



**Sub-regional Training Workshop on
"Information Management Systems for Management and dissemination of
Electronic Information in Agriculture"**

For Sustainable Rural Development and Poverty Eradication

Cairo, Egypt

Dates

Sub-regional Training Workshop: 26 February – 3 March, 2005

Organizers

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Arab Organization for Agricultural development (AOAD)

Central Laboratory for Agricultural Expert Systems (CLAES)

Workshop Venue

Central Laboratory. For Agricultural Expert Systems (CLAES)

6, El-Nour St. P.O. Box 438 Dokki, Giza, Egypt

Tel: +(20)(2)760 47 27

Fax: +(20)(2)761 76 28

Email: esmat@mail.claes.sci.eg

<http://www.claes.sci.eg/>

Workshop Logistics Contact and Coordination

International Organization for Conferences Department

Ministry of Agricultural and Land Reclamation

Tel.: + (20) (2) 337 4811

Fax: + (20) (2) 337 4195

Email: iocd_far@yahoo.com

Accommodation

Safir Hotel, Dokki,

Al Messaha Square,

Tel. Nos. 00-202-7482424 / 7482828

Cairo, Egypt

Workshop Background Information

The AGRIS network has been coordinated by FAO, and latterly through WAICENT, while a crucial element to its success has been the regional and national organizations that have worked with FAO. AGRIS became operational in 1975 as an international initiative aiming to build a common information system on agriculture and related subjects, based on a collaborative network of institutions. Although AGRIS has been partially successful in achieving its goal, it was noted at the first Consultation on Agricultural Information Management (COAIM), held in Rome in September 2002, which a new vision was needed for the AGRIS Network and its participating Resource Centres. The COAIM-2000 agreed that FAO should work with Member Nations to strengthen the role of the AGRIS Network, so that it became “a key enabler and catalysing agent to establish a new model of agricultural information management in the 21st century”. Technological changes have meant that the nature of the network can be re-evaluated, with a view to exploiting the new mechanisms to expand on and enrich the original objectives.

The revival of the AGRIS initiative has to go far beyond the creation of bibliographical databases, and it should aim to reach new partners beyond the traditional partners in documentation centres.

The challenge is how to improve accessibility of information on agricultural research and development, without imposing too rigid a collaborative framework. There are several main principles in this new approach. Firstly, FAO foresees the creation of a collaborative network of collection of resources and publications, working with web-enabled technologies for the Internet and CD-ROM. Participation in this network will be open to any organization able and interested to participate in AGRIS, which will be known as "Resource Centres", actively moving away from the centralized national hubs.

FAO aims to facilitate the creation and maintenance of collections of technical and scientific agricultural information resources, documents in full text and other types of information (e.g. maps, images, etc), at a national and sub-national level, and focusing in particular on unconventional (grey) literature.

FAO is also developing and disseminating, in consultation with member governments and partners, a basic set of information management standards and guidelines, and even some tools. This will be done in close consultation with the AGRIS Network, particularly with resource agencies such as CLAES of ARC in the West Asia North Africa region and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and International Centre for Agricultural Dry areas (ICARDA), aimed at effective exchange and retrieval of information at maximum cost efficiencies. The set of methodologies and non-proprietary software tools offered by WAICENT for uptake by AGRIS Resource Centres will be used by CLAES of ARC in conjunction with their own training resources, to form the basis of the sub regional training workshops for a range of countries in the sub regional level to be delivered in 2005/2006.

The Training Workshop Objectives:

The training workshop aims to achieve the following objectives

1. Raise awareness on existing potentials for improving agricultural Information Dissemination and Management using Information Management systems/tools (i.e. IMARK, NEMS, EIMS and WebAGRIS), and achieving better understanding of the concept, structure and management of these Information Management tools/systems.
2. Train participants on how to operate and use the various Information Management systems (i.e. IMARK, NEMS, EIMS and WebAGRIS) for Management and dissemination of Electronic Information in Agriculture.
3. Develop a cadre of national facilitators/trainers (focal points) for further national trainings in the management of electronic documents using IMARK and Agriculture News Management System (NEMS) and Electronic Information Management System (EIMS) in electronic format, and in the use of methodologies and tools for full-text bibliographic database management and publication, using WebAGRIS web-based technologies.
4. Adapt the Information Management systems/tools to the needs of participating countries, following a participatory approach in discussion to identify components during the training and roundtable meeting.
5. Enhance dialogue and possible elaboration on current situations in ARC and NAIC, challenges and opportunities as well as strategies for immediate actions and development, conclusion and recommendations.

Workshop Duration and Language sand Resource Persons:

The workshop will last 6 days, and will be held at the Recipient Organization premises. The working languages will be Arabic and English as appropriate. Resource Persons will be supplied by the Recipient Organization and AOAD, in collaboration with FAO Regional Office for the Near East (RNE) and FAO Headquarters, and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD). FAO will also invite other resource persons in this technical field as may be required.

Workshop Training Materials:

The participants of this sub regional training workshop will be certainly provided with course materials in electronic format in CD-ROMs and hardcopies. A detailed tentative programme and workshop agenda is given in Annex 1 and 2.

Roundtable Meeting:

In the fourth module, a one-day meeting would be organized in the workshop for the national teams in order to discuss the framework of action to develop a capacity building programme in their countries. To maximize the outcomes of this meeting, each national team is kindly requested to prepare a working paper and make a presentation on the current status of AGRIS Resource Centre (ARC) in their countries as well as the AGRIS Content Development programme and National Agricultural Information Centres (NAIC) and the existing problems and suggested solutions if any, to promote the working environment that will assist in activating the day to day work in ARC and NAIC.

Workshop Evaluation, Suggestions and Recommendations:

At the end of the course the participants should be asked to make an evaluation and make suggestions and recommendations to improve similar courses held in the future. There should also be follow-up with the participants to learn about the advantages, benefits or problems encountered in using the tools.

Workshop certificate of Attendance:

At the end of the workshop, a certificate of attendance will be given to each individual participant attended the training workshop and acquired the knowledge required to achieve the objectives of training workshop.

Nominations for participation:

Nominations for participation in the workshop will be requested from Member Countries in the sub-region by the Recipient Organization in consultation with FAO and AOAD. The participants will be in appropriate positions with (a) adequate technical knowledge in agricultural information management and processing, and (b) have the ability to become leaders of a training programme at the national level. Participants should be sourced wherever possible with the following experience/skills: teaching experience; support from an institution and/or national information network to replicate the training; knowledge of CDS/ISIS; knowledge of Windows-Office; experience with HTML; and access to a Web server.

Selection Procedure

Nominations should be received by 30 January 2005. Respective authorities will be informed of candidate's acceptance by the first week of February 2005. Prepaid tickets will be sent to accepted candidates.

Terms and Conditions of Award

The training award will provide financial support (a per diem as stated in FAO's training policy) including international and local travel, accommodation for the period of the training course. Awards will be granted to participants only; there are no provisions for the participants' families.

**FAO/AOAD/CLAES
TRAINING WORKSHOP AGENDA
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS/TOOLS FOR MANAGEMENT
AND DISSEMINATION OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION IN
AGRICULTURE**

Saturday 26 February 2005

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Opening
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	An overview of the processes for the creation, acquisition and storage of electronic Documents.
12:30 – 13:30	File Formats for Electronic Documents and Images
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 15:30	Metadata standards and subject indexing
15:00 – 15:30	Production and Management of Electronic Documents
15:30 – 16:30	Introduction to HTML and CSS

Sunday 27 February 2005

09:00 – 10:00	Database Management System
10:00 – 11:00	Document Creation in XML and Conversion between HTML, XHTML and XML
11:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	Creating MS Word Templates and FAO template developments
12:30 – 13:30	Examples of template applications and document conversion
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 15:30	Networking Documents and Databases
15:30 – 16:30	Networking Documents and Databases: Exercise

Monday 28 February 2005

09:00 – 10:00	News and Event Management System (NEMS)
10:00 – 11:00	Electronic Management Information System (EIMS)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:30	News and Events Management System (NEMS): Exercise
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 16:30	Electronic Information Management System (EIMS): Exercise

Tuesday 1 March 2005

09:00 – 10:00	The Architecture of WebAGRIS
10:00 – 11:00	The WebAGRIS search interface
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:30	WebAGRIS Data Search: Exercise (4 Groups: Every group should get a task what to search, then report back to the plenary)
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break

14:30 — 16:30 **-WebAGRIS Input, Storage and Exchange**
-Creating metadata records in XML following the AGRIS application profile 1 and 2
-Creating Style sheets and displaying records
-WebAGRIS Input, Storage and Exchange: Exercise

Wednesday 2 March 2005

09:00 — 10:00 **WebAGRIS Data Entry**
10:00 — 11:00 **Basics of TCP/IP**
11:00 — 11:30 **Coffee Break**
11:30 — 13:30 **Installing Web Server; Installing WebAGRIS/Web ISIS**
WebAGRIS Data Entry
13:30 — 14:30 **Lunch Break**
14:30 — 16:30 **-Adaptation Options for specific needs**
-Architecture of WebAGRIS/Web ISIS
-Adaptation Options and Adaptation Methods for specific needs: Exercise

Thursday 3 March 2005

09:00 — 11:00 **Cooperation with international systems:**
Roundtable meeting for identifying the current situation and needs of AGRIS Resource Centers in the participating countries. Challenges and strategy for the development of these centers.
11:00 — 11:30 **Coffee Break**
11:30 — 12:00 **Close Session and Feed back**