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World Food Summit

Rome, 13-17 November 1996



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WAICENT - The World Agricultural Information Centre - is FAO's strategic programme on information management and dissemination. As such, the WAICENT programme provides the information systems platform for accessing FAO's information resources and makes the accumulated knowledge of the Organization in all fields of food security and agricultural development available to everyone.

The role of information in achieving food security

The [World Food Summit Plan of Action](#) (FAO, Rome, November 1996) highlights information as one of the priority areas in achieving food security. In direct relation to this undertaking, FAO has established WAICENT as its strategic programme for agricultural information management and dissemination.

The scope of WAICENT is very broad

WAICENT encompasses activities such as:

The [First Consultation on Agricultural Information Management](#) held at FAO Headquarters on 5-7 June 2000. The Consultation will cover all aspects of agricultural information management, capacity building and improving access to relevant information.

The Consultation aims to discuss ways of improving the capacities of decision-makers, professionals and the public at large in Member Countries to access and use information essential for achieving sustainable agriculture development and food security.

WAICENT encompasses information systems such as:

[FAOSTAT](#) - the FAO statistical database which contains a complete dataset on all relevant agricultural domains from around the world. The database, which can be queried free on the Internet, provides statistics for more than 210 countries and territories and 3 000 items in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and nutrition.

The [FAO Documentation Catalogue](#) - a complete listing of FAO documentation which can be searched on the Internet. It links directly to the full document when available.

WAICENT also provides the information systems platform for FAO's specialised information systems such as:

The [Information Network on Post-Harvest Operations](#) supports a global network of organizations participating in this programme. Relevant information in a variety of formats is readily accessible and interactive features such as a Question and Answer Service are at the disposal of those who wish to consult and contribute to the programme. This information system is also available on CD-ROM.

The [Gender and Food Security](#) website which serves as a single entry point for a wealth of information on this topic. The site integrates statistical data, documents, maps, photographs and videos.

WAICENT also serves as a custodian for the documents of the Organization.

In an organization-wide undertaking, WAICENT has developed the platform and provides support for making FAO's technical documentation and publications easily accessible using Internet technologies.

A programme to develop a repository of FAO's documents in electronic format serves many important functions, including: ensuring the upkeep of insitutional memory, easy access to publications (by those with Internet access or via thematic CD-ROMs which contain relevant documents on selected topics) and timely distribution of information.

Through the [FAO Document Repository](#), the entire text of publications can be downloaded for immediate use.

WAICENT has also developed a system to capture meta-data for the rapidly expanding volume of information being made available on the FAO website. This activity facilitates the management of the FAO website, as well as serving as a useful search and retrieval function via the [Information Finder](#).

To learn more about WAICENT, why not [take a tour](#)?

WAICENT Information Finder

FAO's Digital Resource Centre

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To further strengthen FAO's role as an international centre of excellence and world reference centre for food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, great efforts have been undertaken in recent years to reinforce FAO's country-based structure and to transfer personnel, resources and responsibility to regional and subregional offices.

FAO's decentralized structure with 1332 posts, presently consists of

- **78 country representations,**
- **5 liaison offices (in Geneva, Washington D.C., New York , Brussels and Yokohama)** as well as

- the **Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana** with its
 - **Subregional Office for Southern and East Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe,**
 - the **Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand** and its
 - **Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands in Apia, Samoa,**
 - the **Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile**
 - and its **Subregional Office for the Caribbean in Bridgetown, Barbados,**
 - the **Regional Office for the Near East in Cairo, Egypt** and its
 - **Subregional Office for North Africa in Tunis, Tunisia** and
 - the **Regional Office for Europe, located at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy** with its
 - **Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe in Budapest, Hungary.**
-



Comments?: Webmaster@fao.org

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The workshop will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 11 to 14 June 2001.

[FAO Related National Information on the Internet](#)

Workshop for Southeast European countries, Prague, Czech Republic, March 11-16, 2001

[Role of agrarian information in the process of European integration](#)

International Conference, Central and Eastern Europe/Central Asia, Kiev, 21-25 May, 2001.

[International conference - Physiological and Technical Aspects of Machine Milking](#)

[FAO SEUR in-depth Focus](#)

[AgroWeb CEE Network](#) - Monthly focus to agro web resources in FAO SEUR member countries and partner institutions



[Telematics Caucasus 2000](#) - Role of information professionals in establishment of FAO National Committees in Caucasus Region

[FAO National Committee in Romania](#) - Romanian FAO NC Web Site is opened

[AgroWeb CEE Partnership in the V4 Countries](#) - Cooperation of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovak Republic

[ALBANIA Forestry Project](#) - Detailed information on what has been foreseen by the project and what is done so far

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ACC Network
on Rural Development
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➤ [FAO Regional Conference for Europe](#)

➤ [COAIM - The First Consultation on Agricultural Information Management](#)

➤ [CEESA - Central and Eastern European Sustainable Agriculture](#)

Photo File

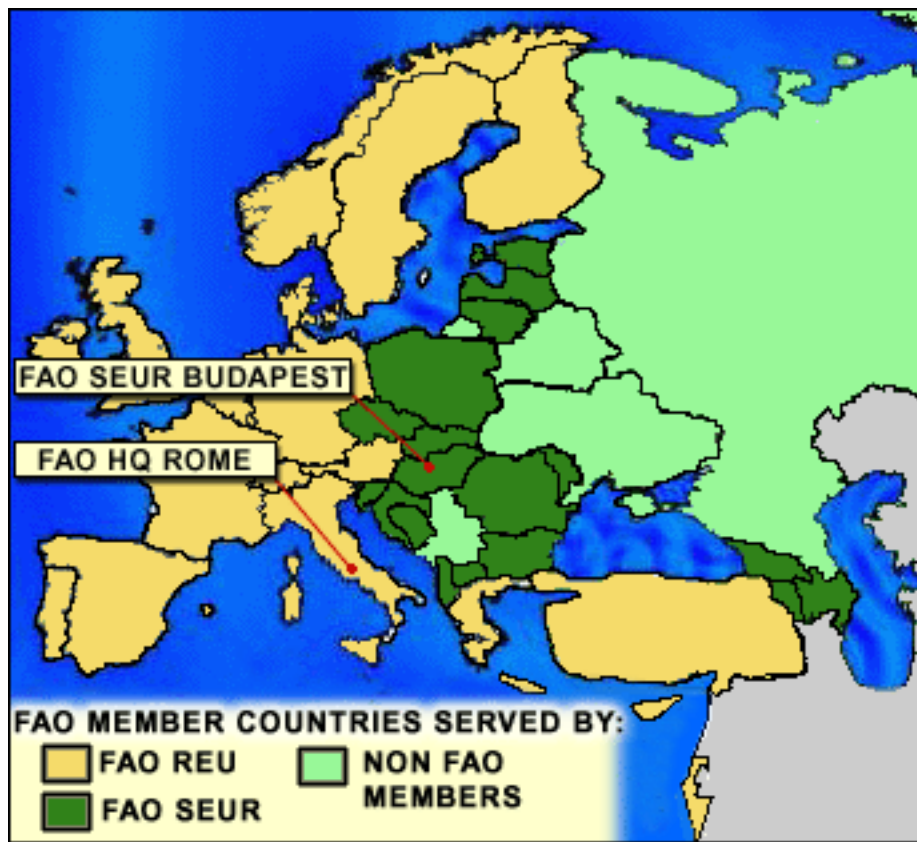
[Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization visited FAO SEUR Office](#)



Photo by Tiina Vares

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FAO Member Countries in Central and Eastern Europe: Albania, [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Croatia](#), Estonia, [Georgia](#), [Hungary](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#), [Moldova](#), [Poland](#), [Romania](#), [Slovakia](#), [Slovenia](#).

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AgroWeb Central and Eastern European Network

Considering the lack of information on Internet about agricultural topics in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the agricultural information organisations and experts of the region have decided to collect and provide information on agricultural institutions and other important agriculture-related subjects to help users to find information and contacts within Central and Eastern Europe and the former USSR.

This initiative is facilitated by the regional chapter of [International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists \(IAALD CEE\)](#) as well as by FAO SEUR.

The web pages of the different countries contain information about ministries, libraries, information centres, universities, research centres, NGOs, agro-marketing organisations and organisations involved in the European integration process. AgroWeb is also used as a communication platform for the participating countries, FAO REU and SEUR.

The AgroWeb pages provide www links, if available, to these national institutes and in some cases to other relevant national web sites. National sites are created and updated by national experts, who participated the following trainings:

- ['Webmaster Training Course', 20-24 April, 1998, Nitra, Slovakia](#)
- ['AgroWeb CEE Workshop', 12-16 April, 1999, Gödöllő, Hungary](#)

AgroWeb mile stones:



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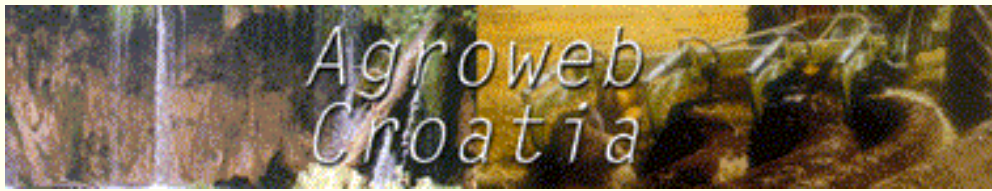
- [COAIM Satellite Workshop: The Role and Future Development of AW CEE Network](#)
- [Telematics Caucasus](#)
- [Regional project - Cooperation Between V4 Countries](#)
- [FAO Related National Information on the Internet](#) - Workshop for Southeast European countries

In preparation:

- AgroWeb Technical Consultation and Training, planned to be held in Zagreb, 2001.

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AgroWeb Croatia, a part of the [AgroWeb Central and Eastern Europe Network](#) is created in aim to collect and provide information on agricultural institutions and other important agriculture related subjects to help users to find information and contacts in Central and Eastern European countries and former USSR.

News & Highlights:

• [Agroweb CEE Workshop ZAGREB 2001](#) - September 24-26. 2001 - as a closed meeting under [CUC 2001 conference](#)



[AdriaMED](#)

[project](#) pages aviable...

• [Central agricultural library of Croatia](#) OPAC is finally aviable also as a part of [CROLIST Union catalogue of Nacional Library](#)

• [Institute of oceanography and fisheries](#) pages aviable...

• [Croatian Institute of viticulture and enology](#) pages aviable...

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Since 09/98 by [Igor Hitrec](#), [Faculty of Agriculture](#), [Zagreb](#), [Croatia](#) in co-operation with [FAO SEUR](#)



AGROWEB CEE PARTNERSHIP IN THE V4 COUNTRIES



An [International Visegrad Fund](#) Project

(No. 45-2000-IVF)

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*Warsaw - June 2001
under preparation...*

Members of the Project Consortium:

[Gödöllő Agribusiness Centre Public Benefit Company \(GAK\)](#), Hungary

[Institute of Agricultural and Food Information \(UZPI\)](#), Czech Republic

[Central Agricultural Library \(CBR\)](#), Poland

[Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture \(UVTIP\)](#), Slovak Republic

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The project is supported by [FAO SEUR](#).

Copyright© 2000. [GAK Kht.](#) Gödöllő
Further information: [GAK Kht.](#), tel.: +36/28/521-125

NC's cover pages:

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FAO National Committees on internet

Improving Dissemination of Agricultural Information on Regional Level

Regional Pilot Project of FAO SEUR with Czech Republic Trust Fund

Date: 28 November - 03 December, 1999

Place: Agricultural University Gödöllő, Hungary

Global aspects

Based on a suggestion of the Czech FAO National Committee in May 1999, FAO SEUR decided to promote the establishment of web pages for the National FAO Committees in Central and Eastern European member countries. Currently four of the Central European Countries have a FAO National Committee that will be the first co-operation partners. The aim of web sites FAO National Committees is to improve the information dissemination from FAO National Committees (FAO NCs) and to help the communication among them and FAO.

The Regional Pilot Project

The establishment of the FAO NC web-pages shall be supported by a Regional Pilot Project of FAO SEUR.

The goals of the project:

- capacity building on national level,
- to set up structurally uniform Internet pages for each participating FAO NCs, which will serve as information channel about their work and for better communication with the WAICENT related information resources;
- to demonstrate advantages of using Internet on national basis and promote this trend in whole region of Central and Eastern Europe.

The implementation steps of the project:

- proposal for structure of FAO NC Internet pages (task for WAICENT, FAO SEUR and Czech FAO NC)
- preparation of contents (task for FAO NCs' Representatives)
- preparation of the mandate for FAO NC Internet pages (Aim, target group, data owner, etc.)
- one week working seminar in Budapest, where Internet pages will be created and filled in with information (task for team of web-designers under co-ordination of FAO SEUR and FAO NCs)
- maintenance and updating of Internet pages (task for national FAO NC Representatives and web designers)

This project will be implemented in co-operation of WAICENT, FAO SEUR, FAO NC Representatives and Project Co-ordinators and web experts from four participating countries. Representing the Central European Region, namely Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary.

Czech Republic

- Vojtech Havránek - Co-ordinator of Regional Pilot Project, FAO NC Representative

- Karel Knetl - NGO Representative
- Radek Zapotocky – webdesigner, Ministry of Agriculture

Hungary

- Bakk Katalin - FAO NC Representative
- Kulcsar Ferenc - Ministry of Agriculture
- Laszlo Papocsi - project manager, GAK Kht
- Oszkar Szeles - Gak Kht

Poland

- Margaret Piotrowska - FAO NC Representative
- Jacek Dobrowolski - webdesigner, Ministry of Agriculture

Slovakia

- Barbara Hellebrandtová - FAO NC Representative
- Lucia Povodová - Ministry of Agriculture
- Juraj Gogora - webdesigner, ISTIA Nitra

Moldova

- Valeriu Spinu - Ministry of Agriculture

FAO

- Kafkas Caprazli FAO - WAICENT, Information Systems Officer
- Michal Demes - FAO SEUR, Information Systems Officer
- Ildiko Pocza - FAO SEUR, Library Assistant

One week working seminar is planned to take place in Gödöllő, November - December 1999. Czech Republic Trust Fund and financial support from WAICENT will cover expenses of this seminar.

Perspectives of the Pilot Project

In the forthcoming years the CEE member countries are expected to join in the following order:

- Baltic Region: Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia
- Caucasian Region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
- Balkan Region:

a) Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania

b) Slovenia, Croatia, Yugoslavia, FYR Macedonia, Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Participants of SEUR CEE Capacity Building Workshops, and authors of AgroWeb CEE pages can be used as national trainers of decision-makers for new Information Technologies. They can also create, publish and maintain the FAO National Committee pages as an integrative part of Ministry of Agriculture homepages.

[Preliminary Program](#)

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FAO Related National Information on the Internet Workshop for Southeast European countries



CZECH NATIONAL FAO COMMITTEE



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The workshop was held 12-16 March 2001 in Prague, Czech Republic under organization of the FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic with FAO Czech National Committee and Comenius.

The programme is following the aims and structure of the pilot project "FAO National Committees on the Internet" of the V4 countries. (These are Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland). You can see the programme here.

The workshop was organized for Southeast European countries. The following countries were invited to nominate two representatives: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Yugoslavia. One of them should be a decision-maker, working in FAO related activities on the ministerial level and the second participant should be the author of the national AgroWeb page, or another information expert from the ministerial sphere. Here you can see the list of participants.

The goals of the workshop were set up as follows:

1. Promote and develop the basis for a strategic approach to agricultural information management at the government level.
2. Promote the appropriate use of new information management and technology in the field of agriculture.
3. Promote the effective connection between the agrarian community of the country and the FAO-related national institutions
4. Discuss mechanisms for improving information exchange with FAO
 - a. assist the countries in creating and publishing their FAO related information on the Internet, (e.g. FAOSTAT, AGRIS and other specialised information systems)
 - b. facilitate the communication between the Organization and the member countries.

The workshop was managed by Mr. Michal Demes, Information Systems Officer of FAO SEUR, and international lecturer team, which is experienced in FAO information strategy, the former

IM/IT

projects of FAO SEUR, and the publication of national FAO-related information.

The following outcomes of the workshop were planned:

1. - action plan and strategy for data and information management input until COAIM 2002;
- 2.- web pages to be prepared, published and maintained by the participants, and plans for development outlined.

See the results of the workshop and see the picture gallery.

The workshop was financed from Czech/FAO Trust Fund.

ALBANIA Forestry Project

The Overall Project Objectives

Three are the principal objectives of ALBANIA Forestry Project: i) restore degraded State-owned forest and pasture areas and promote their sustainable use; ii) promote the conservation of natural forest ecosystems; and iii) take the initial steps in the transition of the forest and pasture sector to a market economy.

The project would support institutional and policy reforms of Albania's forest and pasture sector and provide resources for investments in five components. Detailed information on what has been foreseen by the project and what is done so far, is provided through second and third menus.

☉ [A Brief Introductory Note](#): from the Minister of Agriculture and Food

☉ [Launching Word](#): What the Chief-Editor says?

This edition will provide you with:

-  [General Information about Albania](#)
-  [Albania Forestry Project: What's about](#)
-  [Status of Project's Activities Implementation](#)
-  [Agriculture Sector Related Strategies](#)
-  [Educational and Research Forestry Institutions](#)
-  [Legal Background of Project Interventions](#)

View from a
Beech Forest in Librazhd (Albania): forest road under
rehabilitation

The Albania Forestry Project authorities could be contacted as per following address:



Rr. Sami Frasherri No. 4, Tirane e Re Tirana, Albania

Tel: 003554232571 or 003554250224

Fax: 003554228176 or 003554250225

Email: hakipmu@albaniaonline.net, or faoforestry@albamail.com

This Web-Page of ALBANIA Forestry Project is coming out quarterly under the care of the Editorial Board composed by: Mr. Kole Malaj (chief), Mr. Arben Molla (member), Mr. Haki Kola (member), Mr. Maxhun Dida (member), representative of PEMU (member), representative of FAO Project GCP/ALB/004/ITA (secretary).

The materials presented have been collected and edited by Mr. Agron Hetoja (Management and Information National Expert with the FAO Project GCP/ALB/004/ITA) who also designed the Web-Page.

We know this page is simple, but please consider that we're only first time amateur web builders. We're in fact Forestry Management and Institutions Specialists and would like to share ideas with other forestry experts all over the world. Perhaps this way we could pick up some tips on how to improve this page as well.

In case, if additional information would be required, please feel free to contact us at the above-mentioned address. Our project staff is at your disposal for every information you need about Albania Forestry Project and will respond to you in shortest delay.

Thank you and enjoy our Web site

30 October 1999 © ALBANIA Forestry Project

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**KIEV, UKRAINE
2001**

[8th Roundtable of CEE Agricultural Information Specialists](#)

IAALD Publications

- [IAALD News from Central and Eastern Europe](#)
- Quarterly Bulletin
- World Directory

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- [8th Roundtable of CEE Agricultural Information Specialists, Kiev 2001](#)



[Dakar 2000 World Congress](#)



[The 7-th U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable](#)



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AgroWeb CEE Workshop 2001
Zagreb, Croatia
(under preparation)

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Information Systems Officer

Working in close coordination with the [Library and Documentation Systems Division \(GIL\)](#) at FAO Headquarters:

- promotes the development of national and subregional agricultural information systems and networks compatible with FAO's information systems,
- advises agricultural research, education and development institutions to use more efficiently FAO's information systems, databases and data banks,
- assists in the development and strengthening of the network of WAICENT centres in the subregion,
- visits national AGRIS/CARIS centres in the subregion to review their activities, needs, and advises them on the problems limiting their input to the system,
- assists in the organization of, and lectures at, seminars, workshops and training sessions related to [WAICENT](#) information services,
- organizes and maintains a modern agricultural [Information Centre and Library](#) suitable to the needs and tasks of the Subregional Office.

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