

# MISSISSIPPI SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD

## MSSOY Website Hosting and Management 65-2022 Final Report

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The Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board (MSPD) websites were hosted by Network Solutions, but the hosting was causing many issues. Mississippi State University Extension Center for Technology Outreach (ECTO) worked with Network Solutions to identify the issues causing the site to crash, but the root cause was never identified. It was determined that the best course of action would be to move the hosting from Network Solutions to ECTO servers in the Bost Building. The hosting was officially moved to ECTO servers at the beginning of Quarter 1 and all hosting issues have been resolved.

While moving the hosting to ECTO, it was determined that the website needed to be redeveloped in a different content management system (CMS) to meet the needs of MSPD. ECTO met with the executive director and the communications specialist to determine the website needs and discuss the redesign. Many ideas were brought up including drag and drop editing, board pictures, Twitter feeds, media outlet and projects pages. The board was presented with these ideas and provided feedback through the executive director.

A new virtual server was configured, and the appropriate development tools were installed. Drupal 9 was chosen as the new CMS and a MySQL database was setup for hosting. Several scripts were developed to migrate data from existing MSSOY.org database to the Drupal 9 instance. Images and PDFs were converted from flat files to database objects for cross referencing from multiple entities. During this time, Drupal 10 became available, and the appropriate upgrade was applied.

A custom Drupal 10 theme has been developed to make the new website look like the current MSSOY.org. The custom theme was developed to meet accessibility requirements set by WCAG 2.0. Another meeting with the communications specialist was then held to discuss further design elements. The new website scheduled to be available in the first half of the upcoming year.

Over the course of the year support for the existing site was provided. This includes routine server maintenance, daily backups and assistance posting content to MSSOY.org.