

Community platforms in ICT: An approach for agriculture?

Daniel Martini, Esther Mietzsch, Mario Schmitz, Martin Kunisch

The logo for agriXchange, featuring the word 'agri' in green, 'X' in blue with a stylized 'X' shape, and 'change' in blue. The logo is overlaid on a background of golden wheat stalks.

agriXchange

Internet-based community platforms

- For people with a common goal (critical mass!)
- Geographically dispersed
- Share and provide tools, documents, etc. to get some work done

History

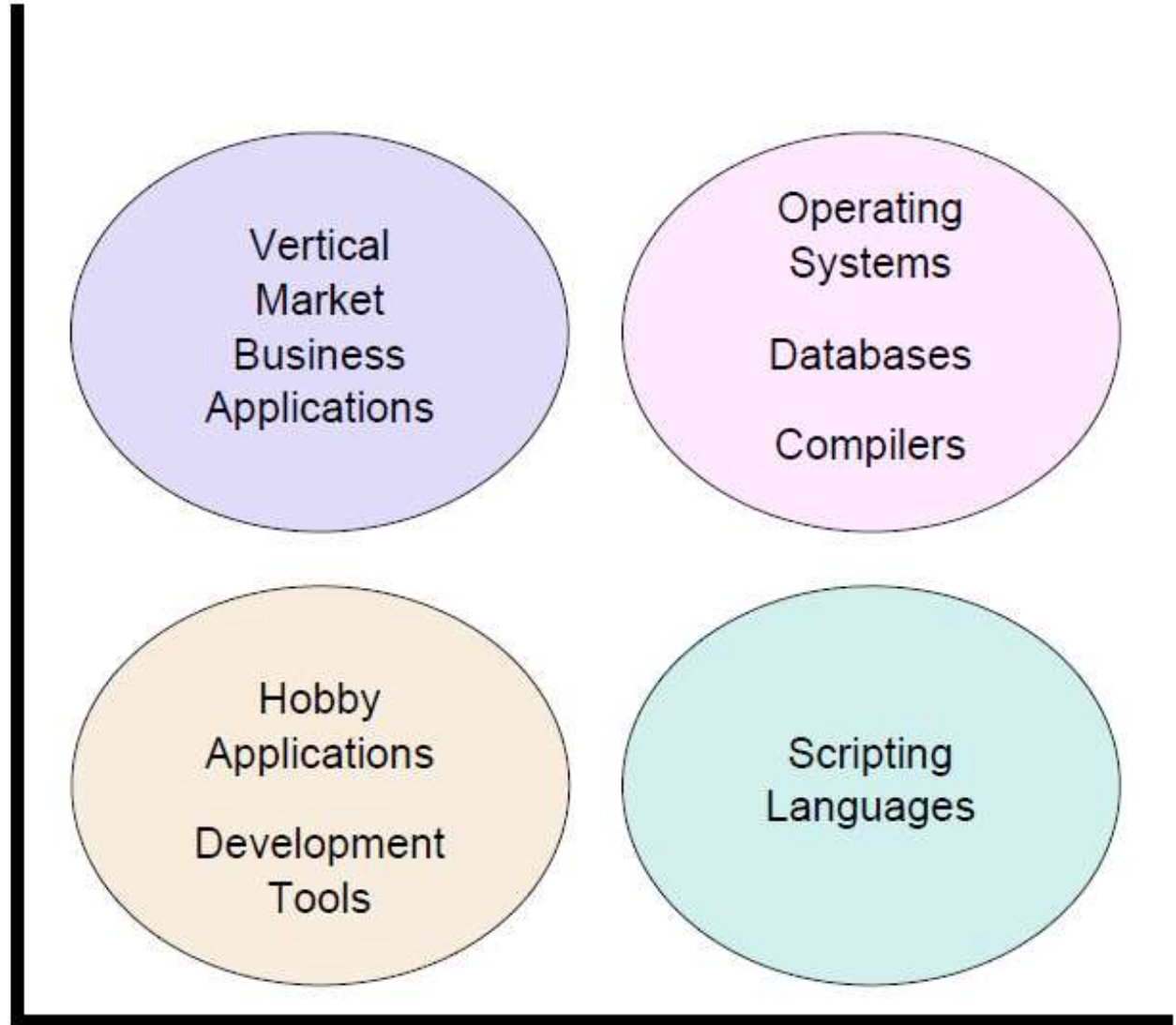
- Information technology research in the 80s/90s
 - Berkeley, MIT...
 - Project dissemination, knowledge sharing
- Basic functionalities
 - Mailing lists (SMTP, UUCP)
 - News groups (NNTP)
 - Source Code Management (SCCS, CVS)

Today

- Protocol unification (HTTP: see SVN, Forums)

Open source software availability

Complexity



Users

ICT community platforms

Established
long ago,
focussed, solid

- www.postgresql.org:
 - Relational database technology
 - Documentation with commenting functionality, mailing list, downloads, Source code management
- www.free/open/netbsd.org:
 - Operating systems
 - Documentation, mailing list, downloads, source code management

Mid-aged,
organizational
models

- www.apache.org:
 - Foundation as an organizational basis, web- and webservertechnologies and -tools
 - Hosting several projects with documentation, downloads, code...
- www.sourceforge.net:
 - Any kinds of software projects -> high number of requests
 - > advertising as a business model below
 - Downloads, source code management, statistics...

Young, flexible,
ad-hoc

- code.google.com:
 - Flexible ad-hoc model
 - Downloads, WiKi, discussion groups, source code management
- www.bitbucket.org:
 - Software as a Service, in this case source code management

Agrifood/standards/interoperability project platforms

- aims.fao.org
 - Concept server workbench
- www.osor.eu
 - EC Informatics Gartner Study: „Exchange platforms survey: User Experience and Expectations“ on SEMIC, OSOR, ePractice
- www.semic.eu: Semantic Interoperability Center Europe
 - Collecting eGovernment assets (models, schemas, documentation)
- European Transparency Platform
 - Food sector transparency: national/EU-level
- www.agrifoodlivinglab.nl:
 - Allowing interactive business process modelling
- www.futurefarm.eu: see other section
- db-ictagri.eu: see Martin's talk
- lots of others...

Time phases: standardization project

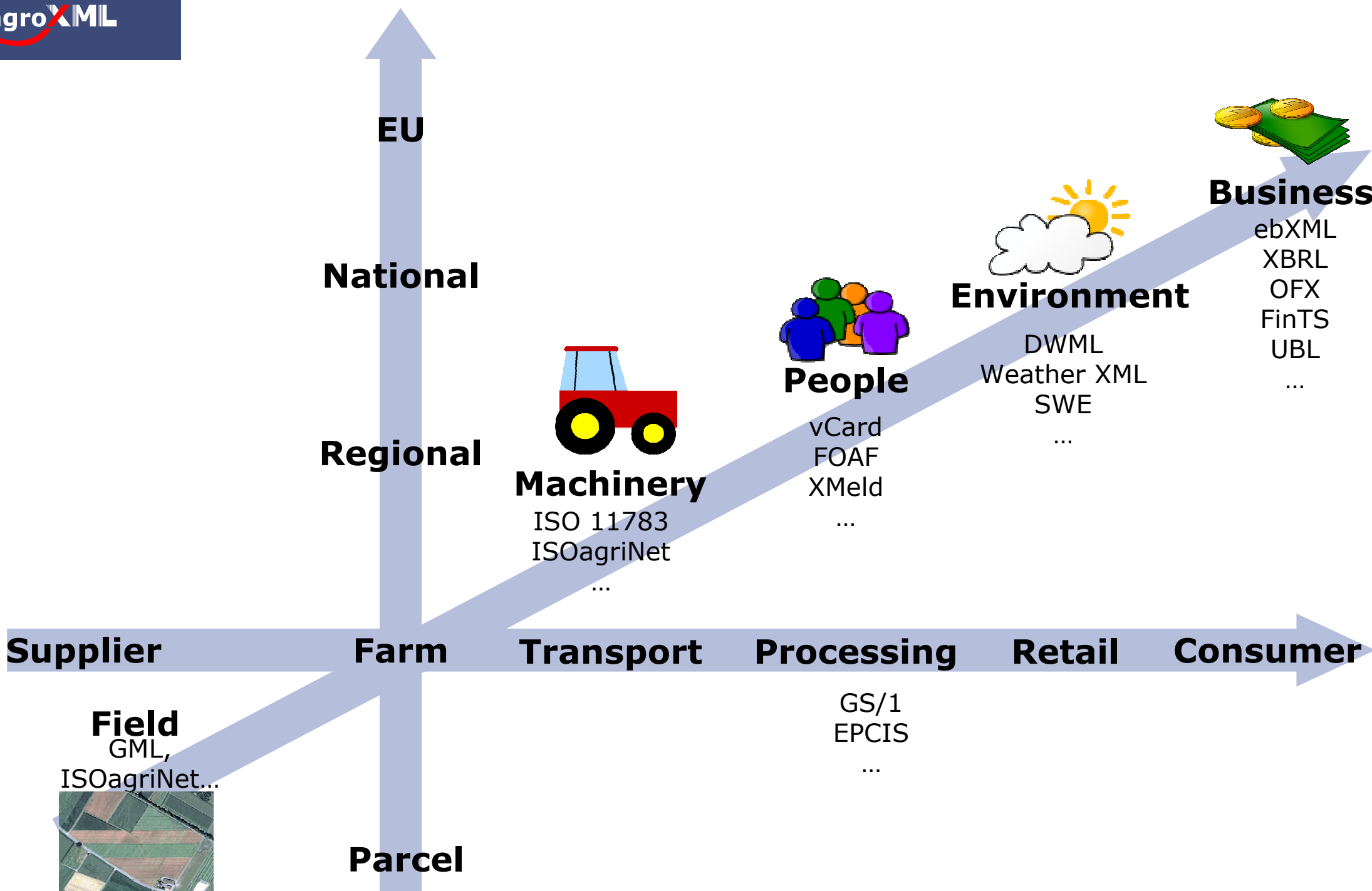
Stage	Target group	Tools
Consortium building	Decision makers	Initial information push through various channels
Defining processes and structures	Legal people	Email, shared storage, telcos
Defining tasks, forming working groups	Chief technology officers	WiKi, Meetings
Working groups	Developers, Product managers	For each WG: WiKi, SCM, IRC
Internal acceptance	Voting members	Web based voting
Promotion of standards	All, PR	Targeted communication

Functionalities

- Community and user management
- Document management
- Knowledge Base
- Workbench/Toolbox
- Source code management
- Discussion and communication
 - Asynchronous
 - Synchronous
- Task management
- News dissemination

Future developments

- „Meta“-platforms
 - Repositories
 - Integration
 - Aggregators
 - Based on semantic technologies (FOAF)
- Distributed Approach
 - cf. source code management:
Past: Client-Server: RCS, CVS, SVN
Present/future: Distributed: hg, git
- Interconnection
 - Social APIs



Motivation?

Wish list?