SIDALC Service/Agri2000: An intensive use of ISIS for agricultural development of LAC

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Abstract:
It is intended to inform the ISIS community about the experience of 9 years of operation of the agricultural information and documentation service of the Americas (SIDALC) supported by IICA. This service, which was formed due to several previous projects and the vision of information specialists, responds to the need of reaching out to users and to facilitate the use of agricultural information that exists in thousands of libraries and documentation center shelves in Latin America the Caribbean (LAC). Increasingly, specialized information centers give their vote of trust to this window of agricultural information built in 1999, therefore becomes increasingly necessary to propose solutions simple to understand, distribute and implement in development countries.

The SIDALC service, with the participation of 143 institutions, 223 databases with different methodologies and source programs, 1.9 million records, all of them indexed in Google and Google Scholar, averaged 27,000 hits per day and a community of specialists exchanging information resources from its information centers in at least 23 LAC countries.

ISIS was the basis for their development on the one hand aware of the great community that uses this tool for organizing collections and support of international institutions. We found the task of identifying a tool that allowed us to integrate different methodologies and that will not require a great effort from our partners. Therefore we decided by the WXIS, which allow us to developed programs with the support of BIREMA to create the mega-database of agricultural information we have now.

Under the SIDALC community, an important group of training sessions have been developed. Among them: working methodologies, digital libraries, using tools such as WebAGRIS (which is a system for entry and retrieval of data), others like the LISAGR (integrated system for management of agricultural libraries) that also includes acquisitions, loans and statistics modules, both tools developed by FAO. SIDALC community has made important contributions to a smooth conduct of tools, among others that have strengthened the capabilities of national agricultural information networks and library sector in general.

Currently, the abundant information resources available in digital format and the intensive use of new information and communication technologies, create a context that requires organizations to generate more effective management information processes, knowledge construction, to move closer to end-users and build mechanisms for measuring the results of these services especially in relation to major goals such as agricultural competitiveness, sustainable development and food security. We raised our support to the operation of better and open source tools, such as ISIS and its future developments, strengthening agricultural libraries and allowing a mayor exchange of scientific and technical information for the development of our countries.