



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# AGROVOC

## The linked data concept hub for food and agriculture



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) promotes efforts to improve knowledge sharing and increase visibility of and access to data for food and agriculture. AGROVOC, a controlled vocabulary and thesaurus which covers all areas of FAO's work, helps to standardize such data and make it more easily discoverable.

**AGROVOC is the largest linked open data set about food and agriculture concepts available for public use. Originally devised in the early 1980s to describe documents and other information resources for indexing and searching, it has evolved from print catalogues to semantic web technologies.**

AGROVOC is accessible online, free of charge, and links to other multilingual knowledge organization systems, allowing users to cross-reference data between from various sources. It offers a broad range of applications for text mining, information retrieval, data curation and data management, and allows for metadata annotation of digital resources such as research data sets.

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, which allows for standardized indexing processes and makes searches more efficient. AGROVOC currently incorporates more than 40 100 concepts and over 937 000 terms in up to 41 languages and allows users to access the data depending on their needs.

AGROVOC's greatest impact arises from its role in facilitating access to and visibility of data across domains and languages. This multilingualism and depth of coverage is only possible thanks to a volunteer editorial network of national and international stakeholders, which includes government organizations, research institutions, foundations, academies, universities, national libraries and technical networks.

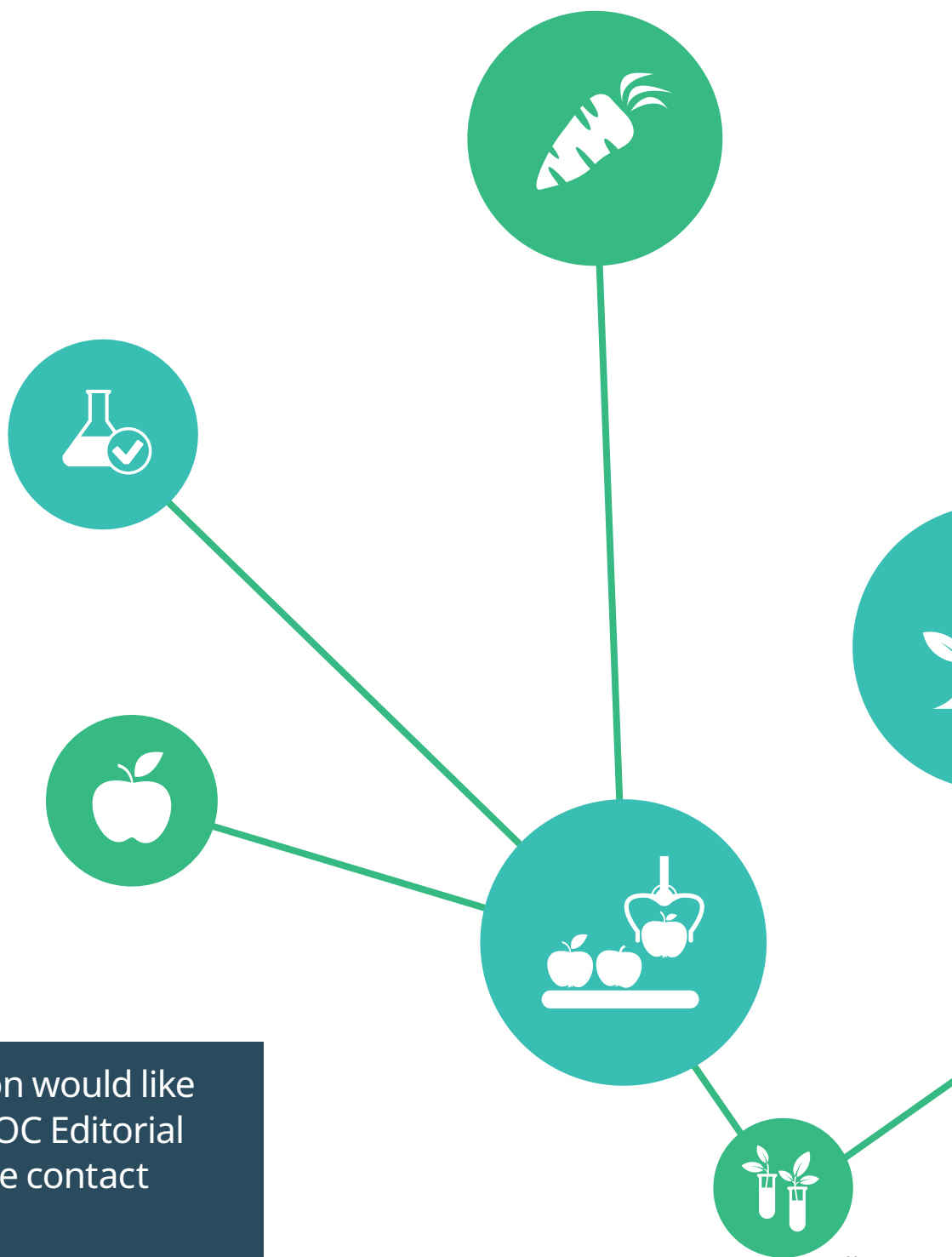
Coordinated by FAO, the members of the AGROVOC editorial network work together to maintain the different language versions and subject domains. The motivation for this is twofold – to utilize AGROVOC in their own language under their national systems and to increase visibility of research in their languages for a global audience.

Currently, over 35 organizations from 32 countries contribute their expertise, enriching AGROVOC with new concepts and terms, and adding new and updated terminology. Through collaboration with communities of experts, AGROVOC continues to expand its coverage to include specialized domains that can benefit from the AGROVOC infrastructure, such as land governance, law and policy, soil sciences, fisheries and aquatic sciences.

# List of AGROVOC editorial institutions 2022

- Agroinstitut Nitra, Slovak Republic
- Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)
- Belarus Agricultural Library, National Academy of Sciences, Belarus
- Biblioteca Storica Nazionale dell'Agricoltura, Italy
- Central Scientific Agricultural Library, and Russian Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), Russian Federation
- Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), France
- Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China
- Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information (IAEI), Czech Republic
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Training and Publication, Türkiye
- Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa), Brazil
- GAK Education, Research and Innovation Nonprofit Co, Szent Istvan University, Hungary
- Institute Techninformi of the Georgian Technical University, Georgia
- Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP), Argentina
- Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute, Iran
- Thai National AGRIS Centre, Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Kuratorium für Technik und Bauwesen in der Landwirtschaft e. V. (KTBL), Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) and BonaRes Centre for Soil Research, Germany
- Land Portal Foundation (LPF)
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Matica Srpska Library and University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Serbia
- National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Norway
- The Republican Scientific Agricultural Library of the State Agrarian University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova
- Ukrainian Institute of Scientific and Technical Expertise and Information, Ukraine
- CGIAR
  - \* AfricaRice
  - \* International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
  - \* International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
  - \* International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
  - \* International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
  - \* International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
  - \* International Potato Center (CIP)
  - \* International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
  - \* International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
  - \* The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
  - \* WorldFish
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
  - \* AGRIS, the International System for Agricultural Science and Technology
  - \* FAOLEX
  - \* Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers (TECA)

Learn more at  
[www.fao.org/agrovoc](http://www.fao.org/agrovoc)



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If your organization would like to join the AGROVOC Editorial Community, please contact [agrovoc@fao.org](mailto:agrovoc@fao.org)



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