

Web 2.0 and the Digital Divide

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PART I: EXPERIENCES

GFIS

- **GFIS: information service that stores metadata on forestry “under the same roof”, providing accurate search results and reliable information.**
- **The system interacts with other databases all over the world using RSS format, and using the Open Search specification as a standard interface for search engines.**
- **Multilingual search aggregator, where content comes from RSS feeds generated through searches.**

GFIS



GFIS.net
Global Forest Information Service

internet gateway to forest information resources

| [Home](#) | [Providing information](#) [Sign in](#) [About GFIS](#)

Search for Global Forest Information

News **Events** **Recent publications**
 Job vacancies **Datasets and databases** **Library and document collections**

[How to search](#)

Show in:

VASAT Wiki

- **Semantic Wiki Tool to Build a Repository of Re-usable Information objects in Agricultural Education and Extension**
- **Being able to connect knowledge not only by keywords/tags, but also through content itself, linking fragments of information and knowledge through meanings, concepts and interlinking of concepts.**
- **Medium to educate and support a critical mass of rural women and men spread across vast geographical areas by informing them about good agricultural practices to drought and desertification**

VASAT Wiki



[article](#) [discussion](#) [view source](#) [history](#)

Main Page

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Virtual Academy for the Semi-Arid Tropics

VASAT is a strategic coalition for information, communication and capacity building, operating in South Asia (SA), and West and Central Africa (WCA) in partnership with the Desert Margins Program (DMP). VASAT links and mobilizes stakeholders for drought mitigation in the semi-arid tropics (SAT). It is an innovative and cost effective medium to educate and support a critical mass of rural women and men spread across vast geographical areas by informing them about good agricultural practices to drought and desertification. It is a response to the need of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to implement a communication strategy for combating drought and desertification.

 Try the Semantic extensions enabled VASATWiki!! 

<http://vasatwiki.icrisat.org>

IFPRI 2.0

- **Goal: extend web presence beyond institutional website**
- **Goal: establish dialogue on food policy issues: Blog World Hunger**
- **Goal: help dispersed teams work more effectively: CGVlibrary**
- **Goal: Quickly and collaboratively create a list of best resources, e.g. by using del.icio.us**

IFPRI 2.0

- **Goal: increase participation, open communication, and create community: Let's blog IFPRI, a blog on IFPRI's intranet**
- **Goal: to simplify the entry of content into IFPRI's Intranet: using wikis as a content management system, avoiding bottlenecks, fostering initiative on the content creator/responsible**
- **Goal: IFPRI staff participate in external research-related dialogues, to increase participation**

IFPRI 2.0



blog world hunger

International Food Policy Research Institute
sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty

Blog world hunger is an open global food and nutrition security diary that aims to help the effort to identify and analyze alternative national and international strategies and policies for meeting world food needs in ways that conserve the natural resource base. It is facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

"If concentrated in a single nation, the world's poorest people--the ultra poor--would comprise the world's seventh most populous country."

New Study Examines Plight of Poor Living on Less than 50 Cents a Day, November 6, 2007

"Despite much progress reducing poverty worldwide, a substantial number of the world's poorest people are being left behind, according to a new report by IFPRI. The report, *The World's Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger*, is the first to use household poverty data from 1990 to 2004 to look below the dollar-a-day poverty line and examine who the poorest people are, where they live, and how they have fared over time."

[MORE >>](#)



[Back to Main Page](#)

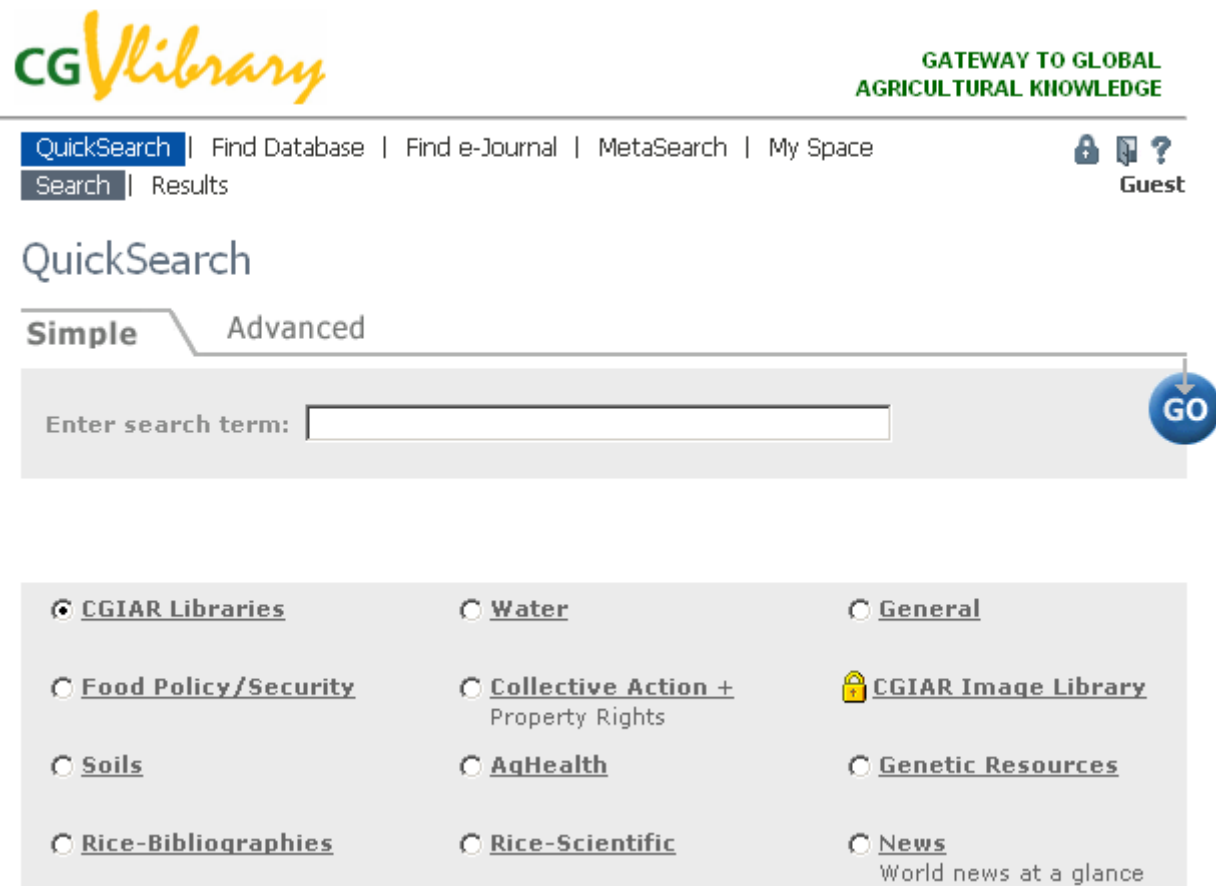
Quicksearch

Include comments

[Search](#)

<http://www.ifpriblog.org/>

IFPRI 2.0



The screenshot shows the CGVlibrary website interface. At the top left is the logo "CGVlibrary" in orange and green. To the right, it says "GATEWAY TO GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE". Below the logo, there is a navigation bar with links: "QuickSearch" (highlighted), "Find Database", "Find e-Journal", "MetaSearch", and "My Space". On the right side of the navigation bar, there are icons for a lock, a mobile phone, and a question mark, with the text "Guest" below them. Below the navigation bar, the "QuickSearch" section is visible, with "Simple" selected and "Advanced" as an alternative. A search input field is present with the placeholder text "Enter search term:" and a "GO" button to its right. Below the search field, there is a grid of category links, each with a radio button:

- [CGIAR Libraries](#)
- [Water](#)
- [General](#)
- [Food Policy/Security](#)
- [Collective Action + Property Rights](#)
- [CGIAR Image Library](#)
- [Soils](#)
- [AgHealth](#)
- [Genetic Resources](#)
- [Rice-Bibliographies](#)
- [Rice-Scientific](#)
- [News](#)
World news at a glance

<http://vlibrary.cgiar.org/>

SIST

- **Meta search engines for syndicated search**
 - **A single question to ask several databases, open access archives, websites, RSS feeds, etc.**
 - **A single RSS format for results representation.**
 - **Systematic access to the original source of data.**
- **SIST also serves not only as a search engine, but also as a way of monitoring news and everything that's happening on the Internet.**

SIST



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Scientific and Technical Information System (SIST). The header features a blue navigation bar with links for 'Forum', '@Contact', and a search box containing 'rechercher_site'. Below the navigation bar is a banner with a globe of Africa, the text '[SIST]', and the title 'Système d'Information Scientifique et Technique' in French, with a French flag. Below this is the English title 'Scientific and Technical Information System' with a UK flag. A row of 12 national flags is displayed below the banner. The main content area has a light blue background and a sidebar on the left with navigation links: 'accueil', 'News', 'SIST in brief', 'The project', 'In the countries', 'SIST networks', 'Additional info', 'Partners', and 'Site Map'. The main content area contains the following text:

Building a scientific and technical information system in Africa

To promote research in Africa
Encouraging and developing exchange, production and dissemination of both scientific and technological information

To promote science and technology in the developing countries
Helping african researchers to develop their own analytical capabilities in key research areas

To facilitate sustainable developpement
Support regional research research along the priorities defined by the countries (health, renewable resources , agronomy, human and social sciences, Information and Communication Technology).

Some examples of results
SIST Référence, SIST Ser [Burkina-Faso], SIST Tunisia

<http://www.sist-sciencesdev.net>

TRADENET

- **Tradenet is open source software product to manage information: realtime SMS uploads from markets, database customized for agricultural data, multi-currency, etc. Specifically designed to get market data for farmers.**
- **The system is not only passive — you get data updates — but active: you can query the system through the mobile phone by means of SMS messages with specific codes.**

TRADENET



www.tradenet.biz

tradenethome

market intelligence for farmers and traders worldwide

My Tradenet Account

login

password

remember my login on this computer

don't you have an account yet? it's free!
[signup now](#)

[forgotten your password?](#)

New User Postings

OFFERS

TOG	Ginger	500 mt	negotiable	Nov-19
BKN	Palm Oil (red)	5,000 mt	negotiable	Nov-19
SLE	Bell Pepper (paprika)	20,000 kg	negotiable	Nov-15
BKN	Sheep (live 15-30kgs)	500 hd	negotiable	Nov-15
SLE	Cow (live 100-200kgs)	500 hd	negotiable	Nov-15

GROUPS

Intern Group	4 members	market info ser...	Nov-24
Udoper Borgou/ali ...	1 member	large farmer, o...	Oct-18
Asnapp	13 members	ngo	Aug-15
My Isys	5 members	banking, storag...	Aug-07
Nima Tradepoint	169 members	money lender, d...	Aug-06

<http://www.tradenet.biz/>

CELAC

- **Agricultural information in Uganda.**
- **Some Web 2.0 tools used:**
 - **Information websites**
 - **Blogs**
 - **Google Maps, to geolocalize resources**
 - **Wiki [login/password protected wiki], as a training materials repository**
 - **SMS, sent through a website**
 - **Podcasts**
 - **FlickrR, discussion groups, Skype, e-Learning tools**
 - **etc.**

CELAC

celac Collecting and Exchange of Local Agricultural Content



RSS

NAVIGATION	
HOMEPAGE	
ABOUT CELAC	
HOW TO GUIDES	
SMS NEWS	
REPORTS	
WEB 2 SMS	
PROJECT ADMIN	
DISTRICT FARMERS NETWORK	
Apac	Lira
Bushenyi	Kabale
Luweero	Kabarole
Kamuli	Kasese
Kayunga	Masaka

- » **WHAT IS NEW?** [Website Updates and New Features](#)
- » [MASAKA DISTRICT CELAC FARMERS NETWORK PAGE](#)
- » [CELAC Market Prices 28th May 2007](#)
- » [Knowledge Fair Report](#)
- » [Knowledge Fair AAR](#)
- » [Listen to Farmers Interviews](#)
- » [CELAC Farmer to Farmer Advice - CELAC Blog](#)
- » **CELAC NOTICEBOARD**
- » [Traditional Cheese Making & Aging Seminar- CoRFiLaC 2007](#)
- » [Cheese Making & Aging Picasa Web Album](#)
- » [CELAC Traditional Cheese Making Try out \(PDF\)](#)
- » [Map showing districts with CELAC activities](#)
- » [CELAC Website Dictionary](#)

CELAC

A project Implemented by



CELAC SUCESS STORIES



"many times while I am going about my farming activities, I find challenges; but these have been made easier because.."

- » [English](#)
- » [Luganda](#)

MOBILE MONITORS

- **To make elections more transparent thanks to mobile enhanced monitoring**

MOBILE MONITORS

mobilemonitors.org

[Home](#) [Contact](#) [Join Us](#)



Welcome to the official website of The Network of Mobile Election Monitors of Nigeria (NMEM). This a non-partisan non-profit project coordinated by Human Emancipation Lead Project. The project goal is to involve Nigerians with mobile phones to monitor the forth coming Nigerian presidential election through SMS to ensure impartial elections.

Background

"Mobile phone serves communication. Communication serves humanity. Humanity serves change". This assertion by [Mobile Active](#)-global network of people, tools, projects and resources focused on the use of mobile phones for activism, campaigns and civic engagement, forms the basis of this project. GSM access has so far reach virtually

every nooks and crannies of Nigeria from Sahara regions of the north to the mangroves of the Niger Delta. With over 30 million active subscribers on the tree major networks , mobile phones have prove to be the most pervasive communication technology so far

in Nigeria, much more than internet and electronic media.

In addition, mobile phones are a highly personal means of communication that reaches the target constituent directly and immediately .Mobile phones are therefore, tools to engage, organize, mobilize and inform people. This project is offering Nigerians a platform to ensure impartial elections. This shall provide a true mix of data on the election activities from the ruling party, opposition parties, INEC officials, other monitoring group and the general public. Result from this project shall be sent to the central coordinating committee at the Transition Monitoring Group and other INEC accredited international monitoring groups.

Key facts for Mobile phone Election Monitoring

<http://mobilemonitors.org/>

GLOBAL VOICES

- **Selection, translation, context**

GLOBAL VOICES



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Global Voices aggregates, curates, and amplifies the global conversation online – shining light on places and people other media often ignore. [more about us](#) »



featured stories

Special Coverage: Climate Change 2007

Juliana Rotich · 03:06, December 3rd, 2007 ·

[lingua](#) → [pt](#) · [es](#)

Today, world leaders, activists and students will be converging in Bali, Indonesia for the United Nations Conference on climate change. The conference comes on the heels of the UN high level meeting held in New York, September 2007, where global voices environment covered some of the discussions that sought to ...



0 comments · [»»»](#)



Russia

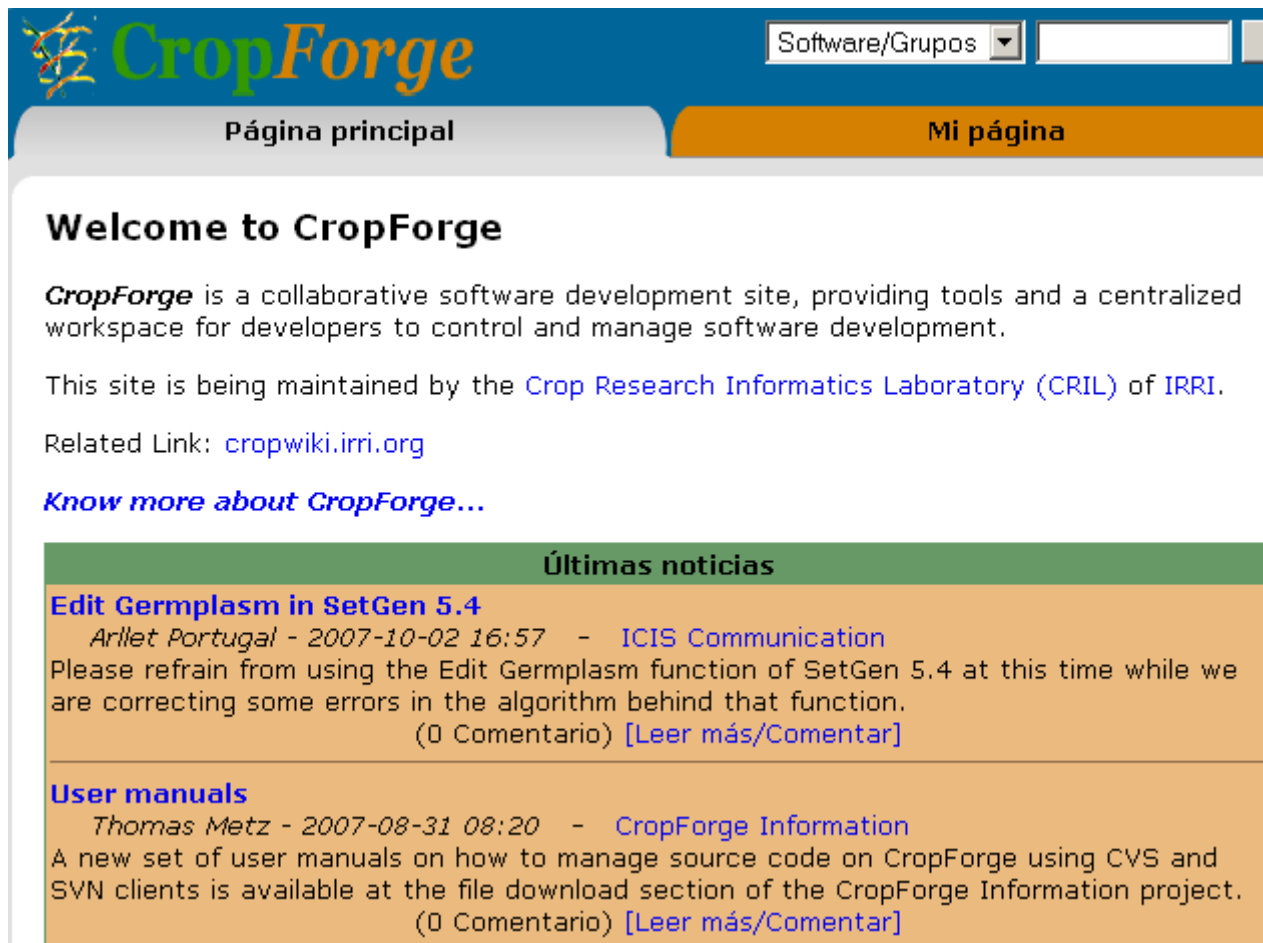
[Links](#)

<http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/>

CROPFORGE

- **Is a collaborative software development site, providing tools and a centralized workspace for developers to control and manage software development.**
- **The difference being with SourceForge is that it hosts all kind of information about projects and software related to development, food and food security, hunger, etc., including fora and communication spaces where collaboration, support takes place**

CROPFORGE



The screenshot shows the CropForge website interface. At the top left is the CropForge logo. To its right is a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'Software/Grupos'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with two tabs: 'Página principal' (selected) and 'Mi página'. The main content area starts with a 'Welcome to CropForge' heading, followed by a paragraph describing the site as a collaborative software development site. Below this is a link to the Crop Research Informatics Laboratory (CRIL) of IRRI and a related link to cropwiki.irri.org. A section titled 'Últimas noticias' (Latest news) contains two entries: 'Edit Germplasm in SetGen 5.4' and 'User manuals', each with a date, time, author, and a link to read more or comment.

CropForge Software/Grupos

Página principal Mi página

Welcome to CropForge

CropForge is a collaborative software development site, providing tools and a centralized workspace for developers to control and manage software development.

This site is being maintained by the [Crop Research Informatics Laboratory \(CRIL\)](#) of IRRI.

Related Link: cropwiki.irri.org

[Know more about CropForge...](#)

Últimas noticias

Edit Germplasm in SetGen 5.4
Arlet Portugal - 2007-10-02 16:57 - [ICIS Communication](#)
Please refrain from using the Edit Germplasm function of SetGen 5.4 at this time while we are correcting some errors in the algorithm behind that function.
(0 Comentario) [\[Leer más/Comentar\]](#)

User manuals
Thomas Metz - 2007-08-31 08:20 - [CropForge Information](#)
A new set of user manuals on how to manage source code on CropForge using CVS and SVN clients is available at the file download section of the CropForge Information project.
(0 Comentario) [\[Leer más/Comentar\]](#)

<https://cropforge.org/>

PART II: RANDOM THOUGHTS

Random Thoughts

- **The importance of ICTs in leapfrogging**
- **Proliferation of online content, along with language/translation tools**
- **Web 2.0 removes the barriers on the consumers, creators of content**

Random Thoughts

- **Engagement**
- **Empowerment**
- **Availability of ICT infrastructures and tools ensures people's empowerment and social inclusion**
- **Web 2.0 applications ensure participatory development communication**
- **Participation, decision making, human rights... are new dimensions on development that the Web 2.0 can include on the development debate**

Random Thoughts

- **Improve quality of information by linking information from multiple data sources**
- **Reduce cost of content creating and deployment**
- **Better access through multiple devices**
- **Richer content using collective intelligence**
- **Effective information exchange and knowledge management across geography through collaborative platforms**

Random Thoughts

- **Integration of data from multiple sources will be required to provide meaningful information and content**
- **Computers is just not enough: connectivity, content, services, B2C, B2B, G2B, etc**

Random Thoughts

- **New costs to working**
- **Need for training and awareness**
- **Capacity building a need to be approached**
- **Capacity development should be tied to information strategies**

Random Thoughts

- **Find the appropriate communications (system) for the appropriate content. And the contrary: if e.g. mobile phone is the platform, think of the appropriate content (and not only the format, but the content itself) to be delivered through it**
- **To contribute: policy at the local level, resources and founding, technical expertise, infrastructure, access to relevant data / data sources, etc.**

Random Thoughts

- **Relevancy, quality control, suitability are difficult or just impossible to design ex ante, so give the practitioner, the user the ability to comment on resources, so you can help in the evaluation of this resource**

Random Thoughts

- **Government-led public information portals are also adopting Web 2.0 applications for more actions and interactions**
- **Organizational challenges: open web, open content requires open institutions, open organizations. Knowledge transfer, knowledge sharing needs connected people, transparency**

Random Thoughts

Advantages of Web 2.0

- **Knowledge gets documented**
- **Enhanced community sharing, which sometimes does not happen offline but does online, and then they cannot stop!**
- **Improved livelihoods**

Random Thoughts

Challenges of Web 2.0

- **Requires Internet: Internet's expensive; electricity is bad scheduled in the whole country; differing peoples' susceptibility to change**
- **Information hoarding**

Trieste, December 4, 2007. The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics

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