

Support to GCP scientists regarding issues related to bioinformatics and data handling



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INTRODUCTION

Support to GCP scientists regarding issues related to bioinformatics and data handling is offered by the 'SP4 Helpdesk on bioinformatics and biometrics'. This project aims to be the entry point and intermediate for any GCP scientist that needs information regarding handling, storing, or analyzing research data, in the field of biometry and bioinformatics. It operates an actual helpdesk that welcomes questions in this field, and it manages the GCP Bioinformatics Portal.

THE SP4 HELPDESK

An expert database (for internal use), created in 2008 with information obtained from current and past SP4 PIs, was updated in 2009. It allows easy identification of experts and is used in answering helpdesk questions. To contact the SP4 helpdesk send an email to:

sp4helpdesk@generationcp.org

Besides sending an email to the above address, the SP4 helpdesk can be approached during this 2009 ARM meeting.

BIOINFORMATICS PORTAL

The SP4 bioinformatics portal pages were completely setup anew, updated and extended. They strive to offer an overview of and provide access to products and services developed by the GCP SP4. It aims to be the entry page for both GCP crop scientists and breeders, and for GCP bioinformatics developers.

www.generationcp.org/bioinformatics.php

The new SP4 bioinformatics portal offers increased visibility and accessibility of bioinformatics products and services, that are or were funded by the GCP, or to which GCP has contributed. There are the following links:

- Ready to use software and services (such as those provided by the world wide high performance computing grid).
- Workshops and meetings organized over years by SP4 (with meetings documents, objectives, presentations, etc.).
- Several thematic areas:
 - Access to high quality data, with links to subjects related to data quality and availability. This includes information about the *GCP Central Registry* that provides access to research data, but also information about mechanisms to upload new or extended results from crop research using the *Data Templates*, available at the Central Registry.
 - Analytical tools and facilities, with links to tools and methodologies in the fields of genomics, breeding and diversity studies and information on facilities such as the HPC and the GCP development platform. The latter is mainly intended for software developers and include pages such as Pantheon, CropForge and GCPWiki.
 - Support to scientists, differentiated into helpdesks, courses and (SP5) training materials and other portals.

We would like to invite you to browse through the pages, and help us improve them by sending us corrections, additions or any other feedback.



Just **Google** on 'gcp bioinformatics' and you'll find the new GCP bioinformatics portal !