# A Web-based Tool to Manage Multilingual Thesauri: The Example of AGROVOC

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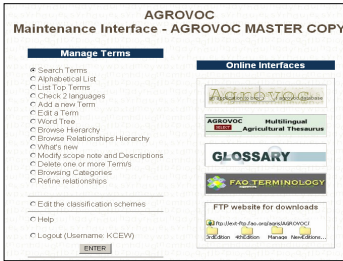
## AGROVOC

*AGROVOC is a multilingual, structured and controlled vocabulary designed to cover the terminology of all subject fields in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and related domains (e.g. environment), and currently contains over 29 000 terms.*

*Browse the thesaurus at:*
**http://www.fao.org/agrovoc/**

**Available on CD-ROM and online in 17 languages:**
*Arabic, Chinese, Czech, English, Farsi, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Lao, Polish, Portuguese, Slovak, Spanish, Thai.*
**Available formats** *(for downloading):*
*MySQL, MS Access, SKOS, Postgres, TagText, ISO2709*
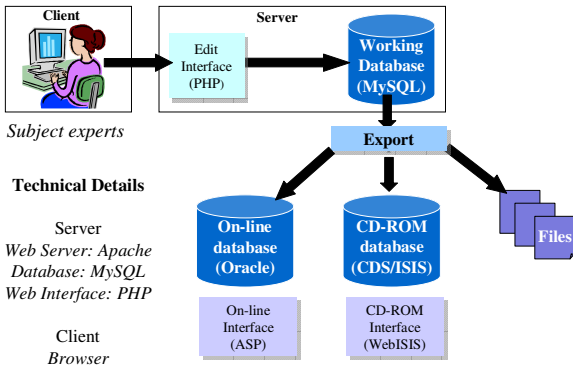
## The Maintenance Tool

*The **AGROVOC** Maintenance Interface is a web-based thesaurus management system developed by **FAO** to manage multilingual thesauri, i.e. to manage all the terms, their relations, and their scope notes inside the **AGROVOC** database. It is a PHP web-based application that uses a MySQL database.*

*The system can also be used for browsing only - **AGROVOC** Browsing Interface -, and it is available on CD-ROM.*

*Open Source software, freely available at:*
**http://sourceforge.net/projects/agrovoc/**

## The Data Work Flow

**Technical Details**

Server
*Web Server: Apache*
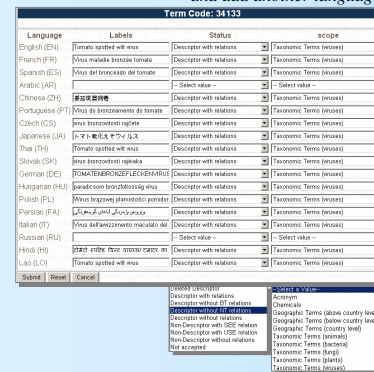*Database: MySQL*
*Web Interface: PHP*

Client
*Browser*

## Key Functionalities

- *Search*
- *Add new terms*
- *Edit terms*
- *Edit relationships between terms*
- *Modify descriptions (scope notes, definitions, etc.)*
- *Check differences in 2 languages*
- *Navigate Categorisation Schemes*
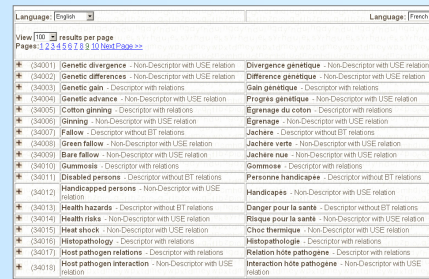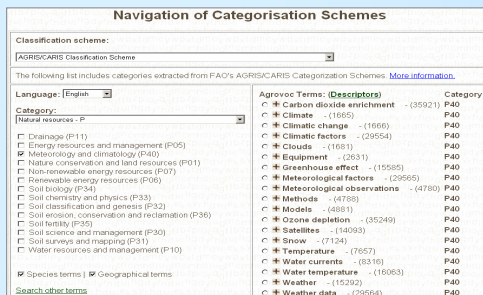- *Delete terms*

### Search

### Legend

### Check Differences in 2 Languages
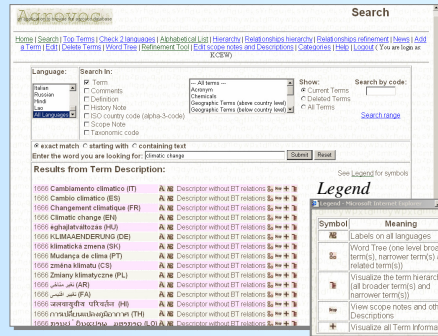
### Navigate Categories

*The user can edit the term label, term status, scope and add another language*

### Edit Term

*Allows user to view the terms mapped to a selected category*

## Development of AGROVOC...

### ... from a 'traditional' thesaurus into the Agricultural Ontology Service (AOS):

- *Restructuring **AGROVOC** from the current term-based system to a concept-based system by providing richer/refined relationships between concepts (see example below).*

- *Development of an Agricultural Ontology Service / Concept Server (AOS/CS) using **AGROVOC** as the starting point. The main objective of the **AGROVOC Concept Server (CS)** is to create a collaborative reference platform and a "one-stop" shop for a pool of commonly used concepts related to agriculture, containing terms, definitions and relationships between terms in multiple languages derived from various sources.*

*For further information see: **http://www.fao.org/aims/agrovoccs.jsp***

### Hierarchical Tree for Refined Relationships

## AGROVOC Tools Collaborative Project

*FAO, the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)** of **the European Commission**, and **the British Geological Survey (BGS)** are currently working together to rebuild the **AGROVOC** tools and produce a more powerful and generic Multilingual and Multi-thesauri Management Tool. They are planning to produce a new structure, composed of a thesaurus database and a web-based system, which can help to manage multiple multilingual thesauri and mapping systems.*

*The new tool will incorporate*
- *concept and term management*
- *rich relationships*
- *mapping mechanisms between thesauri*
- *export functionalities.*

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