

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Group B

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Feedback from Group B on Data Management and Bioinformatics

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General Group Answers to Brainstorming Criteria

Poverty alleviation

Our perception was that informatics impact of poverty alleviation is essential but indirect, and consists primarily of empowering fellow GCP scientists to do their work better (more accurately and completely), faster and more efficiently (more cost effectively, avoiding duplication of effort). This could be achieved by incorporating the following into GCP informatics projects and products:

Access and visibility of information and tools (databases + workbenches)

Integration of information (workbench across data sources)

Analytical power (workbench)

Enhance usability of technology and interfaces

Ensure fitness of purpose and pertinence of technology to GCP research

Facilitate community building (communities of practice)

GCP Niche

In informatics, the unique niche of the GCP is "systems integration" at the level of

Scientific (research) agenda

Organization (Institutional, Multidisciplinary & communities of practice)

Crop and Trait Information

Scientific data types

Analytical tools

2-3 year timeframe

We identified three outputs/products deliverable (in some fashion) within 2-3 years and satisfying the above criteria:

1. **One Stop Collaborative Shop:** continue deployment of CropForge, CropWiki, Central Registry (dataset metadata cataloging functions). Access Grid virtual conferences. One GCP HelpDesk
2. **Comparative Crops & Trait Information Resource:** consisting of two overlapping products (as deliverables within 2-3 years):

1. A viable crop information network spanning all GCP partners and online data sources. This is mainly commissioned research
2. A special integrated comparative biology information resource. This component could consist of both commissioned and competitive research (the competitive research should engage international experts)
3. **Integrated GCP Workbench:** would have the following features:
 - Comprehensive set of pertinent tools
 - "Toolbox/modular"
 - Users can select from a buffet of tools, what they personally need
 - Integrated (share data types)
 - Connected to internet distributed data and computational (i.e. HPC) resources
 - Easy to install, easy to use, intuitive

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