

Application of ICT in the Agriculture domain

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Our experience in developing application software for the Department of Agriculture – Southern Province has led to the following problem areas and/or findings that needs to be addressed if the solutions are to be practical, sustainable and interconnected.

We have identified the problem to be of two-fold as

1. **Forming the future** - How and what needs to be done to ensure that any development is inter-connectible, void of redundant data and processes, as per a published standard, etc.

What needs to be done;

- a. Establish standards that the stake holders should adhere to in developing apps/applications.
- b. Have the standards published in a web portal that is easily accessible to any stake holder.
- c. May be to have a stake holder registration process so as to ensure the stakeholders follow the standards.
- d. Be the standards-auditor of the domain and have a mechanism to provide standards-auditing as a service.

2. **Taming the present** -How can we bring the currently available software solutions to be inter-connected and shareable encompassing data shareability, process shareability and application shareability.

What needs to be done;

- a. Establish a mechanism to inventories the current situation.
- b. Make available a categorized inventory of current applications such as, in-use, done but not in use, planned to do, etc.
- c. The inventory should have the attributes such as features, reusability, applicability and adaptability in other areas (Not application areas but administrative areas).
- d. Develop a mechanism on how to integrate what-is-in-use.

We see that we need a common body/organization that could do the following.

1. Being the official primary-resource/controller of the Agri-domain development.
2. Identify the external domains that are directly influential on Agri-domain.
3. Have a more interactive and proactive relationship with controlling authorities of development of the above external domains.

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