

Developing Resources for Advanced Breeding Technologies

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Research Summary:

Wheat is one of the most important cereal crops in the state of South Dakota. Maintaining and increasing winter yields and profitability are the primary goals of the SDSU wheat breeding programs. Establishing a plant breeding database is critical for an efficient of the breeding program in the present era when a huge amount of genotype and phenotype data are being generated for advanced breeding methodologies like genomic selection and trait assured breeding. Development of a modern and competitive wheat breeding program will in turn help producers and the economy of South Dakota.

Introduction:

Nearly 700-800 unique crosses are made every year in winter wheat breeding program and more than 15-20,000 head rows and 6-8,000 plots are evaluated every year in the winter wheat breeding program at SDSU. Observations are recorded on more than 15 traits every year generating a huge amount of valuable data. However, in the absence of relational databases, the data from each of these years are not associated, which limits its utility. Developing Relational Database Management System for plant breeding will lead to better management of pedigrees, nurseries, characterization, and evaluation trials, trait evaluation, germplasm management and genotype information. Further, integration of the database with breeding software will lead to better design and analysis on a routine basis.

The objective of the project was to establish a plant breeding database for SDSU wheat breeding program for efficient data management and analysis.

Description of Accomplishments:

Setting up of server and establishment of databases.

We bought UCS B-series computer server with 48 cores and a memory (RAM) of 384 Gb. The machine has internal storage of 450 Gb and SAN storage of 2 Tb. A Windows and Linux server (Ubuntu 14.1) were setup on the machine. A MySQL relational database was setup on the server, which can be accessed using Navicat software. The database is housing all available inventory information of winter wheat breeding program from 2004 onwards (Figure 1).

The database is linked to pedigree management and analysis tool PRISM that will be used to perform analytical and statistical operations on plant breeding based data. PRISM houses data as field books (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Screenshot image gives a sample of the data present in one of the yield trial.

Figure 2. Snapshot of the field book present in the MSSQL database in PRISM.

Projections:

The server and the databases are established and breeding data of last 8 years is up loaded into the databases. The database will be further refined as it grows in volume with different phenotype and genotype data that will be collected over the years. The data generated in the breeding program will be regularly updated into the databases for storage and analysis. This will improve efficiency of phenotype and genotype data collection, organization, analysis and utilization in breeding programs.