

POSTER SUMMARY

**REVIEW OF THE SASRI
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM SERVICE**

MTHEMBU IB, COLLINGS KA AND MAHER GW

*South African Sugarcane Research Institute, P/Bag X02, Mount Edgecombe , 4300, South Africa 4300
ingrid.mthembu@sugar.org.za*

Abstract

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a tool used to capture, manipulate, integrate, store, analyse and display data spatially. There are many benefits associated with collecting, analysing and storing data using this tool, an important one of which is assurance of the traceability of data, since a geographic position does not change whereas growers and field names and codes are prone to inconsistencies and inaccuracies. The sugar industry identified this benefit more than two decades ago, when investment commenced in GIS and associated mapping activities. Since then, the technology has advanced and the software has evolved. The sugar industry has over the years attempted to keep abreast of such developments and, in so doing, has created databases that are still in use today. The poster showcases the evolution of GIS technology at SASRI and the services provided to SASRI research and Extension.

Keywords: Geographic Information System, GIS, sugarcane, ArcGIS, Global Positioning System, GPS