

AgrobIS: MARDI effort on sharing information of Agriculture biodiversity

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MARDI has been involved in the collection and conservation of biological resources related to agriculture since early 80's. The collections include various plants varieties both native and rare species, arthropods of important to agriculture and also microorganisms such as plant pathogens.

Recently an initiative has been made to develop web-based agrobiological database system to facilitate information sharing on the agriculture biodiversity of Malaysia. The system called, Agrobiodiversity Information System (AgrobIS) consists of specialized and comprehensive information related to the collection and conservation of genetic resources of agrobiodiversity. This database also supports the information on diversity at species level which covers the distinct populations within the species, such as in rice and mangoes. AgrobIS is developed based on object orientated approach and using the open source facilities or softwares. Thus, AgrobIS is expandable for other agrobiodiversity components such as livestock diversity management.

As a web-based database, AgrobIS provide easy access to scientist, decision makers, both public and private sectors locally and internationally. AgrobIS is also useful for genebank management purposes. It facilitates in

tracing accession information and promotes standardization in data collection, characterization and evaluation, as well as to assist in the identification of replicated germplasm collections.

AgroblS is unique for its dynamic/flexible structure/system that allows it to be operated in real time and at different level of data control. It can also be defined at different attribute level such as genus in plants, family in arthropods, or group in microbes.

AgroblS can be accessed through the <http://agrobls.mardi.gov.my/>, however some of the function is still not activated. As one of the ICT product, the development of AgroblS enhances the interest of public to know more about our local agrobiodiversity genetic resources collection. It also improves the understanding of how ICT can be used to boost up people interest in biodiversity.