

AGROVOC is the largest linked open data set about food and agriculture concepts available for public use. Originally devised in the early 1980s to describe documents and other information resources for indexing and searching, it has evolved from print catalogues to semantic web technologies.

AGROVOC is accessible online, free of charge, and links to other multilingual knowledge organization systems, allowing users to cross-reference data between from various sources. It offers a broad range of applications for text mining, information retrieval, data curation and data management, and allows for metadata annotation of digital resources such as research data sets.

AGROVOC is a structured collection of concepts, terms, definitions and relationships. Any aspect of food and agriculture can be represented by concepts, such as "maize", "hunger", "aquaculture" or "forestry". These concepts are used to unambiguously identify resources, which allows for standardized indexing processes and makes searches more efficient. AGROVOC currently incorporates more than 37 500 concepts and over 750 000 terms in up to 40 languages, and allows users to access the data depending on their needs.

AGROVOC's greatest impact arises from its role in facilitating access to and visibility of data across domains and languages. This multilingualism and depth of coverage is only possible thanks to a volunteer editorial network of national and international stakeholders, which includes government organizations, research institutions, foundations, academies, universities, national libraries and technical networks.

Coordinated by FAO, the members of the AGROVOC editorial network work together to maintain the different language versions and subject domains. The motivation for this is twofold – to utilize AGROVOC in their own language under their national systems and to increase visibility of research in their languages for a global audience.

Currently, over 30 organizations from 25 countries contribute their expertise, enriching AGROVOC with new concepts and terms, and adding new and updated terminology. Through collaboration with communities of experts, AGROVOC continues to expand its coverage to include specialized domains that can benefit from the AGROVOC infrastructure, such as land governance, law and policy, soil sciences, fisheries and aquatic sciences.

List of AGROVOC editorial institutions 2020

- Agroinstitut Nitra, Slovak Republic
- Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)
- Belarus Agricultural Library, National Academy of Sciences, Belarus
- Biblioteca Storica Nazionale dell'Agricoltura, Italy
- BonaRes Data Centre and Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany
- Central Scientific Agricultural Library, Russian Federation
- Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), France
- Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China
- Czech General Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information, Czech Republic
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Training and Publication, Turkey
- Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa), Brazil
- GAK Education, Research and Innovation Nonprofit Co, Szent Istvan University, Hungary
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Team (MEL), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- Institute Techinformi of the Georgian Technical University, Georgia
- Iranian Research Institute for Scientific Information and Documentation, Iran
- Thai National AGRIS Centre, Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Kuratorium für Technik und Bauwesen in der Landwirtschaft e. V. (KTBL) and Leibniz-Informationszentrum Lebenswissenschaften, Germany
- Land Portal Foundation (LPF)
- Matica Srpska Library, Serbia
- National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NMBU), Nory, Laos
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Training and Publication (NMBU), Norway
- The Republican Scientific Agricultural Library of the State Agrarian University of Moldova, The Republic of Moldova
- Ukrainian Institute of Scientific and Technical Expertise and Information, Ukraine
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - * AGRIS, the International System for Agricultural Science and Technology
 - * FAOLEX
 - * Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers (TECA)



Learn more at
www.fao.org/agrovoc



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