Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Agricultural Science and Technology Information
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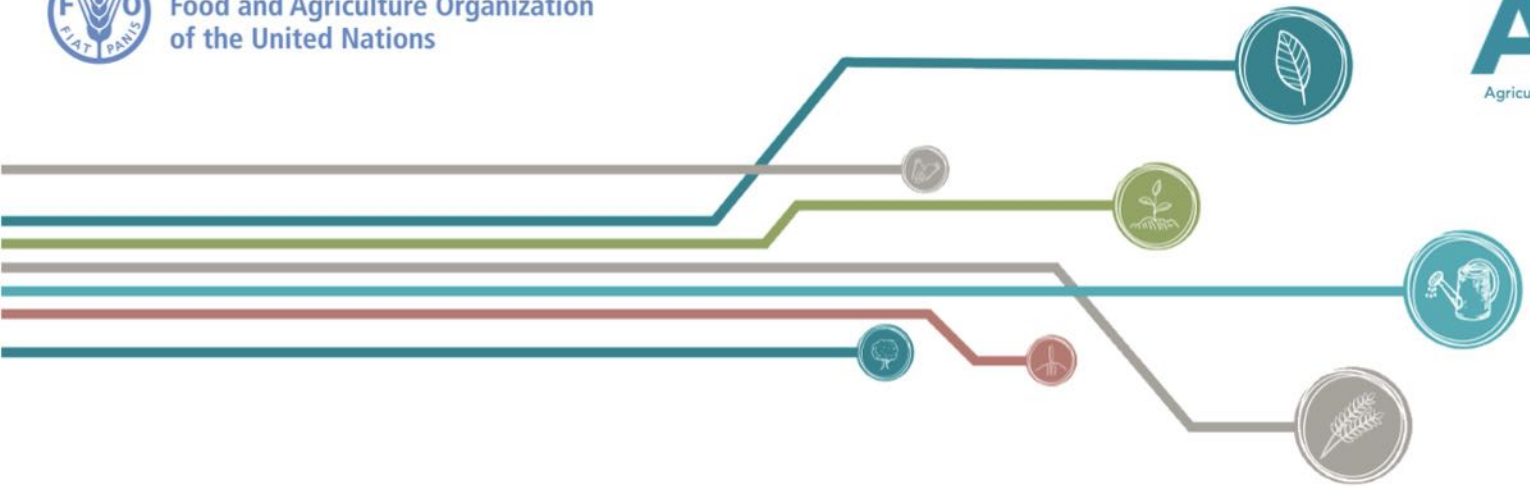

AGRIS 2021
Virtual Annual Conference

1 July 2021

@FAOAIMS

#AGRIS2021

AGRIS Annual Conferences 2018-2019

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2018. 1st Regional AGRIS Meeting with 22 participants representing 12 countries met in Lilongwe, Malawi

2019. 2nd Regional AGRIS Meeting with 35 participants representing 10 countries met in Moscow, Russian Federation

AGRIS Annual Conferences 2020

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2020 Annual AGRIS Community Meeting was held online from 2–3 July with more than a hundred AGRIS participants from more than 35 countries in attendance.

AGRIS 2021 Virtual Annual Conference

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47 years

4th annual conference

1300+ registrations

130 countries

Programme for AGRIS 2021 Annual Conference

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13:00-13:10 CEST Opening
13:10-13:55 CEST Introduction to AGRIS by Imma Subirats, FAO
How does AGRIS facilitate knowledge sharing to support the fight against hunger?

Guest speakers:
Enrico Bonaiuti, ICARDA/ CGIAR
Justin Chisenga, FAO

13:55-14:05 CEST Short break
14:05-15:00 CEST Partnering with AGRIS by Ilkay Holt, FAO
How can your organization benefit from AGRIS?

Guest speakers:
Ruth Velia, CENIDA (Nicaragua)
Viorica Lupu, Republican Agricultural Scientific Library of SAUM (Republic of Moldova)

15:00-15:05 CEST Short break
15:05-15:45 CEST Contributing to AGRIS by Ilkay Holt and Imma Subirats, FAO
How can your organization contribute to AGRIS?

Guest speakers:
Lidia Pirumova, Central Scientific Agricultural Library - CSAL (Russian Federation)
Onan Mulumba, Makerere University (Uganda)

15:45-16:00 CEST Closure

The FAO AGRIS Team

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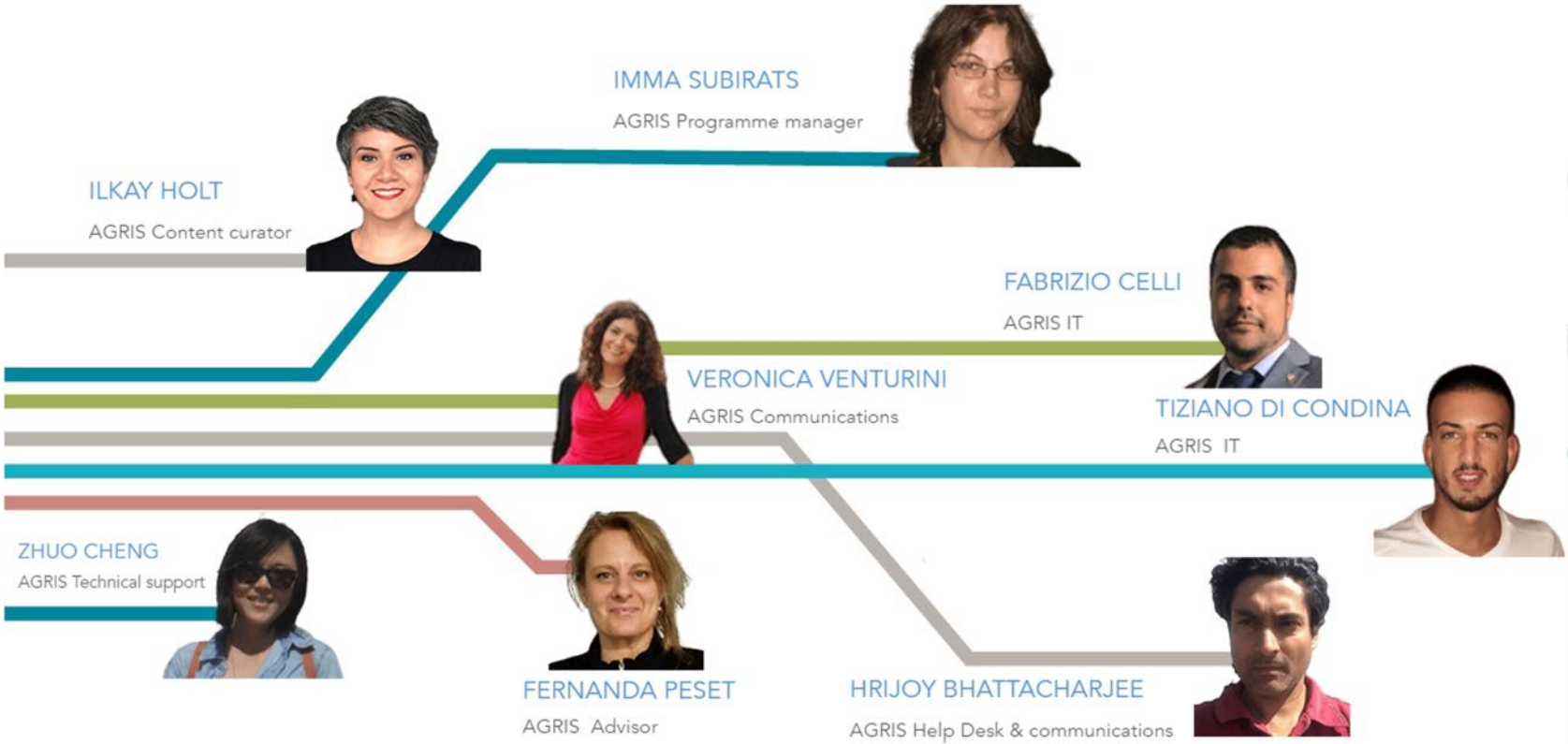

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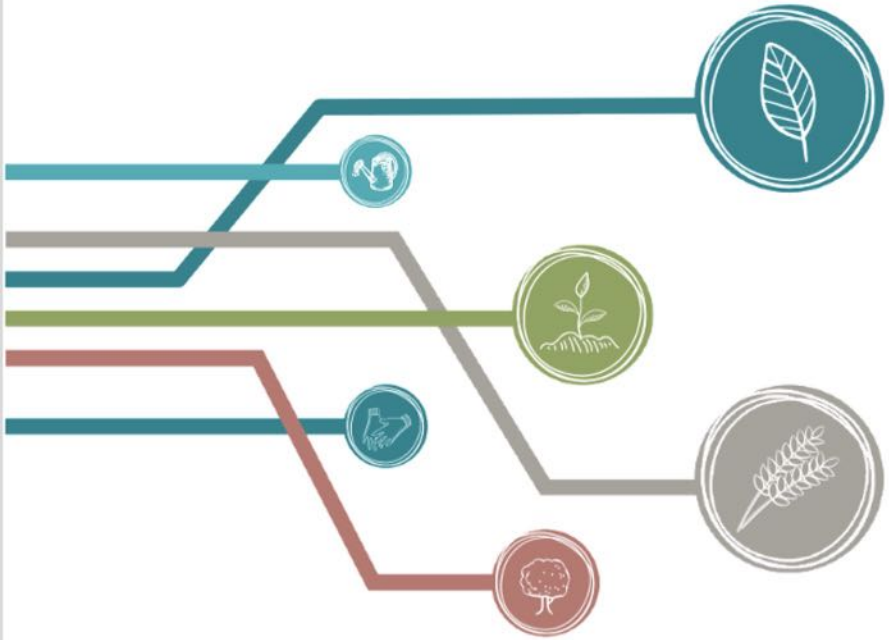

Session 1
About AGRIS

The Food and Agriculture Organization

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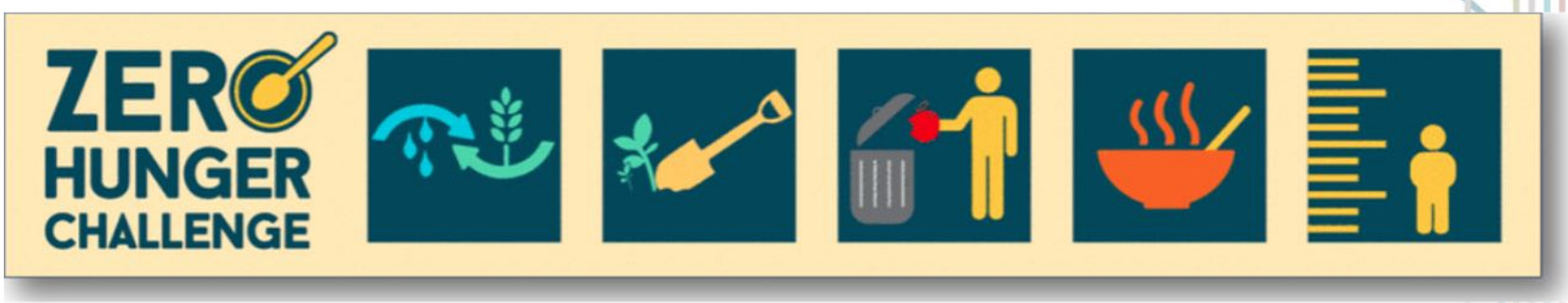
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Our goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- Achieving zero hunger is at the heart of FAO



To defeat hunger, knowledge is key and sharing it is vital

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Through a series of knowledge programmes, FAO helps to increase the accessibility and visibility of research products in its Member Countries, and to make this information available, accessible and usable worldwide.

This exchange of knowledge not only supports FAO's work for a world free of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, but also contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

AGRIS

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AGRIS is the international information system for agricultural sciences and technology.

AGRIS collects bibliographic information from around the world on scientific, technical and socioeconomic publications on a wide variety of topics related to food and agriculture.

AGRIS compiles the information in a rational and systematic way and publishes it in a database in a monthly basis.

AGRIS became operational in 1975.

Agricultural sciences landscape

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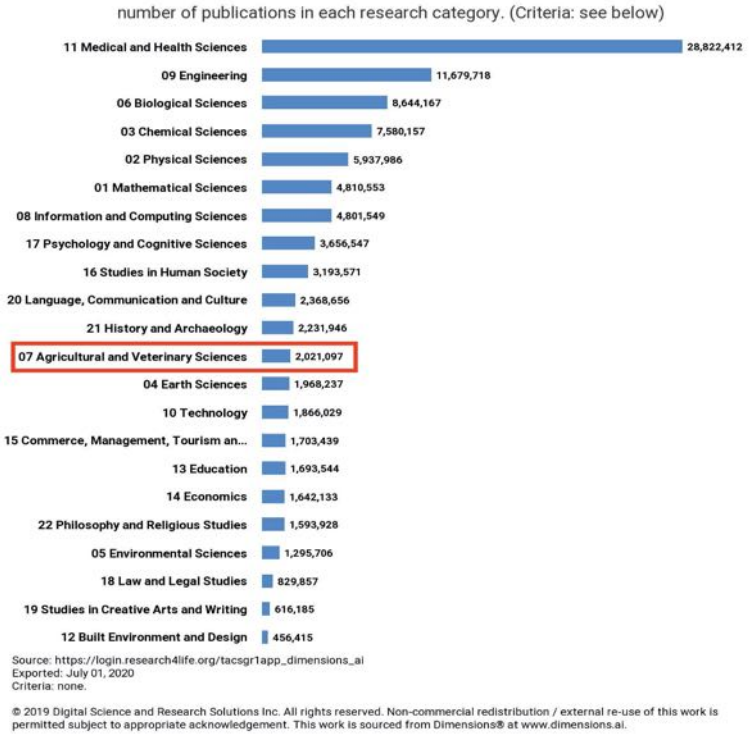
- Applied science
- A majority of the research output is not in the peer reviewed literature
- A lot of the research is done by private companies and public organizations
- Multilingualism



AGRIS is composed of two elements

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The AGRIS Network is a community of organizations who collect and contribute with information about food and agricultural literature and participate in knowledge sharing activities.

http://www.fao.org/agris/

AGRIS is also a database with more than 13.5M structured bibliographical records on agricultural science and technology in 90 languages.

http://agris.fao.org

The functions of AGRIS

AGRIS
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To create a single, comprehensive database of world-wide agricultural literature which reflects research results in food and agriculture.

To meet information needs by providing online retrieval mechanisms and provide advice when ensuring requests for documents where not available online.

To interact with other search engines, increasing search efficiency and hence visibility and accessibility of agricultural scientific research.

The scope of AGRIS

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The subject scope of AGRIS reflects the scope of FAO, and is classed in the following subject groups:

- Fisheries
- Inclusive rural transformation and gender equality
- Food and nutrition
- Forestry
- Animal production and health
- Food systems and food safety
- Land and water
- Plant production and protection
- Agrifood economics
- Climate change, biodiversity and environment
- Agricultural innovation

Users

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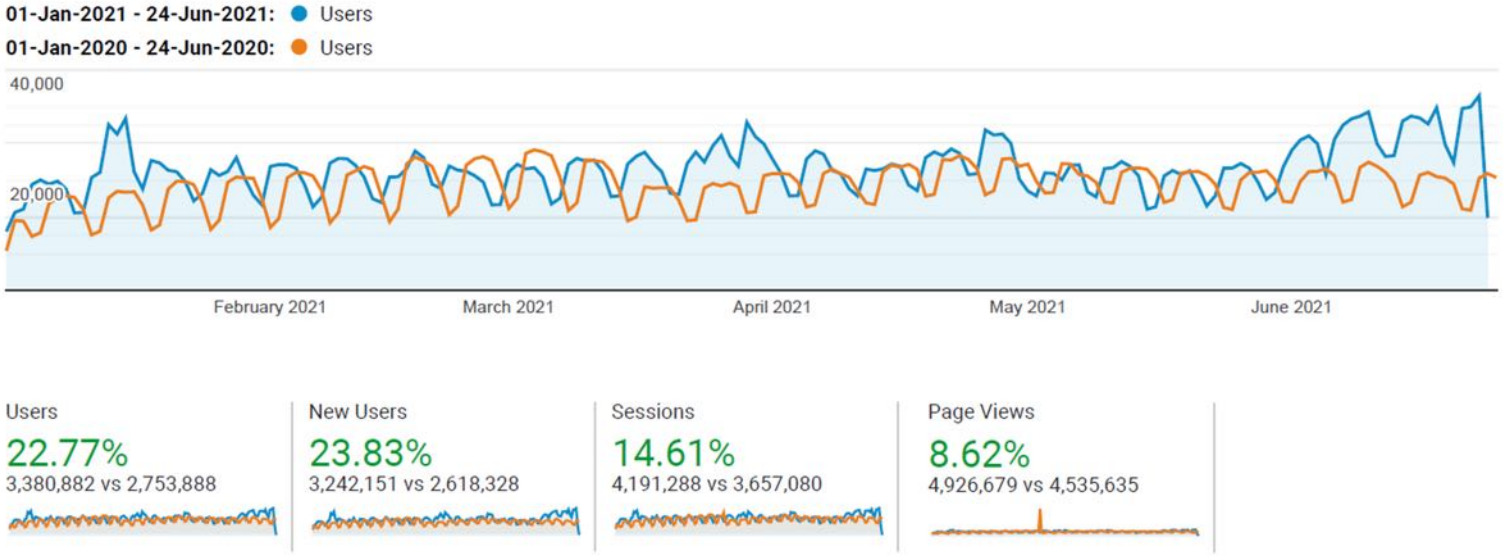
Anyone interested in resources related to the topics covered in AGRIS, including students, scientists, librarians, researchers, publishers and policy-makers, among others.

The most common cases when searching AGRIS are:

- To find relevant information on their field of expertise; to avoid the noise of Google and Google Scholar;
- Access to information available in other languages rather than English;
- Access full text, but also bibliographic information e.g. produced in a certain period of time in a specific country.

Usage statistics



Q1Q2 2021 vs Q1Q2 2020: increased users, new users, sessions and page views

Source: Google Analytics

AGRIS Content Evolution 2016-2021

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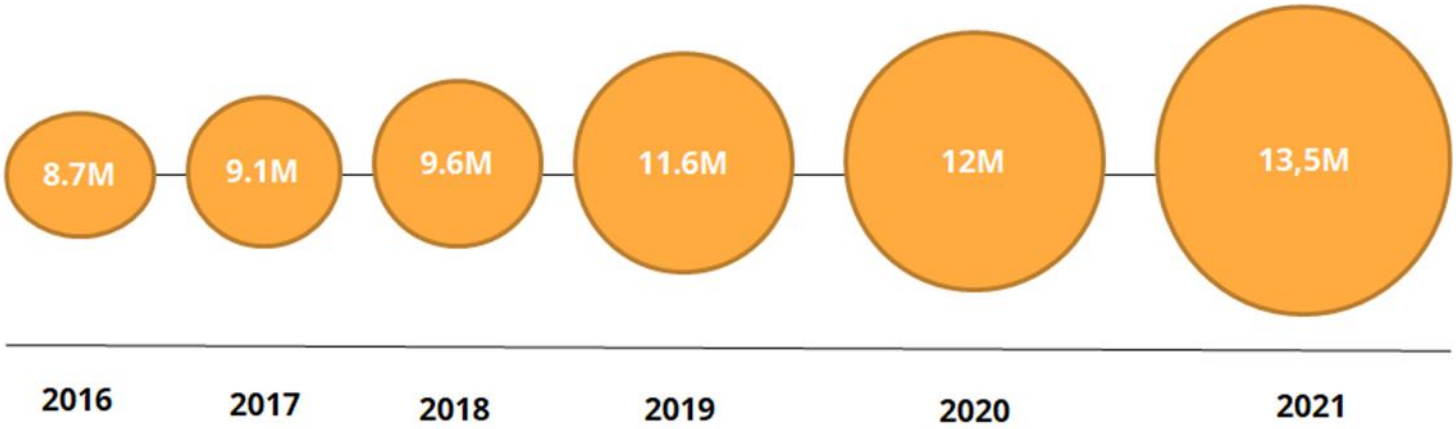

Panellists Session 1

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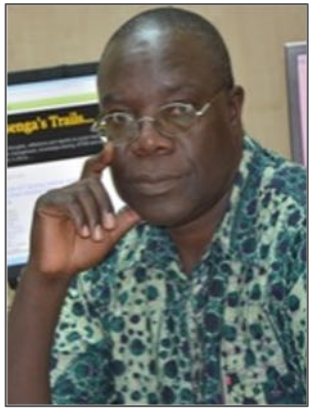

Justin Chisenga – Capacity Development Officer and Team Leader: Partnerships with Academia and Research Institutions in the Partnerships Unit of the Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division at FAO.

Enrico Bonaiuti – Team Leader at Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and Program Management Officer at the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers, and Bananas (RTB), led by the International Potato Center.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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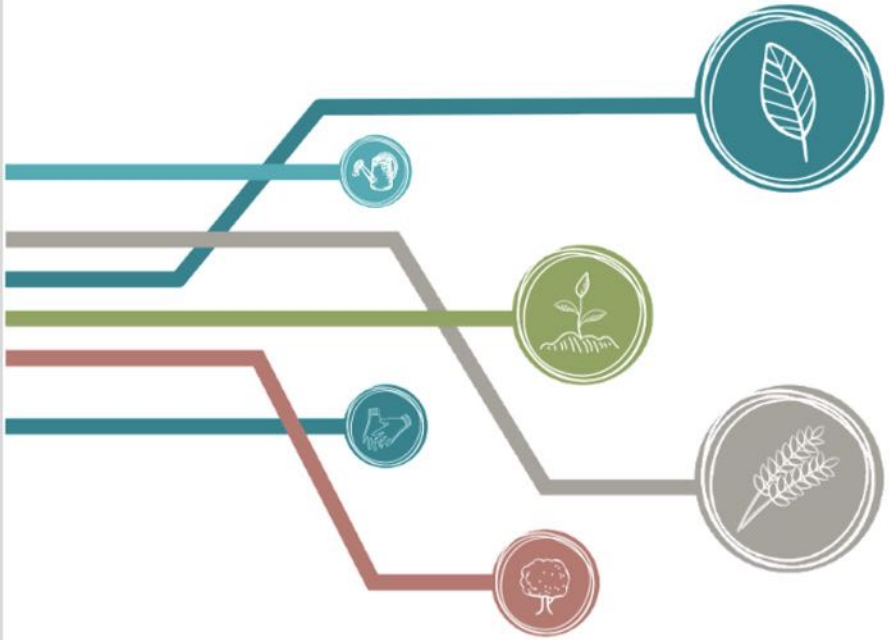

Session 2

Partnering with AGRIS

Role of the AGRIS Network

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AGRIS exists thanks to the sharing of bibliographic references by a collaborative network of organizations.

This global collaboration depends on continued contributions, especially to strengthen multilingualism and equitable representation.

The AGRIS network itself is a key element in ensuring that AGRIS, as a database, continues to contain diverse content from relevant stakeholders.

AGRIS Network and its users

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The involvement of AGRIS users and further collaboration on technical developments also provide an invaluable opportunity to strengthen and develop new functionalities for the AGRIS.

Feedback received from organizations and users is important for continued improvements to AGRIS.

Benefits

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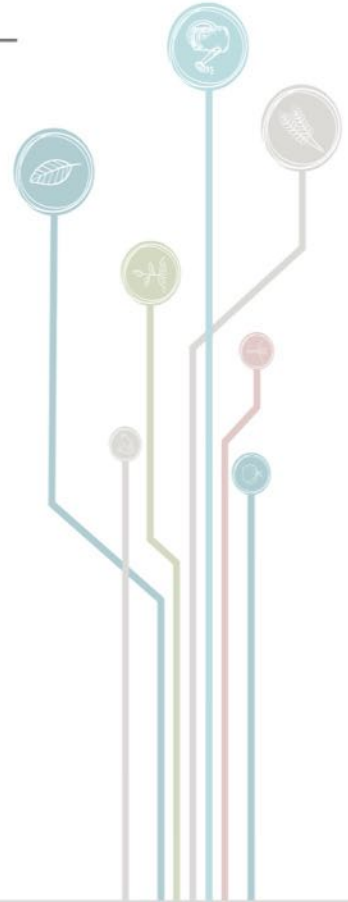
Joining AGRIS is free. By contributing to AGRIS, organizations benefit from:

- Being part of a dynamic international network with a focus on the agricultural content which is accessible, intensively used and massively distributed in the global information landscape;
- Jointly contributing to international science;
- Exchanging information and data between different countries and stakeholders and increase visibility to a broader international audience;
- Sharing unique materials, such as unpublished scientific and technical reports, governmental publications, conference materials, data sets, maps, etc.



Other benefits

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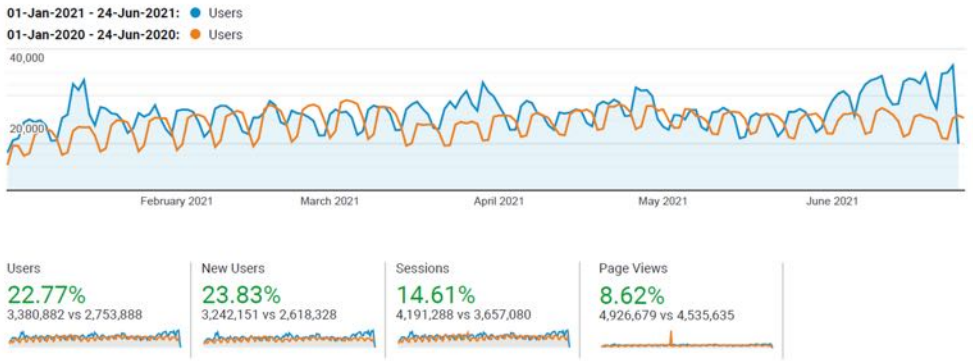
- Increases visibility of the organizations at global level
- Increases usage of institutional research outputs
- Enables discoverability on the web
- Offers multilinguality via AGROVOC
- Creates knowledge sharing networks
- Creates opportunities for further collaboration

Usage statistics

AGRIS receives 10M page views yearly.

Active members benefit from high use of AGRIS in general in terms of visibility.

Network partners have access to institutional statistics to assess the impact and also to report at their organizations.



Q1Q2 2021 vs Q1Q2 2020: increased users, new users, sessions and page views

Source: Google Analytics

The AGRIS Network in a nutshell

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AGRIS Network is a community of organizations who collect and contribute with information about food and agricultural literature and participate in knowledge sharing activities.

It is currently composed of the two elements:

- Data providers
- Country Hubs

The AGRIS Network: Data providers

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Data providers are organizations that contribute to the content of AGRIS.

Types of data providers include research centres, academic institutions, publishers, governmental bodies, development programmes, international and national organizations.

The AGRIS Network: Country hubs

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Country hubs are organizations that act as focal points for AGRIS at country or regional level. They are formerly known as National AGRIS Centres.

Country hubs are responsible for:

- promoting AGRIS;
- guiding eligible partners on joining the AGRIS Network;
- advising existing and potential organizations on submitting information of the resources (metadata); and
- coordinating capacity development activities.

Activities organized by Country Hubs

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FAO supports and works closely with country hubs in the organization of local events and webinars to facilitate knowledge sharing. Some of the recent examples;

- State Agrarian University of Moldova organized a Round Table to encourage researchers and institutions in Moldova to use AGRIS not only as information consumers, but also as AGRIS data providers.
- The Institute Techinformi of Georgian Technical University gathered organizations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, The Republic of North Macedonia, The Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia for a two-day AGRIS & AGROVOC workshop.

The AGRIS Network: Capacity development

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Capacity development activities take place regularly in the Network, both in person and virtually, to strengthen collaboration among the members, create opportunities for knowledge sharing and build competencies.

Annual meetings, webinar sessions, community calls, guidelines and publications are the channels used for these capacity development activities.

Knowledge sharing, exchange of experience and learning from each other within the Network are the key elements of the AGRIS community.

The AGRIS Network: Future plans in CapDev

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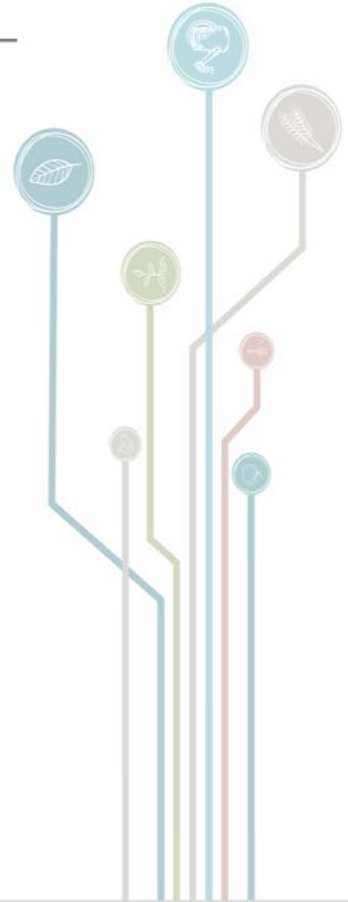
FAO will channel its experience in online training programmes to increase knowledge sharing among the Network organizations.

A new layer of capacity activities (capdev) is to be released in autumn 2021: focused, self-paced online training courses.

Topics will include effective use of AGRIS, enhancing metadata quality, and using vocabularies in digital collections.

The first programme will be piloted before the end of this year. Your feedback is important for further improvements.



The AGRIS Network: Outreach and communication

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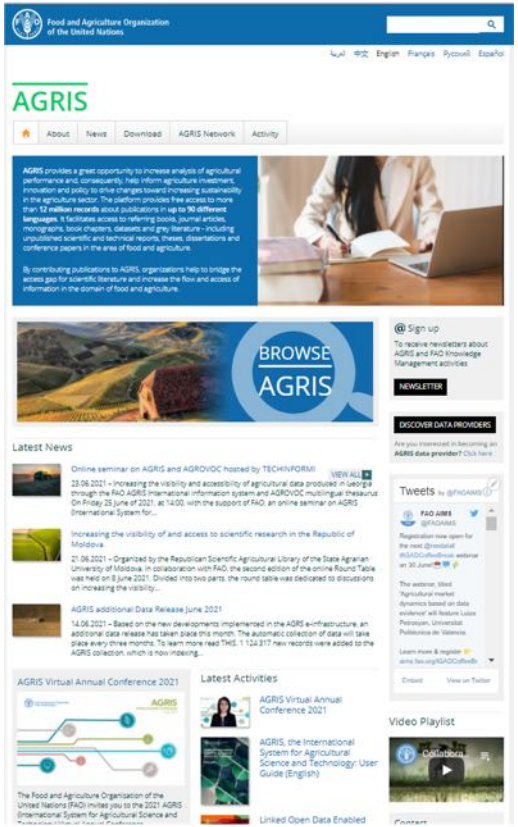

The AGRIS portal offers an environment for Network members to share their news and events with the wider community; to access guides and help pages to become a data provider or contribute, and to follow latest activities of AGRIS.

The AGRIS Network: Outreach and communication

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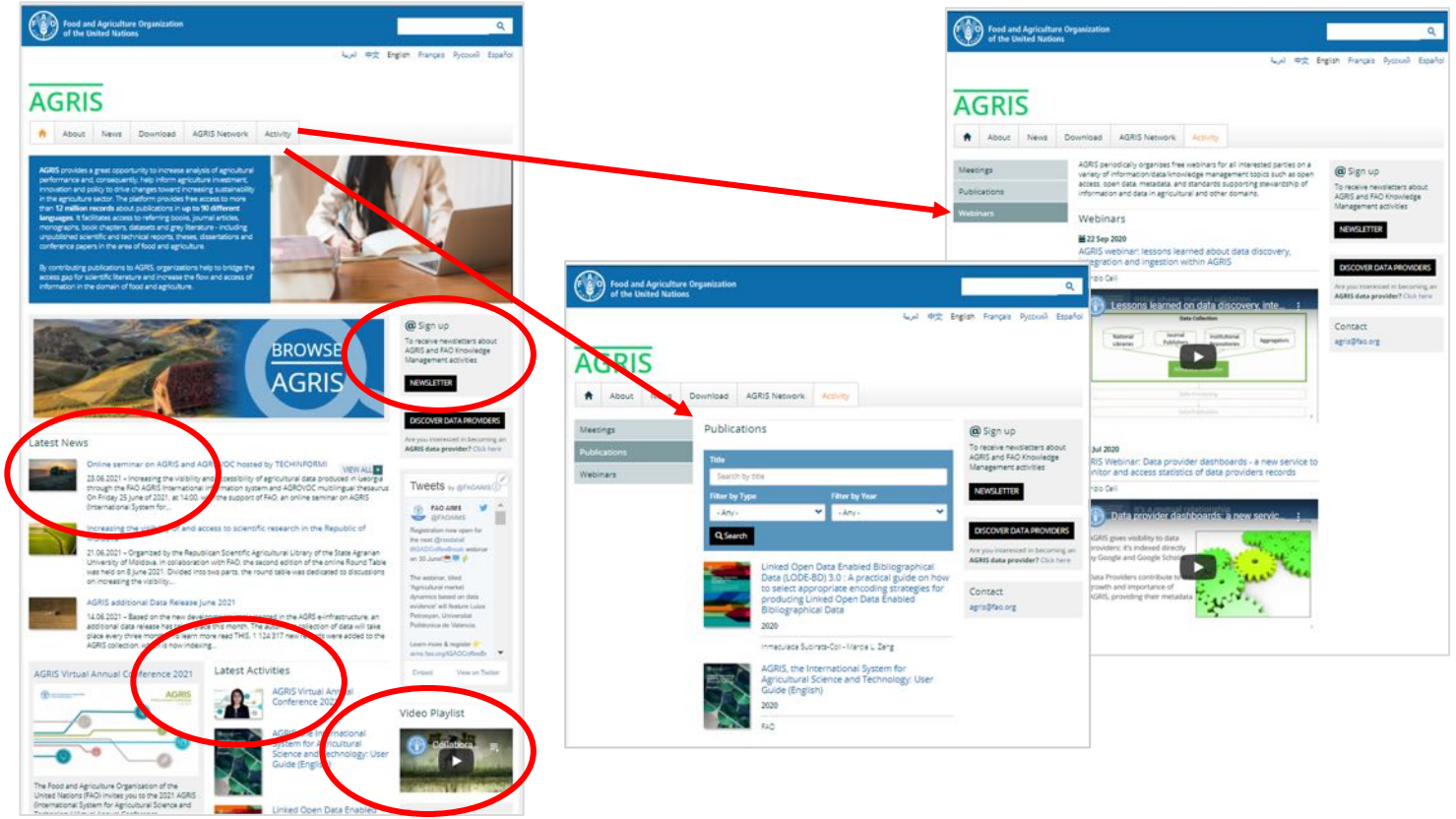

The AGRIS Network: Guides and publications

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AGRIS partner organizations are provided guides and publications to help with submitting bibliographic records as well communicating with their local communities.

Join AGRIS DGroup to stay up-to-date

AGRIS
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AGRIS News

Already a member of this community?

llkay.Holt@fao.org

••••••••

Set new password

Remember me

Login

Not a member of this community?

Join now! It will take only 43 seconds of your time.

https://dgroups.org/fao/agris

Testimonial from Serbia

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"...in Serbia, we primarily use AGRIS ... to share and spread scientific agricultural information from our country both in full text and metadata."

Marina Djacic
Information Librarian
Matica Srpska Library (Serbia)

Testimonial from Belarus

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"AGRIS is a service that allows the import of … global information in agricultural and food sciences for Belarusian scientists, specialists and practicals. At the same time, AGRIS is a service that allows the export of … Belarusian scientific knowledge in the fields of agriculture, forestry, food and natural resources into the global information space."

Veranika Babaryka-Amelchanka
Belarus Agricultural Library
National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (Belarus)

Panellists Session 2

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Ruth Velia Gómez - Director of the National Center for Agricultural Information and Documentation (CENIDA) of the National Agrarian University of Nicaragua.

Viorica Lupu - Deputy Director at the Republican Scientific Agricultural Library of the State Agrarian University of Moldova.

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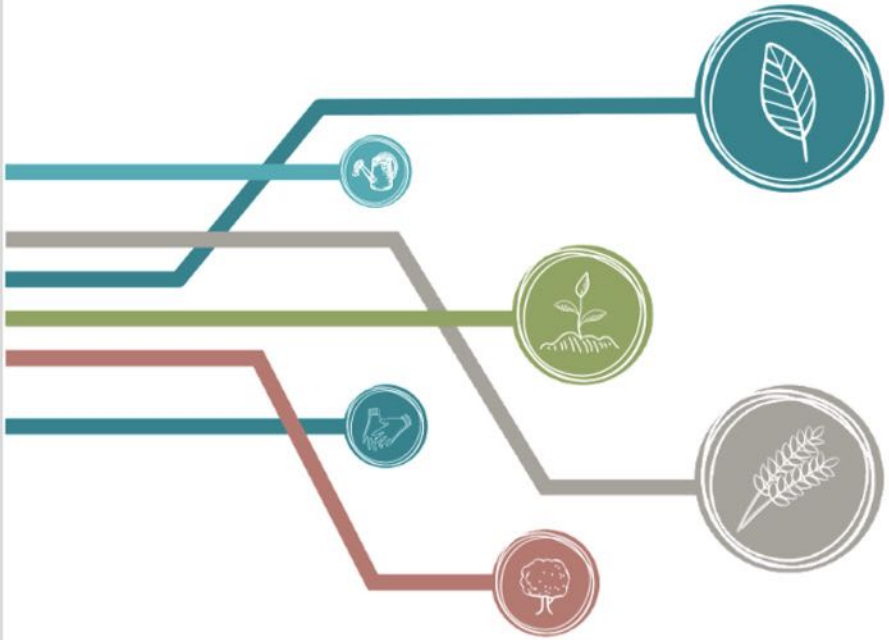

Session 3
Contributing to AGRIS

How to become a data provider?

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Organizations that made available their collection of scientific literature and/or data through digital libraries, repositories and journals can apply for a registration as a data provider in the AGRIS Network.

Registration process

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The organizations that wish to become data providers fill an online form and submit it.

Registration is confirmed within 2 working days.

Applications are reviewed based on the inclusion criteria and applicants are notified in 10 working days.

Upon acceptance, a public profile for the organization is created and the organization is added to the Data Provider Registry.

AGRIS Data Provider Registry

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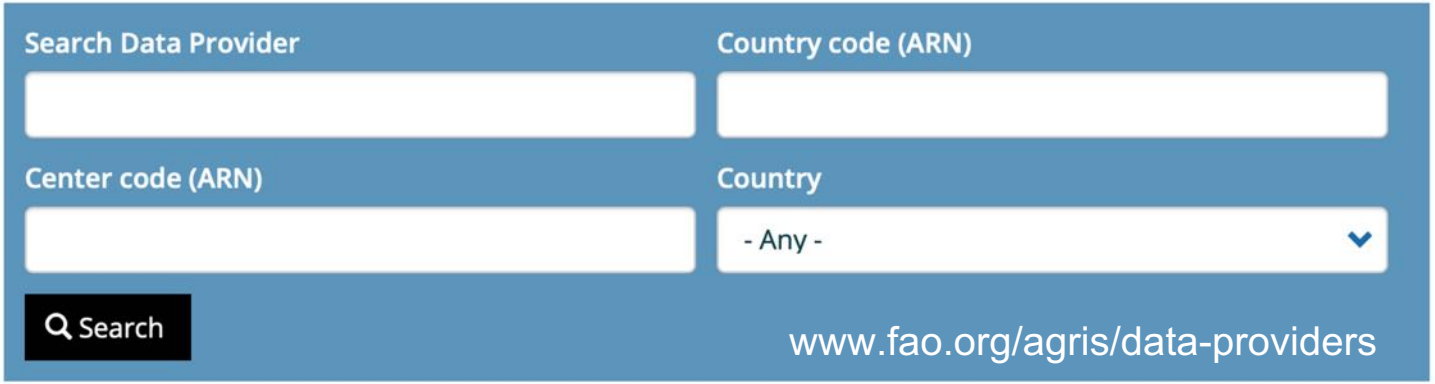
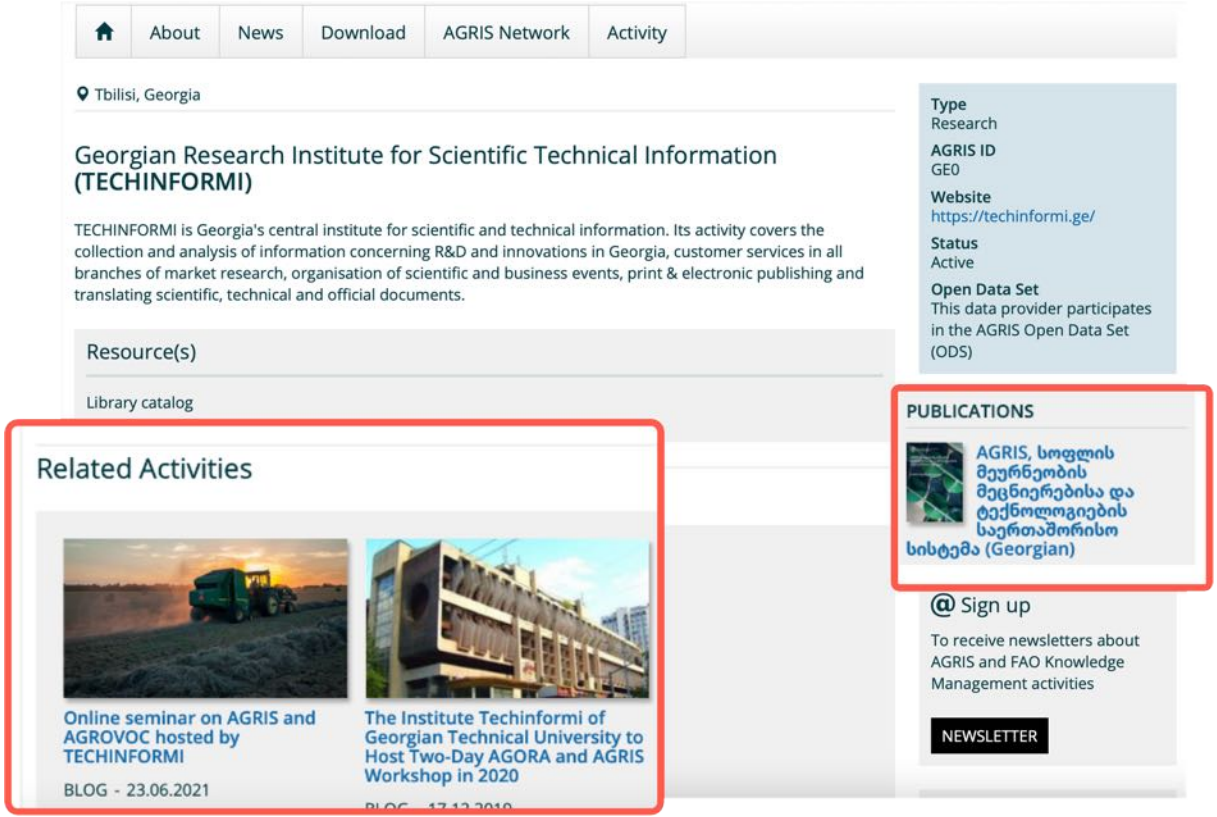
Data providers, organizations which contribute to the content of AGRIS with their resources are listed in the registry.

The registry has been improved significantly to give more visibility to the organizations with links to their relevant AGRIS activities



Data provider's profile - an example



Data provider's activity status

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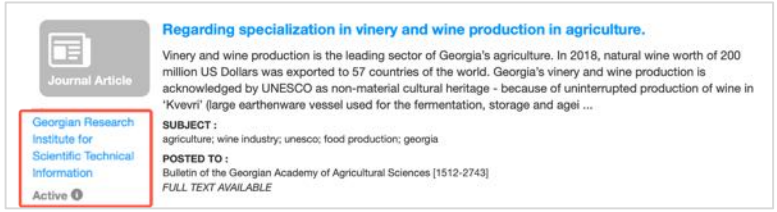
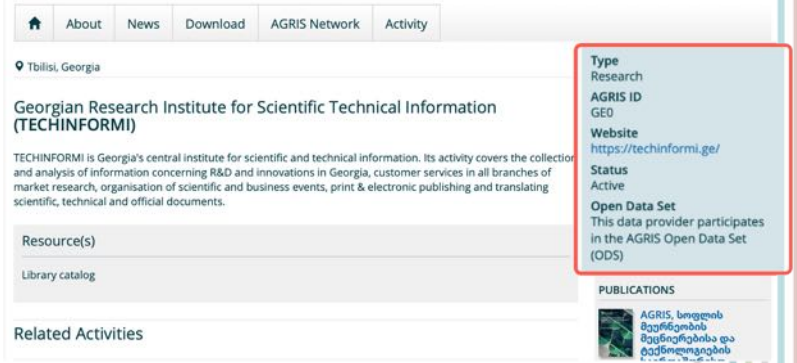
Considering the high usage of AGRIS worldwide, having up-to-date content in AGRIS is critical in terms of providing end users with the latest publications and/or data produced by members of the AGRIS Network.

Recently, the status of providers has been introduced on the Data Provider Profile as well as in the data provider section of the individual metadata records in AGRIS.





Visibility of data providers' collections

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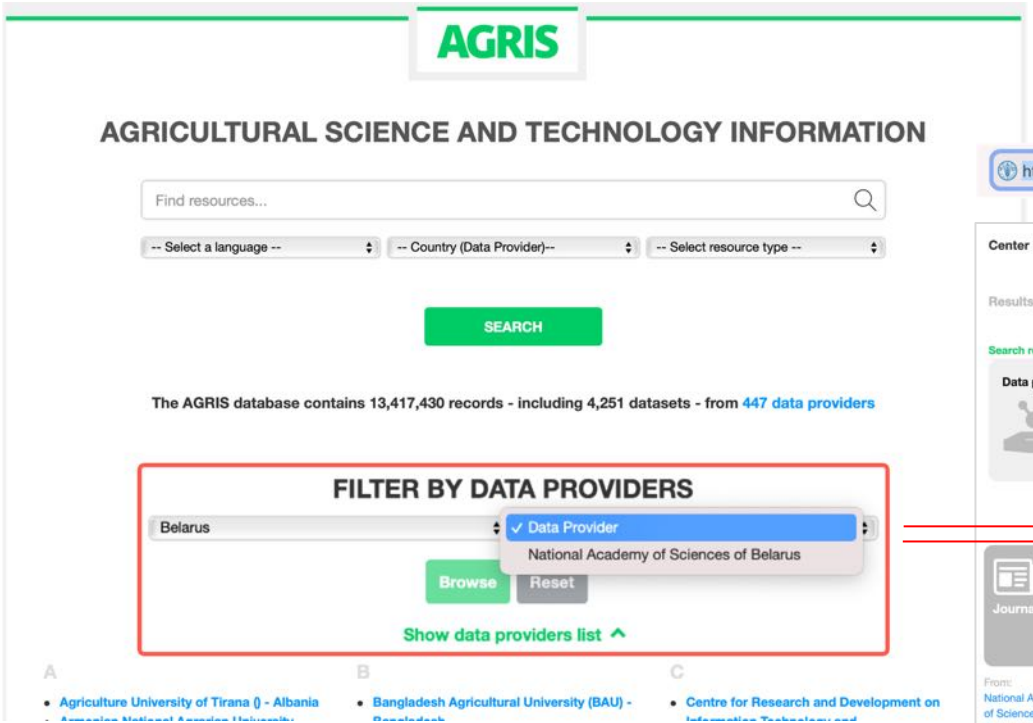

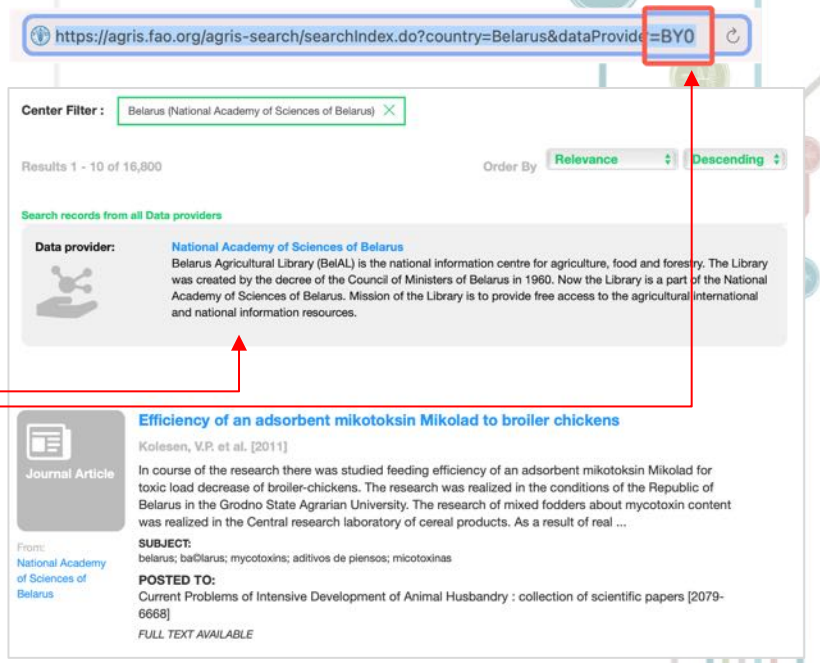

Content strategy of AGRIS

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Moving from unique repositories to a range of types of information resources: from focusing on library information systems to any automated way to expand the content collection with new items.

New content types: like *Datasets* have been integrated in the last years.

Focusing on quality: pertinent content is the preference, despite the fact that some items might be found that are slightly outside of the scope of AGRIS. In these cases, please let us know!

Collaborating with data providers: rather than expanding the collaborative network with service providers, AGRIS focuses on primary sources.

Full text: preferably, bibliography records should provide links to the full text.

Types of resources

AGRIS
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- Journal articles
- Monographs
- Books
- Book chapters
- Conference proceedings, papers
- Grey literature
  - Theses and dissertations
  - Working papers
  - Technical reports etc.
- Datasets

Multilinguality in AGRIS

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Large number of languages represented in AGRIS as a result of indexing bibliographic records in local languages from all over the world.

Diversity in terms of representation of languages other than only English is an important value which AGRIS strongly endorses in scholarly communication.

Using AGROVOC, multilingual thesaurus and controlled vocabulary, in the infrastructure of AGRIS helps the discoverability of the content in number of languages.

How AGROVOC helps discoverability?

AGRIS
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Full potential of a globally-distributed participatory information system can only be realized if every contributor applies certain standards, including using accepted language and terminology.

AGROVOC, a multilingual thesaurus, helps to provide a common vocabulary for food and agriculture worldwide and, currently enables users to work with more than 39 000 relevant agricultural concepts across 40 languages.

Consequently, AGROVOC allows AGRIS to transcend technical, geographical, political and lingual boundaries.

Ways to submit the information to AGRIS

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It can be managed both manually and automatically in AGRIS based on the capabilities of the data provider's information system.

Data providers can submit their bibliographic records to AGRIS:

- via email;
- through manual upload data service; and
- through automatic IT protocols.

Data release in AGRIS

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AGRIS content is updated periodically.

New bibliographic records received via email are released monthly, while automatically harvested resources are indexed quarterly.

AGRIS accepts new data submissions until the last working day of the month to be included in the monthly release.

The AGRIS Database

AGRIS
www.fao.org/agris

Any user can access AGRIS at http://agris.fao.org

AGRIS indexes bibliographic references but does not store the full text articles.

Resources submitted before 2010 may not have the link to the full text.

For records without a link to the full text, it is recommended that the user contact the data provider directly to ask for an electronic copy of the resource.

AGRIS search

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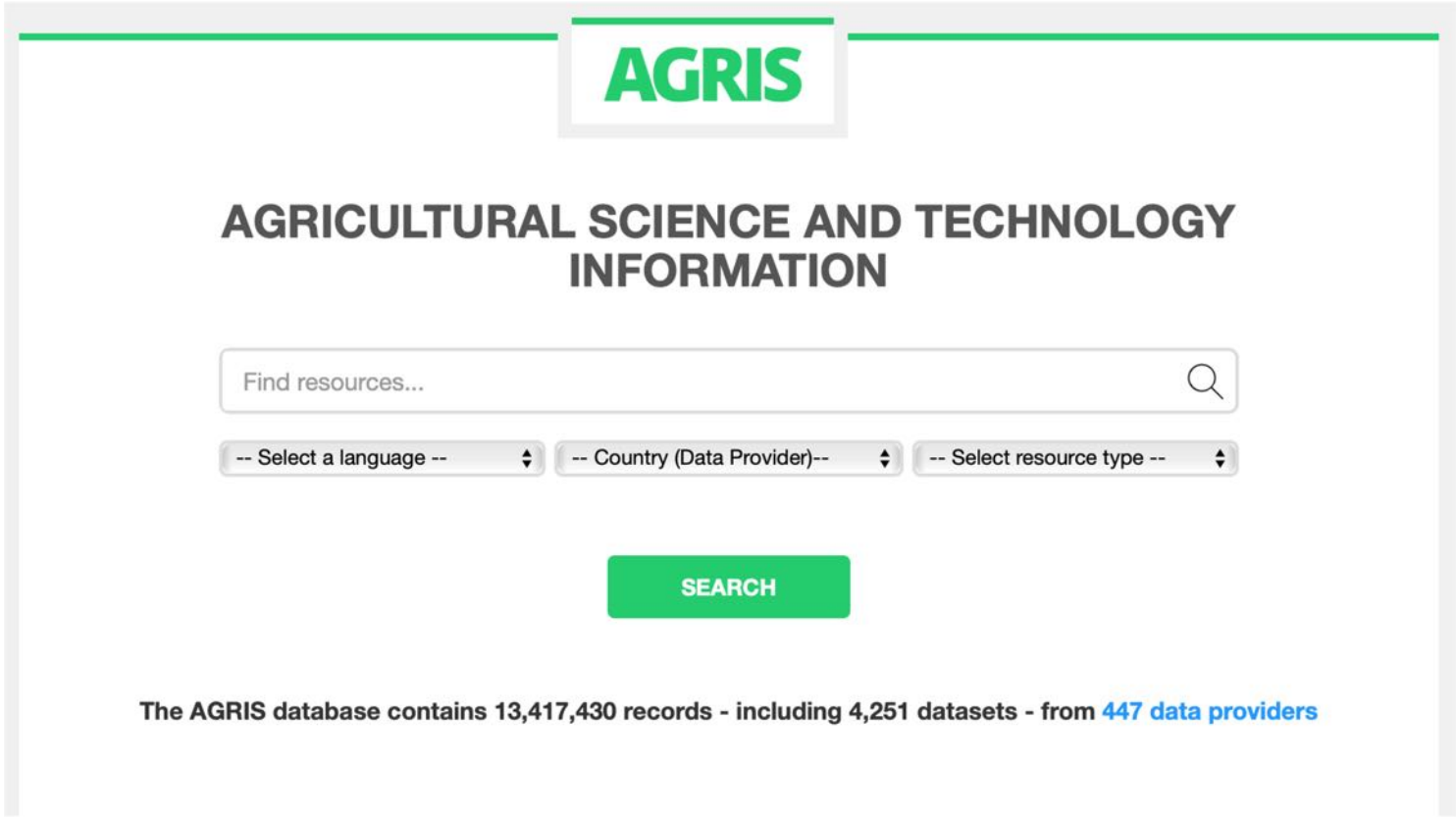

Simple search

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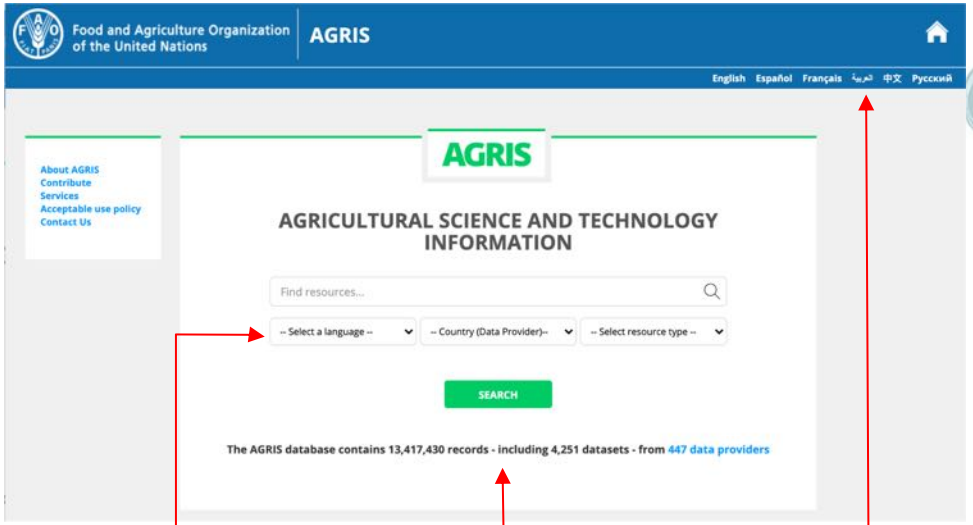
Searching in AGRIS is very simple. To start the search, the user can type any keywords related to a topic, author names, or title into the search box.

As the user types in the search box, suggested terms, which are optional, will appear.



Users can select the language of the records, country where data provider located and type of resources

Current number of the records and data providers are displayed at the bottom

It can be displayed in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

Results page

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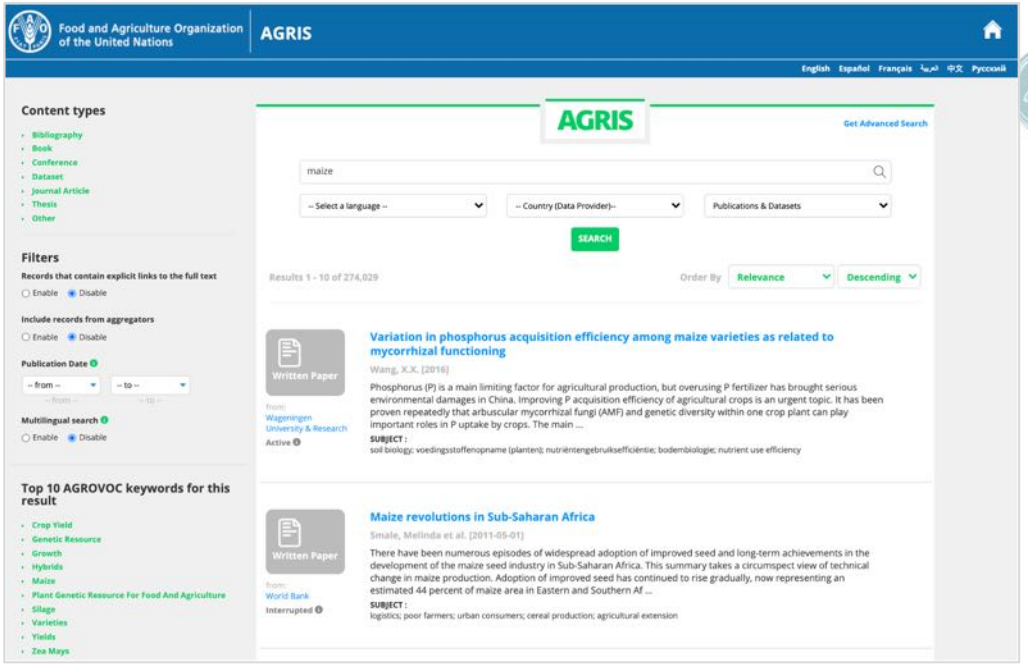
The results page displays the initial search results in the main column of the page.

The ten results on each page are displayed with an icon that reflects the type of literature indexed.



A bibliographic record

AGRIS
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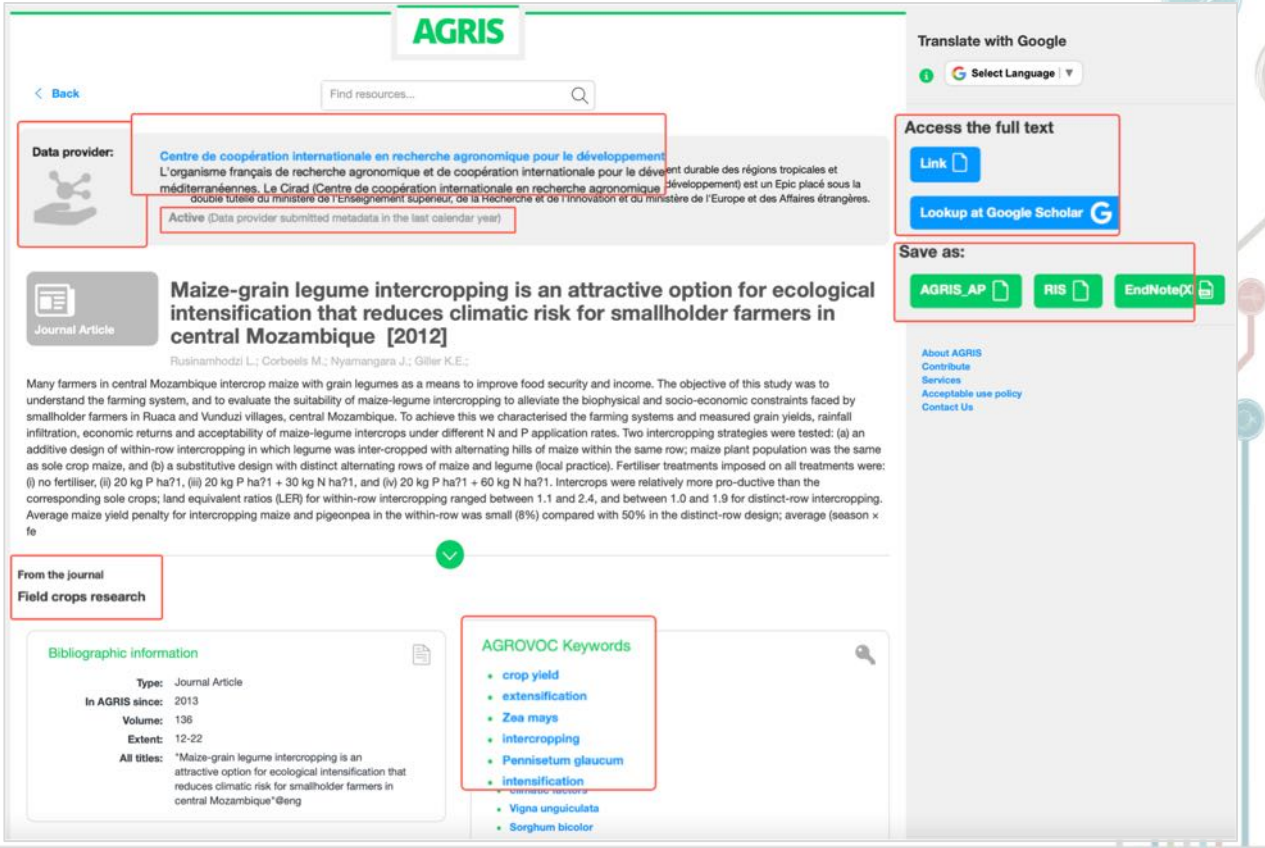
Individual AGRIS results contain the title, author(s), publication date, an abstract, and information about the data provider.

Above the title, the name of the data provider is linked to a website (if available).



New developments to improve discoverability

AGRIS
www.fao.org/agris

- Improvements to the search functionalities
- Enhance quality of current bibliographic records
- Better usability
- More visibility of AGRIS data providers
- Better connection with AGROVOC

Continue to carefully listen the demands from the AGRIS Network organizations.

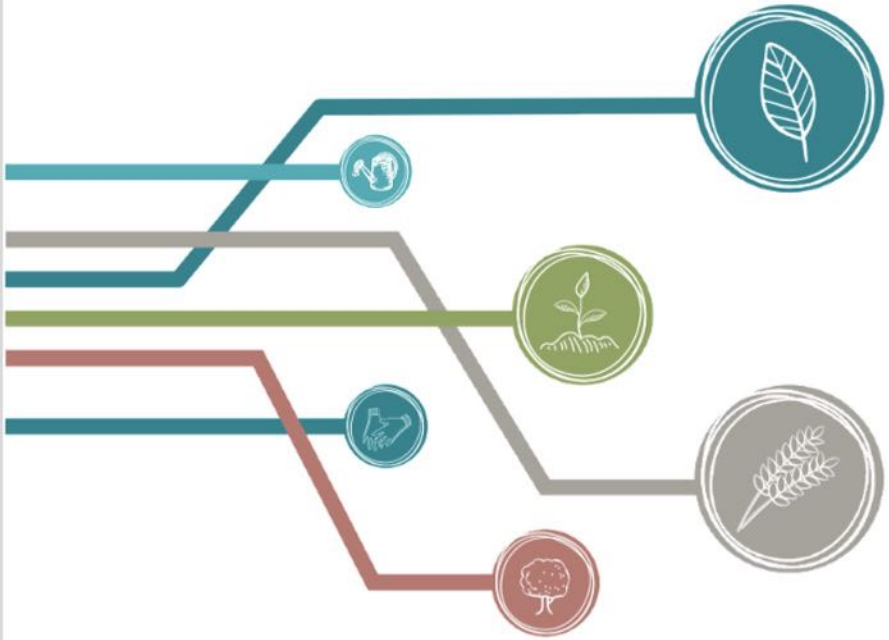
Panellists Session 3

Lidia Pirumova - Deputy Director for Science at the Central Scientific Agricultural Library, Russian Federation.

Onan Mulumba - Head of agricultural libraries at Makerere University, Uganda.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

AGRIS
Agricultural Science and Technology Information
www.fao.org/agris



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