

Collaborative tools and Knowledge portal for Sweetpotato in SSA

Jens Riis-Jacobsen



Google – CGIAR collaborative tools

- CGIAR collaborative web site: **www.cgxchange.org**
- Login at: <https://cgxchange.org/login/auth.htm> with your normal CGIAR login.
- Alternative Create your own Google, gmail account, www.gmail.com
- Brief look at google tools

Other forms of collaboration on the Internet

- Knowledge deposit for Sweetpotato
- Joint elaboration of documents

Knowledge forum for sweetpotato in SSA

- Technology: Content Management System
 - Like the file system and office software, but more intelligent!
 - You can create a folder structure (which is also a navigation menu structure)
 - You can create Internet pages the same way you create a Word document
 - You can upload Word, Excel, pdf, images, video etc
 - Documents have metadata/tags and can appear in multiple folders e.g institutional and scientific subject area

Define the top level knowledge structure of Sweetpotato in SSA

- Three groupings of knowledge
 1. Knowledge on SP for journalists, donors and general public
 2. Scientific knowledge fields
 3. Organizations working on SP in SSA
- Note: Scientific knowledge fields and organizations is a matrix structure, where organizations work in different fields. But in CMS not a problem as same document can appear in both e.g. the same CIP trial report can both be seen under CIP and under SP Trial.

1st step: SP knowledge portal

- Define SP knowledge structure
 1. Popular introduction to SP
 2. **Germplasm**
 3. **Seed Systems**
 4. **Production**
 5. **Value adding (processing & marketing)**
 6. **Use / consumption**
 7. Institutions
 8. Projects/programs



Shared online documents

- With your gmail account or the cgexchange account you can create online documents where up to 10 people can collaborate simultaneously
- Useful for example for
 - Data that need to be updated by different people e.g. monitoring information
 - Generation of outline, general content etc of larger document
- Not recommended for larger formal documents, or at least this will need subsequent reformatting

Example of M&E in google docs

SECCION (Nivel 3)	Peso	EI RAMA		NUEVA GUINEA	
	5	5	100.00%	5	100.00%
Viabilidad y Transporte	1	1	100.00%	0.9	90.00%
Agua Potable y/ o Alcantarillados	1	1	100.00%	1	100.00%
Salud	1	0.6	60.00%	0.8	80.00%
Educacion	1	1	100.00%	1	100.00%
Vivienda	1	0.9	90.00%	0.8	80.00%
Energía Eléctrica	1	1	100.00%	0.9	90.00%



Demonstration of google docs

- Editor: Simplified text editor
- Share documents
- Export documents

Suggestions for making knowledge structure for SP in SSA

- Make your contribution now to the knowledge structure, once the portal is made it is too late!!
- Use non-overlapping categories
- Use brief titles, and explain in a comment the content if necessary. The titles will become menus in the knowledge portal
- Use Format -> Paragraph Style -> Heading 2, 3, 4, 5 to indicate the level of your topic. You can also add numbers 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.2.1 if that is helpful
- Use a total of 3 max 4 levels

Suggestions for making knowledge structure for SP in SSA

- At each level use from 3 to a max of 10 topics to subdivide the general theme. If you have less than 3 topics, consider moving it one level up, to avoid too much clicking.
- Jens has made an initial structure off the 1st level to get the process started, but you are free to improve any part of the knowledge structure
- Focus primarily on structuring the Scientific knowledge part of the portal
- On an Internet Portal a document can be in multiple folders/categories at the same time, as they are virtual, i.e. there is only one copy, but the user may see the document in multiple locations.

Key group members

- **Germplasm:** Robert, Ted, Maria, Juan, Raul, Paul, Silver
- **Seed Systems:** Margaret, Sammy, Rosemary, Erna, Dinah, Dieudonne, Esterao, Jean-Claude
- **Production:** Elmer, Sam, Rogers, Berga, Martin
- **Value adding:** Kirimi, Berga, Lone, Kerstin, Owen
- **Use – consumption:** Cornelia, Herman, Joseph, Ricardo, Naico, Margaret
- Ideally 5-6 people per group, you probably know more than one topic, so consider moving to another group
- Start structuring own topic, afterwards review other topics and adjust if necessary