



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Scientific information
and digital data
on food and agriculture made **available, accessible**
and **applicable** worldwide



A

ccess to scientific information and data is vital for food and agriculture.

Research organizations, higher education institutions and public policy decision-makers need access to scientific information and data. Higher education is central in efforts to improve the research environment in lower-income countries, where tomorrow's leaders in the public and private sectors may be trained and new ideas developed. In addition, online access to agricultural research results is critical for innovation transfer, facilitating the generation of new ideas, products and services worldwide. It transforms the way organizations can carry out their work.

With the objective of increasing the accessibility and visibility of research products in its member countries, since the early 1970s Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been promoting the exchange of scientific and technical information related to all aspects of food and agriculture. Moving from paper to digital, and from processing to partnerships, the **FAO scientific information and digital data for innovation team has established a series of knowledge platforms to support these efforts** and make data and information on food and agriculture available, accessible and usable worldwide. This work contributes to the five priorities of FAO to achieve a world without hunger, malnutrition and poverty in a sustainable manner, with a focus on the exchange of knowledge, information and data as a key step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Making scientific information
and digital data
on food and agriculture **available, accessible**
and **applicable** worldwide

by

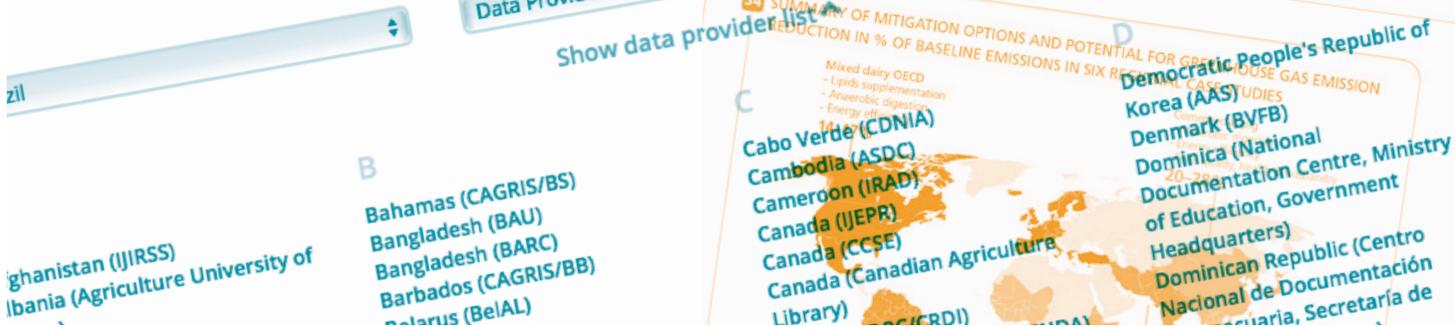
Providing access to paywalled scientific literature to organizations in low and middle-income member countries through Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (**AGORA**).

Making scientific literature and data in agriculture, produced in the global south, accessible through **AGRIS**.

Enriching the knowledge sharing, visibility of and access to agricultural sciences through **AGROVOC**.

Producing, managing and exchanging knowledge, information and research data through strengthening the capacity of individuals and organizations.





Promoting accessibility of scientific information and digital data in food & agriculture

Access to scientific information and digital data through online platforms is key to facilitating innovation transfer and ensuring the generation of new ideas, products and services worldwide.

Since 1974, FAO has helped member countries make their research outputs visible and accessible through **the International System for Agricultural Science and Technology (AGRIS)**, one of the world's leading public information services in food and agriculture. AGRIS pays **special attention on** scientific information produced in the **global south**.



AGRIS

The link to worldwide scientific agricultural information and data

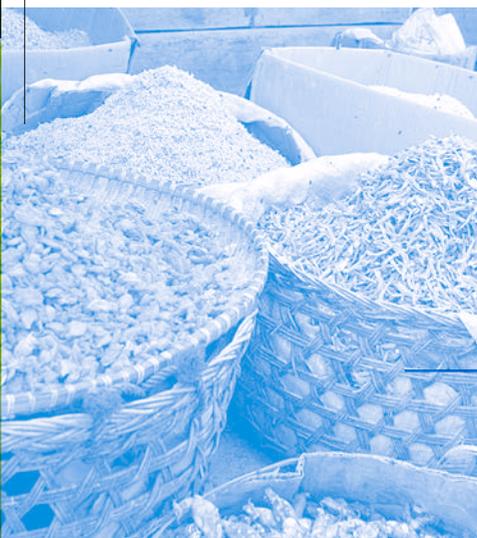
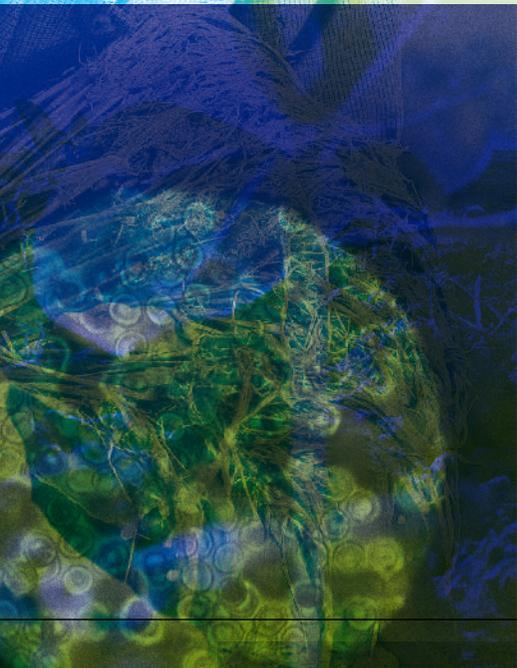
The **AGRIS platform** provides free access to more than **12 million records of publications** in the area of food and agriculture in nearly **90 different languages**. It facilitates access to reference books, journal articles, monographs, book chapters, datasets and grey literature – including unpublished scientific and technical reports, theses, dissertations and conference papers.

The scientific information and data in AGRIS are used by an average of **600 000 users worldwide every month** – and the number of partners continues to grow. AGRIS is also indexed and made accessible via Google Scholar, extending global access to scientific information and data.

More than 500 institutions including research centers, academic institutions, publishers, governmental bodies, development programmes, international and national organizations **from 150 countries** are currently contributing to AGRIS.

By participating in AGRIS, organizations' publications are helping to bridge the access gap for scientific literature, exposing it to an international audience through the wide distribution of AGRIS.

The main impact of AGRIS is a constant increase in the flow of and access to information in the food and agriculture domain. AGRIS provides a great opportunity to increase the analysis of agricultural performance and consequently **help to inform investment, innovation and policy, driving changes** toward increased sustainability in the agriculture sector and progress toward the goal of living in **a world with zero hunger**.





Improving the quality and effectiveness of agricultural research and education

Providing organizations in low-income member countries with access to paywalled scientific literature.

Subscription-based journals remain an important source of high-quality scientific information that is essential in advancing higher education, improving the work of development practitioners and informing public policy decisions. Since 2003, FAO has led **AGORA**, a knowledge platform that provides **free or low-cost access to major scientific journals and books on food and agriculture** to public institutions in **low-income countries**.



rch4life

ACCESS TRAINING VOICES NEWS RESOURCES FAQ LOGIN

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SEARCH

Access to research in the developing world

Resources

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AGORA Access to global

online research

in food and agriculture

Access to relevant current knowledge is central to ensuring the quality of training and research. However, in low-income countries, research centers, academic institutions, publishers, governmental bodies, development programmes, international and national organizations have historically suffered from a lack of access to the up-to-date scientific literature that is essential for furthering studies, discovering evidence, sharing findings, teaching, practice, and public policy.

Through the five Research4Life programmes, AGORA provides access to almost **100 000 leading journals and books** in the fields of health, agriculture, the environment, and applied sciences. More than **9 000 institutions in over 120 low- and middle-income countries** are benefiting from free or low-cost online access from AGORA.

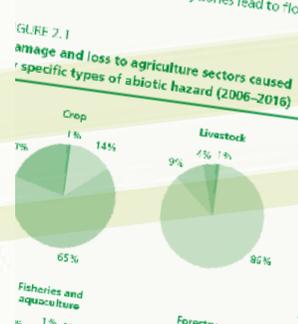
Eligible institutions which may have access to the journals include: universities and colleges, research institutes, agricultural extension centers, government offices and libraries. International organizations

are not eligible. Eligibility depends on key factors relating to a country's wealth: countries are classed as either Group A or Group B. Group A countries can access Research4Life content for free. For institutions in a Group B country, area or territory, access to Research4Life costs USD 1 500 per institution per calendar year.

Partners in AGORA include more than **150 world-leading scientific publishers**, World Health Organization (**WHO**), **FAO**, United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**), World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**), International Labour Organization (**ILO**), **Cornell** and **Yale University Libraries**, as well as International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (**STM**) and other technical bodies.

Most of the world's leading scientific journal publishers participate in the programmes, and the total value of access to the five collections is estimated to be in excess of **USD 30 million per registered institution** – a huge resource which had previously been confined mainly to institutions with the ability to pay.

- 2011-11-20T20:39:18Z
- <http://d-nb.info/gnd/4007139-9>
- <http://eurovoc.europa.eu/1744>
- <http://rsw.eu/5w/descriptor/14093-4>
- Published (string)
- http://aims.fao.org/ais/agrovoc/c_11045
- http://aims.fao.org/ais/agrovoc/c_11009
- http://aims.fao.org/ais/agrovoc/c_13472
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- http://aims.fao.org/ais/agrovoc/c_2187



...the immediate aftermath of a disaster, emergency responses prioritize saving lives and ensuring that basic requirements such as water, food and shelter are provided to affected communities. Actions focused on the use of BFA will often not be a priority during the relief phase. It is, however, important to consider them during the initial stages of response and rehabilitation efforts. For example, attention needs to be given to the restoration of ecosystems affected by disasters, as the increase of the protective functions they provide may increase the risk of severe impacts in the event of future disasters. Rehabilitation in production systems often involves the distribution of seeds or animals to allow production to recommence and recover. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the material distributed is well adapted to the conditions...

Breaking barriers linking and opening data

Strengthening the engagement of international, regional and national organizations in scaling up access to and dissemination of agricultural data.

Since the early 1980s, FAO has supported efforts for greater knowledge sharing, visibility and access by standardizing and enhancing the discoverability of food and agricultural data through the publication of **AGROVOC, a controlled vocabulary covering all areas** of interest of FAO.



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AGROVOC

The linked data concept hub for food and agriculture

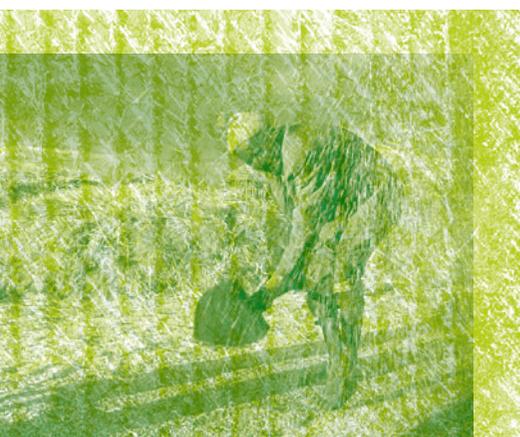
Originally devised **to describe documents and other information resources for indexing and searching**, AGROVOC has evolved from print catalogues to semantic web technologies. AGROVOC is now online and linked to other **multilingual** knowledge organization systems, **building bridges** between datasets.

AGROVOC is a collaborative effort: national and international institutions volunteer to be responsible for different language versions and subject domains. Today AGROVOC incorporates **more than 37 000 concepts** and **over 750 000 terms** in **38 languages**.

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, allowing standardized indexing processes, making searching more efficient. Each concept in AGROVOC also has terms used to express it in **various languages**, from Arabic, Chinese and Russian to Georgian, Spanish and Turkish.

Since 2019, AGROVOC has been expanding its coverage through collaboration with communities of experts to include specialized domains that can benefit from the AGROVOC infrastructure.

AGROVOC is **the largest linked open data** set about agriculture that is available for public use. Its highest impact arises from its role in **facilitating access to and visibility** of data across domains and languages.



For more information on our mission,
work and products please contact us at:

FAO scientific information
and digital data for innovation team

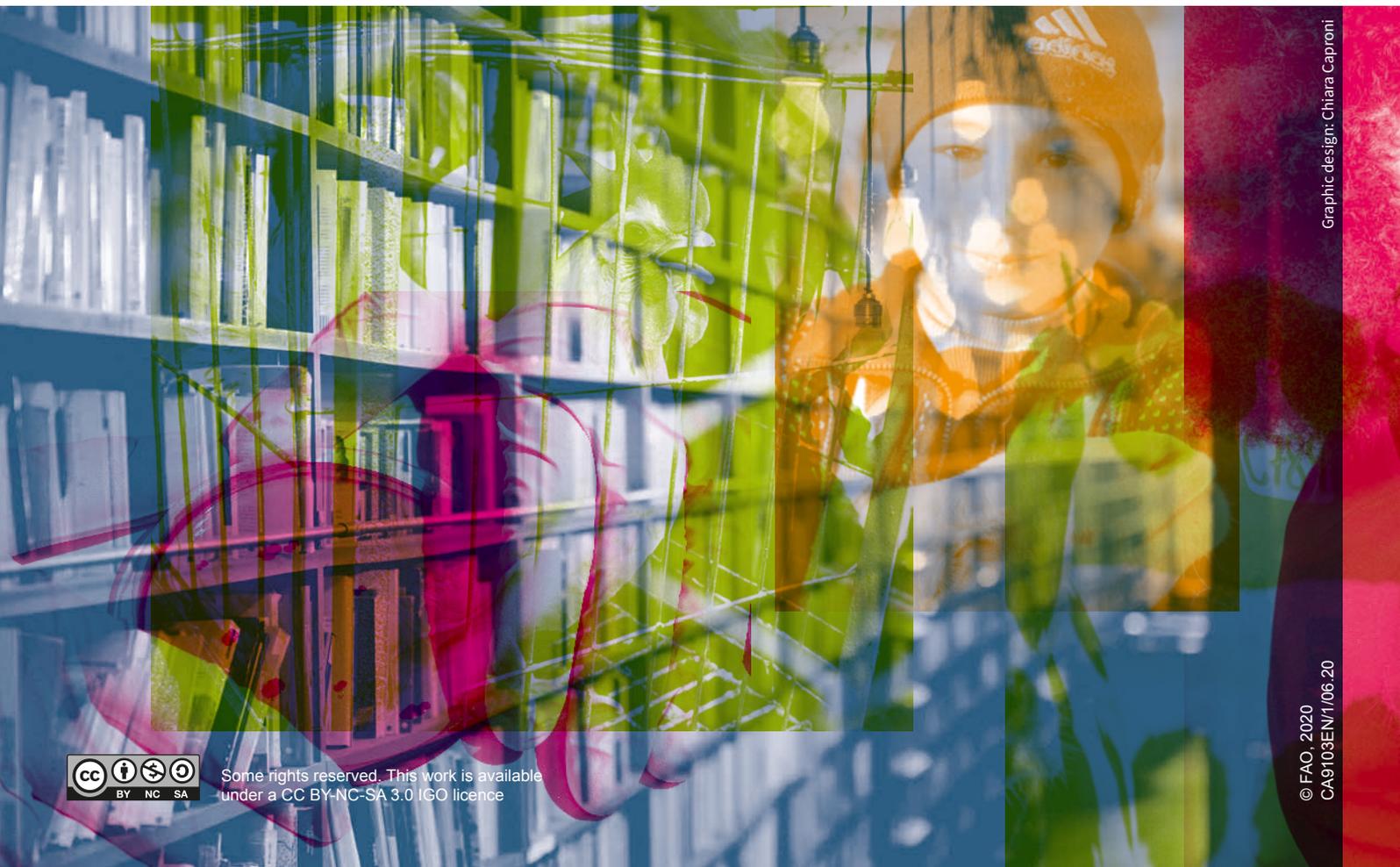
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