

## **FAO thematic knowledge networks characteristics (Feb. 2006)**

FAO thematic knowledge networks should:

- > Have a specific technical focus, whether within a discipline or cross-disciplinary
- > Have a multi-directional flow of information between users that facilitates exchange of views among participants
- > Include active facilitation and/or moderation
- > Be based on relationships that are peer-based, practitioner-based, community-based
- > Have institutional commitment
- > Be led by FAO or as a full partner (e.g. moderation, hosting, ...)
- > Meet established quality criteria for content
- > Aim at discovering new knowledge, understanding, solutions to queries that can be shared beyond the immediate network members

In general they should not:

- > Have multiple priority areas or a generic focus
- > Be limited to passive interaction or content
- > Consist of information "push" only
- > Be limited to an information depository or searchable database
- > Have FAO in a passive role