The FAO Country Profiles portal provides immediate access to the most relevant information on food and agriculture at a national level. This portal brings together country data and information from FAO, other UN agencies and partners such as the World Bank.

Single entry point
The FAO Country Profiles portal offers a quick and easy way to retrieve information about countries from a single entry point. Users can access up-to-date fact sheets, statistics, publications, maps, news and events, as well as links to government web sites.

Data at your fingertips
- Fact sheets and databases
- Statistics
- News and events
- Maps
- Publications
- FAO contacts
- Contacts in the country

Easy to find content
Each country profile groups information by FAO core activities, such as natural resources, agriculture, fisheries or forestry. Global issues are also covered and these include topics of particular interest, such as climate change, emergencies, food security and trade.

More than a snapshot
The geopolitical ontology implemented in the FAO Country Profiles describes, manages and exchanges data related to geopolitical entities such as countries, territories and regions. It includes, among others, names, codes, co-ordinates, statistical indicators and other data related to countries and regions. The portal makes this important resource, and various related services, available to users and systems.

Worldwide access
Decision-makers around the world have quick access to rich, reliable and up-to-date content thanks to the FAO Country Profiles portal.
Drop in at the FAO Knowledge Café (K Café) and start meeting colleagues. The K Café is a unique virtual space for FAO colleagues around the world to share ideas and information in an informal collaborative setting. At the K Café people ask and answer questions, point to resources, make connections and learn from each other so that they work better together.

Get started

Simply sign up for the K Café by filling out your profile details at http://intouch.fao.org/ks. Once that’s done, you’re ready to start sharing ideas and information.

Connect and Network

The K Café is ideal for meeting FAO colleagues from around the world. A directory of personal profiles encourages people to get to know each other through their interests. It is a huge resource beyond your immediate colleagues waiting to be utilised.

Share Knowledge

As people connect across divisions and countries they find opportunities to interact and share their expertise. The K Café provides a venue to share resources, highlight events and training updates, write blog posts and ask and answer questions.

Collaborate

The K Café fosters collaboration by bringing people together in an informal and trusted setting. As this virtual community grows, there are increased chances for teamwork and collaboration across disciplines and geographical boundaries.

A virtual space to...

- Ask questions
- Give answers
- Share experiences
- Announce events
- Get to know colleagues

Contact

Knowledge-Sharing@fao.org

FAO Knowledge Café  http://intouch.fao.org/ks
There is now one place for all FAO’s bibliographic records as well as full text documents in the Open Archive. This easily accessible portal is your gateway to obtaining FAO documents. It replaces and improves the FAO Catalogue and Corporate Document Repository by offering a single site that can collect, manage, preserve and disseminate FAO publications.

A single entry point

The Open Archive has a comprehensive database of documents extending back to 1945. Navigating your way around these documents has been made easier. The simple but effective search facility allows people to carry out metadata and full text searches.

Harvesting data

Metadata is structured information that describes, locates or otherwise makes it easier to retrieve or manage an information resource. FAO uses the Open Archive Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) to expose for harvesting all its data from a single place. OAI-PMH has been developed by the Open Archives Initiative (www.openarchives.org/pmh) which is a leading authority on managing information.

Making the archive work for you

The Open Archive allows people to make full use of the wealth of material generated by FAO. Information is stored in many formats. The archive gives people the flexibility to bring together different data sets and exploit them for purposes far removed from their original aim. This vastly increases the power of FAO to gain extra benefits from the knowledge held in its archive.

Open access standards

It’s not just a case of storing material – it’s also about making it easier to organise and search that material. The Open Archive is compliant with open access standards laid down by the Open Archives Initiative (www.openarchives.org). This means content can be harvested and then put to new uses.

Guaranteeing long-term access

The Open Archive has been designed to meet the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) standard. This means that FAO takes responsibility to preserve information and make it available, in perpetuity, for its designated community.

Contact

document-repository@fao.org
What makes a practice a good practice

There are several ways to identify and use a good practice, whether at a local, national or international level. Firstly a good practice needs to be validated with appropriate stakeholders. It also needs to have a positive impact that is sustainable economically, environmentally and technically. It is important that a good practice is culturally sensitive and transferable to other contexts. A good practice should improve over time as circumstances change. It is important to think of it as an evolving process.

How to illustrate a good practice

. Explain who the main people involved are.

. Describe the context and process used.

. Describe participatory approaches used to engage stakeholders.

. Capture failures as much as successes.

. Explain risks and constraints there are in applying the practice.

. Identify critical factors that have triggered the positive change being observed.

. Explain its impact on the community using appropriate evaluation and validation approaches.

Get involved

. Join the FAO Informal Working Group on Good Practices and share your experiences.

. Let colleagues know more about the Group.

FAO Informal Working Group on Good Practices

Staff can engage with the process of identifying and using good practices by joining the FAO Good Practices Informal Working Group. The group is currently working on:

. A detailed work plan.

. Mechanisms for identifying, capturing, sharing, and applying good practices.

. A Web site highlighting good practices.

At FAO we aim to continually learn from our experiences. We do this by identifying, capturing, sharing and applying good practices. This improves the ability of our staff to make FAO a more effective organization.

Good Practices

www.fao.org/knowledge/goodpractices

Knowledge-Sharing@fao.org

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Knowledge Share Fairs are interactive events aimed at learning and knowledge sharing in a dynamic setting. Built around themes, they are an excellent vehicle for FAO and its partners to promote their work, analyze issues and share experiences.

Success through connections

The key to a Share Fair’s success lies in the linkages and connections people make at the event. Share Fairs bridge social, hierarchical and technological gaps through various participatory formats. These include everything from interactive presentations to facilitated workshops and open space gatherings.

How people engage

A number of well-thought out formats such as chat shows and market places are used. Whether discussing topics within large groups through fish bowls or world cafés or brainstorming in mind mapping exercises, these formats encourage interaction and learning among participants.

A catalyst for innovation

Beyond networks and connections, a Share Fair is a catalyst for innovation. It is designed to encourage knowledge exchange and discovery. As people talk to each other and share experiences they also discover ways to work better and innovate.

How the Knowledge Sharing Team helps

In 2010, the Knowledge Sharing Team supported Climate, Energy and Tenure Division (NRC) and the Land and Water Division (NRL) with the organization of an event titled “FAO Climate Change Days - Share and Learn” for colleagues working on Climate Change issues. The event promoted networking, strengthened capacities of country offices and improved communication.

Learning by doing

Organizing a Share Fair requires a unique approach. In addition to an organizing team, a dedicated team of facilitators and trainers is needed to ensure the event is participatory and hands-on.

Knowledge-Sharing@fao.org

Knowledge Share Fairs www.sharefair.net
Organizing a Share Fair www.sharefair.net/about-sf/organize
For FAO to be established as a Knowledge Organization, it needs to facilitate the sharing of information, knowledge and learning among colleagues and partners. One way this is done is through knowledge networks and communities where people, driven by shared interests, interact.

**Empowering through learning**

FAO knowledge networks and communities provide colleagues and partners with spaces where they can learn about key issues of their interest and importance to the Organization. Whether online or face-to-face, these forums give individuals and organizations access to policy and technical information. They also give staff the tools to organize, share, exchange and create knowledge.

**Identity, Community and Practice**

The Knowledge Sharing Team cultivates networks and communities in FAO by addressing three key elements:

- **Identity**: A network’s or a community’s identity is defined by the members’ shared interests and needs, often based on a particular subject or set task.

- **Community**: People form a community when they are engaged in discussions and joint activities. With the right support this can encourage learning. However there needs to be sustained interaction for the network or the community to thrive.

- **Practice**: Over time, members of a network or a community develop a shared repertoire of experiences and begin to identify ways to address recurring problems.

**The Knowledge Sharing Team supports...**

- New networks and communities with guidance on their needs, purpose and tools.
- The creative process within the networks and communities that, with the right methods and tools, enables the development and capturing of information and ideas.

**The Knowledge Sharing Team provides...**

- Training on cultivating knowledge networks and communities.
- Assessment, monitoring and evaluation of existing networks and communities.

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Web publishing is now much easier thanks to the FAO Web Guide. The guide is aimed at all those who are involved in FAO Web sites - from owners to content providers, designers to system developers. It is packed with information to ensure the successful development and maintenance of Web sites.

The Web Guide starts by getting users to define the purpose, scope, target audience and resources needed for their Web site. The guide is full of practical know-how so that people can create and maintain high quality Web sites which meet the demands of their audience.

The Web Guide contains useful information about the Web clearance process in FAO, and the related checklist and policies that every site owner should read before starting a new Web site.

The Web Guide gives practical tips on content management, accessibility and writing style. This aims to make sure the Web site user-friendly as possible. As many sites incorporate social media such as Flickr, YouTube and Facebook the guide has practical advice on how best to make use of these tools.

The Web Guide is also designed to be used by current site owners. It has advice on how to monitor and evaluate a Web site’s usability, efficiency and effectiveness. There is practical information on how to ensure a site is up-to-date, reliable and compliant with Web standards.

Guidelines, procedures and policies

The Web Guide has information on relevant guidelines, procedures and policies.

A guideline is a recommended course of action in support of a set of principles and specific to a particular area.

A procedure is a systematic sequence of events needed to carry out a task.

A policy is a FAO corporate standard or goal that requires mandatory compliance. Together they aim to ensure FAO Web sites operate effectively and address their intended audience appropriately.