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Development of a web-accessible GIS database of sweetpotato germplasm for East Africa

Gichuki S.[1], Mwanga R.[2], LaBonte D.[3], Burg K.[4], Zhang D[5] and Villordon A[6]
[1]KARI Biotechnology Centre, Nairobi, Kenya
[2]NAARI, Kampala, Uganda
[3]Department of Horticulture, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803
[4]Biotechnology Section, ARC Seibersdorf, Austria
[5]CIP, Lima, Peru, LSU AgCenter, 6Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324, U.S.A.

Abstract. Despite the potential of GIS systems to provide vital spatial and temporal information to target clientele, accessibility by users without direct access to these databases is often limited. Web-based delivery represents a method of delivering real-time or near real-time data to clientele. Although proprietary methods are available for delivering GIS data through web interfaces, these methods often require expensive licensing agreements. The availability of publicly available software that require minimal or flexible licensing costs provide a cost-effective alternative to institutions that are considering access to GIS databases via a web-accessible interface. We describe procedures, software, and other applications that we used to develop a publicly accessible web interface to a GIS database of sweetpotato germplasm collections in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.