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 ESIS DUES 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

► RAMI RAN-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 Pavlović, 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 Web 1.0 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
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; narayaralian@yahoo.com