

# **AGROWEB International Network: Platform for Communication and Information/Knowledge Sharing in Agriculture**

Ms. Nara Yaralyan, AgroWeb Armenia

Mr. Arman Manukyan, Agroweb Network  
Management Team

Mr. Michal Demes, FAO REUT

# Agroweb International Network

<http://agrowebcee.net/index.php>



- ▶ Established in 1998 by organisations and individuals involved in agricultural and rural development in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Former Soviet Union (FSU) countries
- ▶ To fill up the gaps in the agriculture related information on the Internet
- ▶ Facilitated by the regional chapter of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) and by FAO

# Agroweb Network: from the Regional Cooperation to the Farm Level One



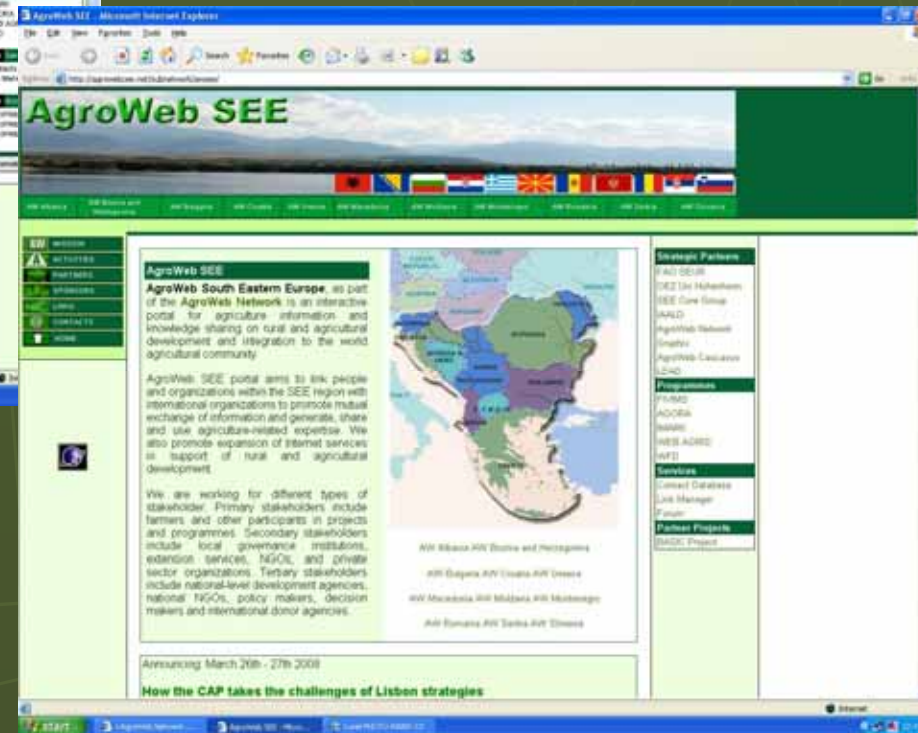
- ▶ Maintained by the representatives of 27 participating countries
- ▶ Balkan countries, New Independent States, Baltic states, Caucasus region and Central Asia, and European Union countries are currently involved in the network.

# Agroweb Sub-Regional Networks

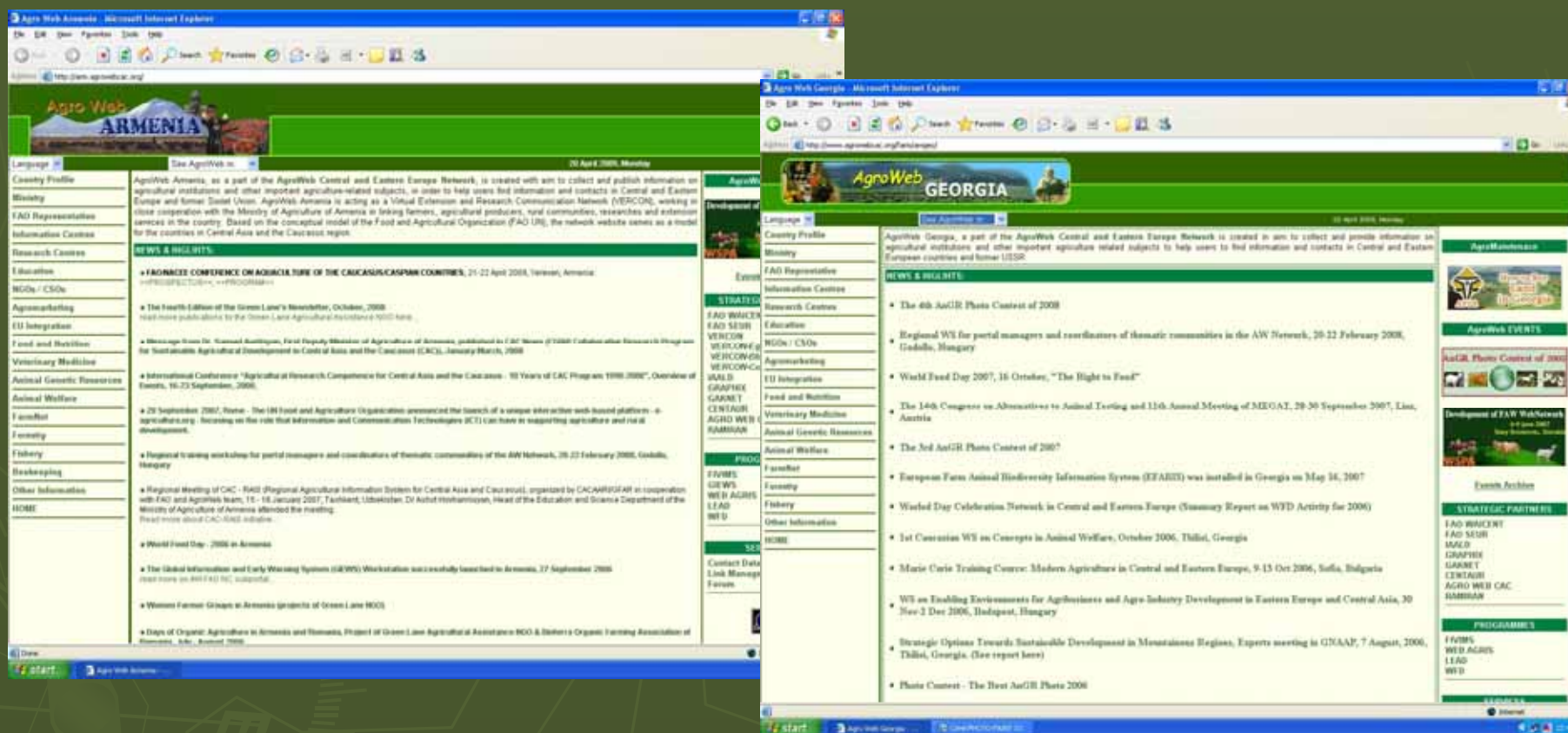
► *AW South Eastern Europe*



► *AW Caucasus and Central Asia*



# Agroweb National Portals



- ▶ *Common standards for format and structure: easy to navigate, easy to develop (both the content and the technological basis)*

# AGROWEB Objectives:

## Communication and Networking for Agricultural & Rural Development

- ▶ AW Network facilitates *generation, collection and provision of agriculture related information, knowledge and best practice* through:
  - monitoring **information about** and related **links to** agricultural institutions;
  - providing **environment for networking** among different thematic/professional groups;

# AGROWEB Objectives: Communication and Networking for Agricultural & Rural Development

- ▶ AW Network facilitates *generation, collection and provision of agriculture related information, knowledge and best practice* through:
  - promoting national and international events related to the objectives of AgroWeb;

# AGROWEB Objectives: Communication and Networking for Agricultural & Rural Development

- undertaking **capacity building** activities and promoting **inter-institutional cooperation** using:
  - ▶ development of **communication schemes** at **regional, sub-regional, national, intra-national levels** and enhance collaboration both among participating institutions and other organizations involved in development activities;
  - ▶ development and promotion of **common standards and guidelines for information management**.

# Core Networking Principles of AGROWEB

- ▶ **Decentralization** as a combination of vertical and horizontal networking / multidimensional structure of the network
- ▶ **Informal initiatives** mostly in the form of **voluntary participation**

# Networking Principles: Informal Initiatives & Voluntary Participation

- ▶ AgroWeb is based on **common interests** and **shared responsibilities** of the participating individuals and institutions
- ▶ Sense of ownership: the network actually is collectively **owned by the stakeholders**
- ▶ The development of the Agroweb network is based on the '**bottom-up**' initiatives and requires commitment from the stakeholders

# Networking Principles: Multi-dimensional platform for communication and networking

## ▶ Vertical Networking ('geographic dimension'):

- Regional
- Sub-regional
- National
- Sub-national (Local)
- Farm Level



## ▶ Horizontal Networking ('thematic dimension'):

- Thematic Knowledge Networks / Communities of Practice (corresponding to each level of the vertical structure )

# Horizontal networks within the structure of vertical connections



# Thematic Knowledge Networks & corresponding AGROWEB Thematic Subportals

- ▶ **NACEE: NETWORK OF AQUACULTURE CENTERS IN CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPE**  
– AGROWEB Fishery Subportals
- ▶ **CENTAUR: VETERINARY BIOTECHNOLOGY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY ESIDUES NETWORK FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE** – AGROWEB Veterinary Medicine Subportals
- ▶ **NCDN – CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN NUTRITION** – AGROWEB Food and Nutrition Subportals
- ▶ **FARM ANIMAL WELFARE** – AGROWEB Farm Animal Welfare Subportals
- ▶ **RAMIRAN-RESEARCH NETWORK ON RECYCLING OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL RESIDUES**

# *Expert's Visibility on the Web*

- ▶ **Fishery** – coordinated by Mr. Thomas Moth-Poulsen, FAO SEU Fishery Officer
- ▶ **Library and Information Centers** - coordinated by **Mr. Tomaz Bartol**, Agricultural Faculty, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- ▶ **Veterinary Medicine** - coordinated by Professor **Karel Hruska** Veterinary Research Institute, Brno, Czech Republic in close cooperation with the Centaur Network
- ▶ **Animal Genetic Resources** - coordinated by **Arunas Svitojus**, Baltic Genofond, Vilnius, Lithuania
- ▶ **Food and Nutrition** - coordinated by **Dr Mirjana Pavlovic**, public health institute, Subotica, Serbia
- ▶ **Forestry** - coordinated by **Mr. Volker Sase**
- ▶ **NGOs and CSOs** - coordinated by **Mr Michal Demes**, Information Management Specialist, FAO
- ▶ **FarmNet** - coordinated by **Mr Stjepan Tannic**, Farming System Development Officer, FAO
- ▶ **Education and Distance Learning** - coordinated by **Mr Cosmin Salasan**, USAMVB Timisoara, Romania

# Technological growth: from Web1.0 to Web 2.0

- ▶ Significant expansion of the Agroweb network, growing number of thematic networks, participating individuals and institutions, etc require up-to-date technology and tools
- ▶ The growing community of the Agroweb Coordinators need content management tools
- ▶ The proposed CMS is Typo3

# Typo3 NACEE Portal: The Same Front-End Design – New Opportunities for Content Development & Management



# Typo3 NACEE Portal Pages

## Visit Members



## Training Opportunities



## Photo gallery



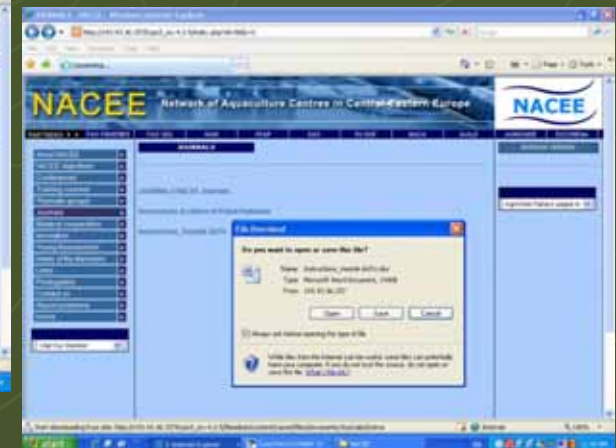
## NACEE Objectives



## Thematic Groups



## Journals

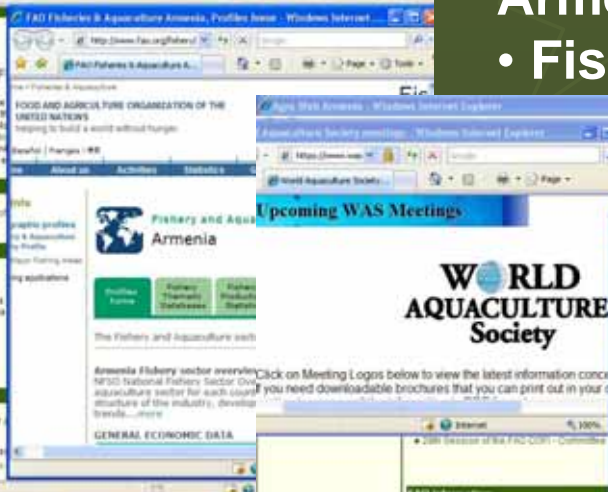


# From Thematic Network Portals to Agroweb National Subportals (NACEE – Fishery Subportal)

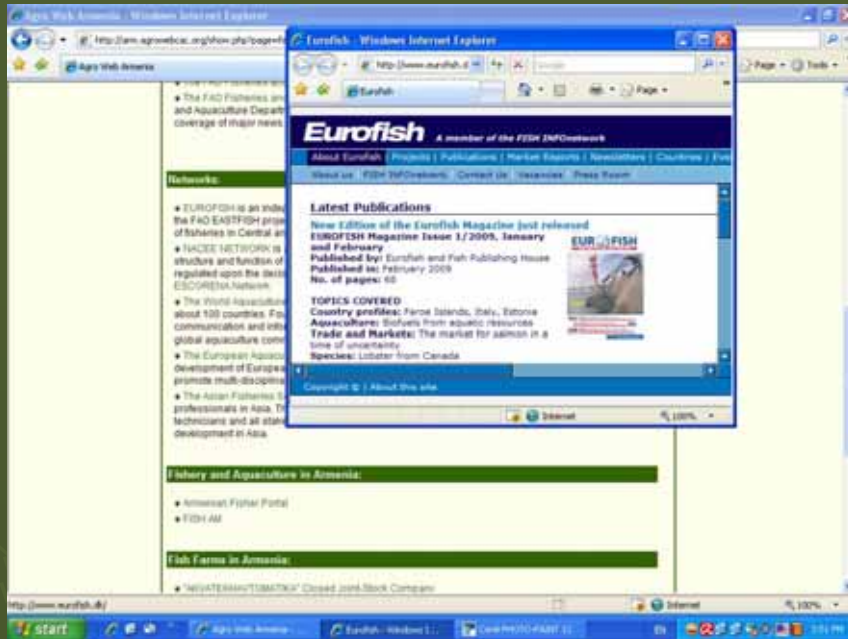


# Agroweb-Armenia: Fishery Subportal

- Country Profile
- Contact Point for Fishery in Armenia
- News & Events
- FAO Information
- Networks
- Fishery and Aquaculture in Armenia
- Fish Farms in Armenia



# Agroweb-Armenia: Fishery Subportal



# Agroweb-Armenia as a Platform for Creation of the National Virtual Extension and Research Network

- ▶ Cooperation between the Government of Armenia & FAO (TCP)
- ▶ Closer Involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture into the Agroweb Development Process
  - also through coordination of the Fishery Subportal
- ▶ Technological Improvement of the Agroweb: Typo3 CMS
- ▶ Networking opportunities offered by Agroweb & standard based structure are in favor of the effective technology transfer

# Thank you!

Nara Yaralyan  
Agroweb-Armenia, Web Editor  
Agricultural Support Republican Centre, I&C Specialist

[n.yaralyan@agrowebcac.org](mailto:n.yaralyan@agrowebcac.org) ; [narayaralian@yahoo.com](mailto:narayaralian@yahoo.com)