

New developments in AGIS

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ABSTRACT

AGIS, the Agricultural Geo-referenced Information system, provides access to information on agricultural potential and land suitability via the Internet. The spatial component, or dynamic maps, supplies GIS capabilities to the general public and to decision makers in the Department of Agriculture.

Recent changes in the map viewer provides users with faster and friendlier mapping capabilities. The new AgriLand application is a tool for use by both the Department of Agriculture and the users who wish to apply for subdivision of agricultural land, rezoning, change of land-use and other under Act 70 of 1970. Apart from the progress tracking capability the system will have a spatial component whereby a user can identify the farm and add the proposed subdivision. Compared to the old paper system this is real service delivery to streamline the work of the government while providing a tracking system and a historical database.

Another development is the mapping interface for Weeds and Invasive Plants (WIP) where the distribution of these plants can be plotted per species on a quarter degree grid. The distribution maps can be displayed for a single species or for any combination of species. At present the WIP database contains more than 250 species.

World Overview on Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) is a tool for documenting and evaluating soil and water conservation activities. The spatial component of WOCAT is housed within AGIS by means of dynamic maps that display the technologies, land use type and land use degradation as well as management measures. The database is currently in the development phase, but will include information from around the world.