

An initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with:

AGORA Partners

- **World's leading agricultural publishers¹**
- **Cornell University, Mann Library**
- **Rockefeller Foundation**
- **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- **Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom**
- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

WHAT IS AGORA?

AGORA is a global partnership to provide free online access to full-text scholarly journals in agriculture to developing countries.

BACKGROUND

The goal of the AGORA initiative is to increase the quality and effectiveness of agricultural research and training in low-income countries, and in turn, to improve food security. AGORA contributes towards this goal by providing to the poorest countries in the world access over the World-Wide-Web to key journals in agriculture and related disciplines. It offers researchers, policymakers, educators, students, technical workers and extension specialists, a collection of literature comparable to that available to their counterparts in the developed world. AGORA is part of FAO's "Bridging the Rural Digital Divide" initiative, which seeks to improve the flow of information both **to** and **from** low-income countries. It builds on and shares the infrastructure of a similar initiative serving the health sector called HINARI², which was launched in January 2002 by WHO. This collaboration between the agriculture and health sectors is resulting in cost savings for systems development and efficiencies in training and outreach.

AGORA CONTENT

Over 700 journals in: Agriculture • Animal Science • Biology • Biotechnology/Applied Microbiology • Chemistry/Biochemistry/Biophysics • Economics/Social Science • Entomology/Pest Control • Environment/Ecology/Natural Resources • Fisheries/Aquatic Science • Food Science/Nutrition • Forestry • Plant Science/Soil Science

THE AGORA SYSTEM

AGORA offers a simple and effective user interface over the web, which incorporates the fundamental design and systems elements of both HINARI and Cornell University's TEEAL³, a collection of agricultural journals on CD-ROM. The AGORA website comprises a subset of the CAB ABSTRACTS database to enable searching through AGORA content, linked to a gateway providing access to full-text journal articles. FAO is responsible for management and maintenance of all functions of the AGORA website, with the support of Cornell University and WHO. Financial assistance is being provided by DFID, the Rockefeller Foundation and USAID.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AGORA

Potential users are required to register with FAO, and access to AGORA is password controlled. The AGORA Publisher Partners have opened access free to eligible organizations in the Phase I countries shown in the table below, and at a fee of \$1000 per year/organization in the Phase II countries, Phase I countries had an annual GNP *per capita* per annum of US\$ 1000 or less at 31 December 2000, and Phase II countries GNP *per capita* between \$1000–\$3000 at that time. AGORA Publisher Partners reserve the right to add to or delete from the list of selected countries.

The AGORA Publisher Partners have stated that an organization is eligible if it is publicly funded and not-for-profit, and it focuses on education, research, extension or information in agriculture or a related field. International organizations are not eligible.

¹ **AGORA Publishers:** AAAS – American Fisheries Society – American Physiological Society – American Society for Clinical Nutrition – American Society of Plant Biologists – Annual Reviews – BioOne – Blackwell Publishing* – Botanical Society of America – British Medical Journal Publishing Group – CABI Publishing* – CSIRO Publishing – Cold Spring Harbor Press – Elsevier* – John Libbey Eurotext – John Wiley & Sons* – Lippincott Williams & Wilkins* – Massachusetts Medical Society – MIT Press – Nature Publishing Group* – Oxford University Press* – Society for General Microbiology – Society for the Study of Reproduction – Springer-Verlag* – Yale University Library *Founding partners

² Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative at <http://www.healthinternetwork.org>

³ The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library at <http://www.teeal.org>

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES – Phase I

Afghanistan	Djibouti	Madagascar	Solomon Islands
Albania	Eritrea	Malawi	Somalia
Angola	Ethiopia	Mali	Sudan
Armenia	Gambia	Mauritania	Tajikistan
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Mongolia	Timor-Leste
Bangladesh	Ghana	Mozambique	Togo
Benin	Guinea	Myanmar	Tokelau
Bhutan	Guinea-Bissau	Nepal	Turkmenistan
Burkina Faso	Guyana	Nicaragua	Tuvalu
Burundi	Haiti	Niger	Uganda
Cambodia	Honduras	Nigeria	Ukraine
Cameroon	Kenya	Papua New Guinea	United Republic of Tanzania
Central African Republic	Kiribati	Republic of Moldova	Uzbekistan
Chad	Kyrgyzstan	Rwanda	Viet Nam
Comoros	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sao Tome and Principe	Yemen
Congo	Lesotho	Senegal	Zambia
Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe
Democratic Republic of Congo			

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES – Phase II

Algeria	Ecuador	Latvia	Samoa (Western)
Belarus	El Salvador	Lithuania	Serbia and Montenegro
Belize	Equatorial Guinea	Maldives	Suriname
Bolivia	Federated States of Micronesia	Marshall Islands	Swaziland
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Fiji	Morocco	Syrian Arab Republic
Bulgaria	Guatemala	Namibia	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Cape Verde	Iraq	Panama	Tonga
Colombia	Jamaica	Paraguay	Tunisia
Costa Rica	Jordan	Peru	Vanuatu
Cuba	Kazakhstan	Romania	Wallis and Futuna
Dominican Republic	Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	West Bank and Gaza

OUTREACH AND TRAINING

Capacity building and outreach are critical components of the AGORA initiative, which ensure that individuals in participating organizations can access and use AGORA effectively. The partners supporting the development of AGORA and HINARI are collaborating to develop a joint international training and reference/technical support system, and looking to establish a programme to “train-the-trainers” at national and sub-national levels. FAO and WHO will ensure the sustainability of this component of the AGORA initiative by working with their collaborative networks and collaborating resource organizations which have traditionally supported capacity building in agricultural and health information in developing countries.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Users must have at least a 56 kbps Internet connection. AGORA is designed to work best with Internet Explorer version 4.0 or higher, or Netscape version 6.0 or higher, or Firefox version 1.0. Users will also need Adobe® Reader® to view PDF journal articles.

Visit <http://www.aginternetwork.org>, or contact the AGORA Team at AGORA@fao.org