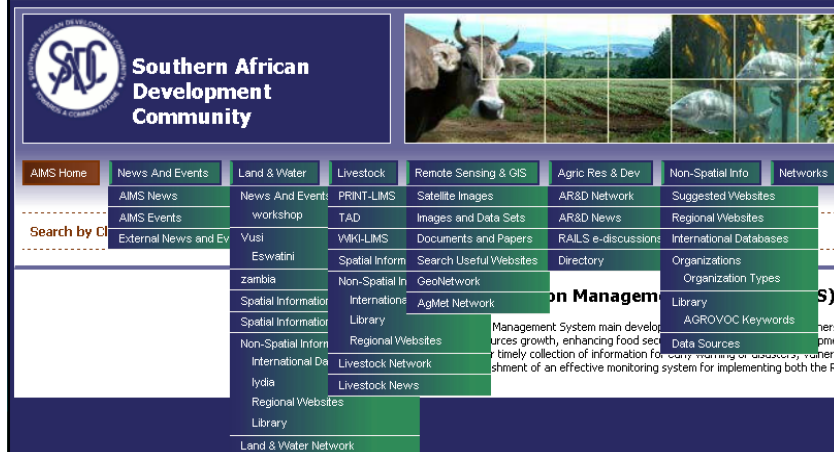
- **TOOLS:**
- The e-RAILS portal democratising the publishing of information on the web by AR&D and grassroots organisations (www.erails.net)
- The SADC-AIMS portal (aims.sadc.int) making available a range of tools, including web 2.0 tools, to facilitate communication and networking:
 - Dgroups; News and Events RSS feeds and filtering
 - GoogleDocs; Wiki; Blog
 - Directory; Repository
 - e-Learning platform
 - Other new tools that are useful for info exchange
- AIMS Portal design can also host e-RAILS websites



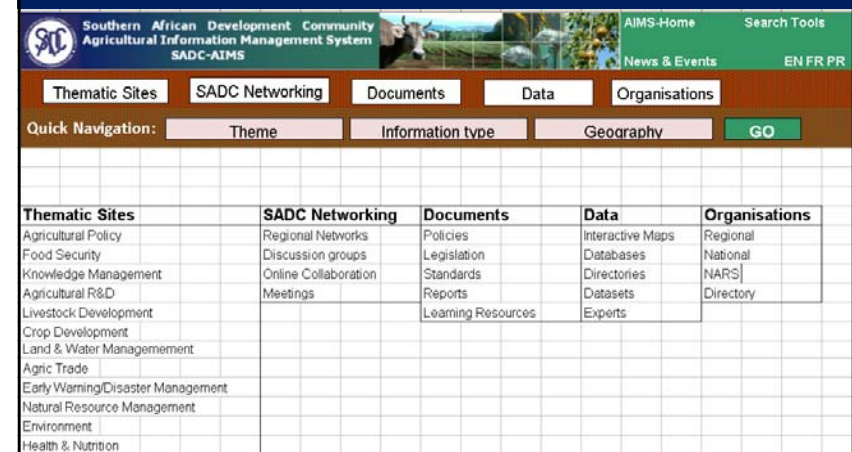
The AIMS Portal (I)



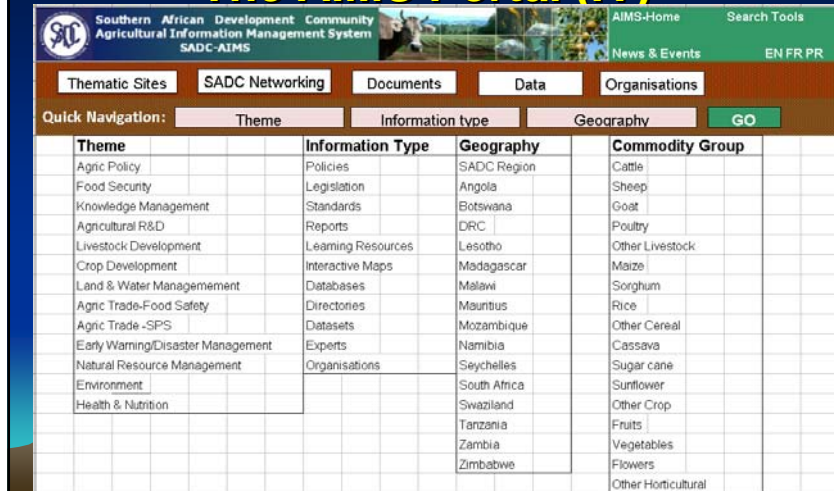
The AIMS Portal (II)



The AIMS Portal (III)



The AIMS Portal (IV)



Southern African Development Community
Agricultural Information Management System
SADC-AIMS

AIMS-Home Search Tools
News & Events EN FR PR

Thematic Sites SADC Networking Documents Data Organisations

Quick Navigation: Theme Information type Geography GO

| Theme | Information Type | Geography | Commodity Group |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Agric Policy | Policies | SADC Region | Cattle |
| Food Security | Legislation | Angola | Sheep |
| Knowledge Management | Standards | Botswana | Goat |
| Agricultural R&D | Reports | DRC | Poultry |
| Livestock Development | Learning Resources | Lesotho | Other Livestock |
| Crop Development | Interactive Maps | Madagascar | Maize |
| Land & Water Management | Databases | Malawi | Sorghum |
| Agric Trade-Food Safety | Directories | Mauritius | Rice |
| Agric Trade -SPS | Datasets | Mozambique | Other Cereal |
| Early Warning/Disaster Management | Experts | Namibia | Cassava |
| Natural Resource Management | Organisations | Seychelles | Sugar cane |
| Environment | | South Africa | Sunflower |
| Health & Nutrition | | Swaziland | Other Crop |
| | | Tanzania | Fruits |
| | | Zambia | Vegetables |
| | | Zimbabwe | Flowers |
| | | | Other Horticultural |

Which approach to web 2.0 tools?

Some options:

- Do nothing/ Do something/ Wait for Capacity Building
- Web 2.0 requires that we work as a network around the information exchange tools – collaborative web; but it also enables us to use the same tools to facilitate the networking process
- Carry out the same tasks but with a new perspective and use collaborative approach facilitated by the technology
- Try new tools and Integrate activities in regular workplan (work smarter)



14

An example?



SADC Network of ARD Information Managers

How? Join us and learn together! (i)

- Network can (and is) already making use of the platforms available (e-RAILS & SADC AIMS):
- Maintain the network communications using Dgroups (mailing list & discussion forum)
- Put up information through the e-RAILS platform
- Establish and maintain a Directory of ARD Institutions using web 2.0 technology to manage the process that has traditionally been paper-based
- Contributing news and events information which can be filtered and re-distributed
- Contributing to institutional, national & regional document repositories



16

Join us and let's learn together! (ii)

- Adopt a 'learn by doing' approach and share their experiences (peer-learning) to keep updated with the applications of the technology in ARD Information exchange
- Develop Agricultural Information, Communication and Knowledge Management (AICKM) Strategies at institutional, national and regional level
- Contribute to the development of the AIMS portal for information exchange in the SADC region

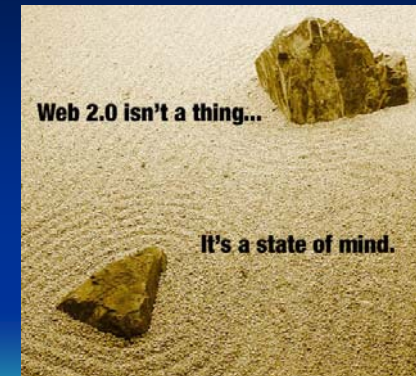
ZAR4DIN and the Network of ARD Information Managers are complementary



17

Lesson learnt: What is the Web 2.0?

- My definition:
- **The Web 2.0 is the collaborative web responding to the information needs of the individual**
- ... something to look back at in 6 months time, after your own research... let's discuss it, online!



18

