AGROVOC Concept Server Workbench



A Tool for Collaborative Ontology Maintenance

AGROVOC

WHAT IS IT?

AGROVOC is a multilingual structured and controlled vocabulary designed to cover terminology in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and related domains (e.g. environment, nutrition, etc.).

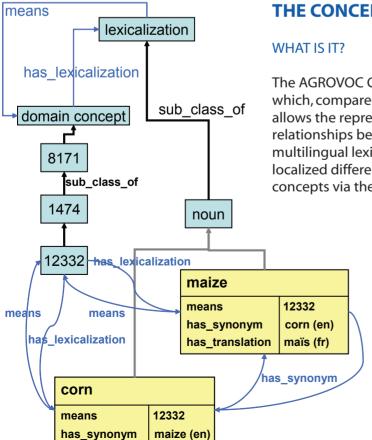
HOW IS IT USED?

AGROVOC is mainly used for indexing and retrieving data in agricultural information systems both inside and outside FAO. Its main role is to help standardize the indexing of information objects in order to simplify information integration across systems and to provide the user with the most relevant resources.

TOWARDS MORE SEMANTICS

 RT Irrigated land AGROVOC is the foundation that underpins the development of the Agricultural ontology service (AOS) project. By making use of knowledge contained in terminology systems and thesauri such as AGROVOC, AOS is committed to developing semantic, multilingual, domain-specific Knowledge Organization Systems that will better support information management for the web environment.

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•••• BT Natural resources ••• BT Nonrenewable resources •• BT Land resources • BT Farmland Cultivated land NT Fields •• NT Rice fields • NT Orchards NT Sown pastures • NT Leys • NT Vineyards RT Arable soils RT Marginal land

THE CONCEPT SERVER

The AGROVOC Concept Server (CS) is a concept-based system which, compared to a traditional Knowledge Organization System, allows the representation of more semantics such as specific relationships between concepts and relationships between their multilingual lexicalizations. It particularly allows for modelling localized differences in knowledge representation, i.e. defining concepts via their language specific lexicalizations and relations.

HOW IS IT USED?

It is a one-stop shop for terminological knowledge related to agriculture in general. The CS is accessible freely to everybody and facilitates collaborative editing. It serves as a pool of agricultural concepts and is a starting point for the development of specific domain ontologies, where multilinguality and localized representation of information are important issues.

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TOWARDS AN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

The AGROVOC CS has been designed to be maintained by a distributed network of maintainers and editors. It will serve as one of the core services within the AOS initiative, where the current AGROVOC maintainers and future partners will be able to express more information and manage it directly in a real-time, collaborative environment.

The AGROVOC Concept Server is a response to the new approach for managing vocabularies online and will function as a resource to help structure and standardize agricultural terminology in multiple languages for use by any number of different users and systems around the world.

THE WORKBENCH

WHAT IS IT?

The Workbench is a web-based working environment for managing the AGROVOC Concept Server. It provides tools and functionalities that facilitate the collaborative editing of multilingual terminology and semantic concept information. It further includes administration and group management features as well as built in workflows for maintenance, validation and quality assurance of the data pool.

HOW IS IT USED?

Accessible online, it is used to transfer the management of AGROVOC from a few individuals in FAO to a wider community of international AGROVOC experts worldwide. This group of experts will in the future share the collaborative maintenance and extension of the AGROVOC Concept Server.

