



Smart Farmer

SAP Technology for Advanced Agriculture Information Systems

What is Smart Farmer?

Smart Farmer is an SAP-powered technology solution connecting agricultural communities to value adding services through networks with markets, suppliers, service providers, other farmers and relevant government departments. This is done through the provision of user-friendly, efficient and flexible ICT-based services which cut across many functions and access channels.

The value proposition of Smart Farmer is to assist farming communities and other stakeholders in doing things smarter, with transparency, accountability and efficiency, while driving profitability.

What are the problems faced by farmers?

Agricultural communities currently face countless challenges that have a negative impact on their business. These are sometimes, but not limited to, inadequate access to extension services, weak direct networks with ecosystems, and limited real-time information on disease outbreaks and national, regional and international market prices.

Some of these challenges are more critical than others; the lack of insight and access to markets often results in revenue loss to

unscrupulous middlemen who buy from disempowered producers and resell to markets at marginally higher prices. Furthermore, poor disease warning and related systems lead to loss of produce worth millions every year.

All these challenges are characterised by the common root of lack of access to crucial information on-the-go. Smart Farmer tackles these problems through simple but sophisticated SAP technologies which provide comprehensive and current information critical for the success of agricultural communities.

How does Smart Farmer address these problems?

As a response to the problems faced by agricultural communities, Smart Farmer provides the following services:

- Peer to Peer communication for Farmer to Farmer Interaction
- Farmer-to-Government Communication
- Government-to-Farmer Communication
- Government-to-Government Communication
- Price tracking and reporting
- Agricultural Alert Systems (sending and receiving)
- Commodities offer and bid facilitation

- Location services for service providers
- Production Information Systems e.g. Best practices, planning, etc
- E-extension services

These services assist farmers throughout the production cycle – from planning to sale stages, whether locally, regionally or globally. Smart Farmer offers a new way through which information systems in agriculture are vastly improved.

The 5 Smart Farmer Application areas

Smart Farmer facilitates advanced Information Systems which ensure that critical information is readily available to farmers. This information extends to the following:-

- Agronomic Requirements
- Market-related Information
- Environmental Information
- Legislation Information Requirements
- Communication and Interaction Activities

Underlying Technology

The Smart Farmer solution is powered by SAP technology which provides a platform for increased adaptability and openness. The platform enables effortless integration and interfacing of different systems and services into

one holistic package. In addition, the technology allows for multi-channel access by various stakeholders onto the platform.

Accessibility

Smart Farmer is modeled to provide easy access. From basic SMS systems to Internet connections, Smart Farmer is built to suit the needs of all farmers. Services can be accessed using basic mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers through SMS, email and internet facilities. Access will be increased by Service Access Points such as kiosks in rural areas. It guarantees access on-the-go, in any place and at any time.

Benefits

There are various benefits to be derived from using Smart Farmer. These include:-

- **Increased agricultural production**
- Farmers benefit from the availability of information which directly impacts their planning and production
- **Improved capacity for planning**
- Because Smart Farmer provides government with real time information on aspects concerning the agricultural cycle, the technology increases capacity for more effective planning
- **Improved profitability for farmers** - Availability of real-time information on prices and trends helps farmers to make calculated financial decisions
- **Provision of early warning systems** - Smart Farmer helps in protecting investments through early warning systems against factors such as crop and animal diseases
- **Elimination of barriers to markets**
- improved connection between farmers and markets eases trading

- **Effective communication within the farming community (peer-to-peer)** - improves collaboration and information exchange
- **Access to technical support**

- **on-the-go** - Smart Farmer facilitates access to extension services electronically, thereby improving turnaround times and support
- **Improved knowledge management**

About Twenty Third Century Systems

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Twenty Third Century Systems (TTCS) is a Pan African business solutions provider. Since 1996, it has focused on implementing SAP based solutions across Africa and the Middle East in sectors such as government, mining, manufacturing, social security as well as tax and revenue collecting agencies. TTCS has a diverse pool of consultants who are both functional and technical experts in the scope of our various offerings. These include SAP's various modules in financials, logistics and human capital management as well as analytics, mobility, cloud and database technologies. TTCS also offers SAP on the cloud for various market segments including Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs). We successfully achieve this using up-to-date SAP approved methods for timely and effective product delivery and support.

TTCS' presence across Africa is in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Nigeria. Our philosophy is to collaborate with local partners to build local skills that then become part of our global skills pool but able to provide a local in-country delivery and support capability.

Our reputation is one of superior customer responsiveness to diverse requirements; our goal being that

of providing solutions that remain relevant to our customers' businesses. We take a customer-centric approach to all problem solving, while striving to continually enhance customer experience to satisfaction. Our repeat and long-standing clients are testimony of TTCS' excellence in how we value each one of our customers individually. TTCS, through its Customer Services Division was one of the companies to be certified by SAP as a Partner Centre of Expertise (PCoE) through which online support is provided to clients on a 24/7 basis.

TTCS is the largest SAP Service Partner in Sub-Saharan Africa excluding the South African market and has over 18 years SAP experience.

OUR SAP PARTNERSHIP STATUS

TTCS is an SAP Gold Partner, an accolade awarded for excellent and diligent workmanship on SAP implementations. SAP Gold Partners are recognised by the programme as experts who deliver transformational, highly functional SAP solutions across the entire customer engagement lifecycle - through sales, implementation services and support, system design and operational support for their customers.

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