



ICARDA - MEL contribution to AGROVOC

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RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Grain Legumes and
Dryland Cereals



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Livestock

Authors

Asma Jeitani, Sara Jani, Enrico Bonaiuti, Valentina De Col, Kristin Kolshus

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International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

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¹ International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Introducing new concepts to AGROVOC: the process	1
3. Lessons learned	2
3.1. Reasons for rejection.....	2
3.2. Main points of discussions	3
4. Target for 2021	3



1. Introduction

ICARDA is part of the AGROVOC Editorial Community, through the Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) unit. Currently, the MEL team is contributing to AGROVOC by injecting concepts and terms belonging to the livestock domain. AGROVOC is a multilingual controlled vocabulary designed to cover concepts and terminology under the areas of interest of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

2. Introducing new concepts to AGROVOC: the process

The process of introducing new concepts to AGROVOC - from the extraction of keywords from MEL until the publication in AGROVOC - is described in this section and illustrated in figure 1. The status of the activity is highlighted in table 1.

Process description:

When MEL users upload knowledge products (e.g., reports, journal articles) to the platform, they may insert **keywords** that are unmatched with AGROVOC. For this activity, these keywords were **extracted** from MEL's keywords' intelligence page and exported to an Excel file. Those belonging to the **livestock** domain were **selected** and then classified by subject (livestock species, livestock breeds, livestock studies etc.).

Each week, the suggested concepts, terms, and definitions are added to a **template** provided by AGROVOC's team. The [AGROVOC Editorial Guidelines 2020](#) are meant to explain the detailed process of how to suggest concepts to AGROVOC. The template is then **reviewed** by a member of AGROVOC's core team who provides comments when applicable. These **comments** can be shared with ICARDA's scientists for feedback.

If the suggested concept is **approved**, it is added to [VocBench](#). The platform serves as an online open-source tool to edit AGROVOC. Once a month, AGROVOC **publishes** the updated content.

Figure 1. Process of introducing livestock concepts to AGROVOC by MEL

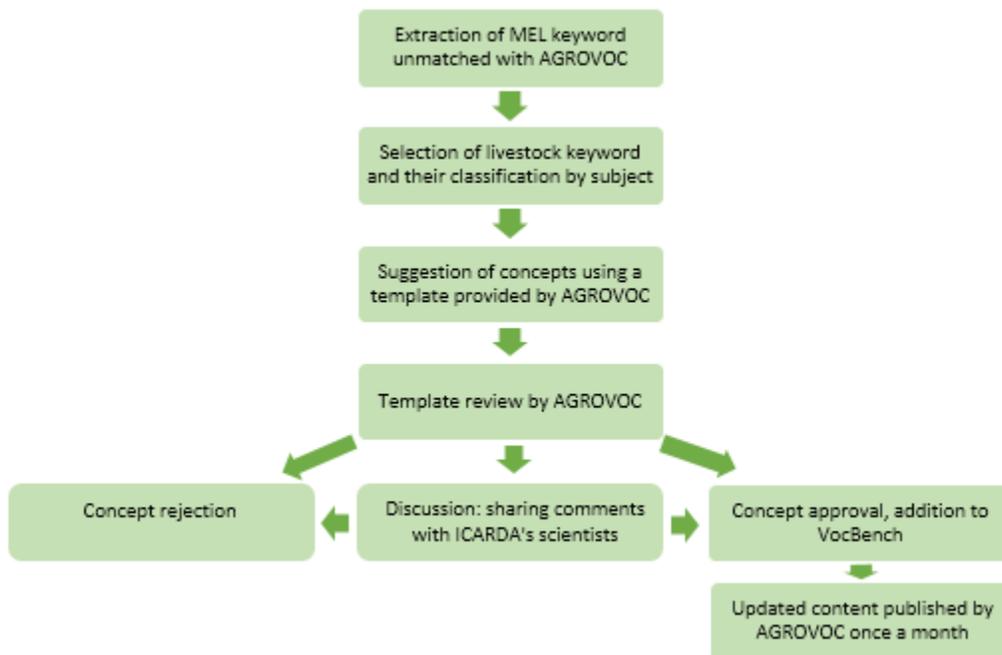


Table 1. Status of the AGROVOC-MEL-Livestock activity (February 18, 2021)

Livestock concepts/terms Submitted (total)	Approved	Rejected	Ongoing Discussion	No reply yet	Introduced concepts/terms translated to Arabic
88	53	7	17	11	13

3. Lessons learned

Of 88 submitted concepts, 7 were rejected and 17 are currently being discussed. This section explains the main reasons for rejections and the main points of discussions.

3.1. Reasons for rejection

- The suggested concept may not exist in AGROVOC; however, its suggested meaning exists under a different concept present in AGROVOC. **Example:**

During the review stage of the suggested concept “*husbandry*”, it was found that the suggested definition was similar to the definition of “*agriculture*”, a concept already present in AGROVOC. Moreover, the second definition suggested by the scientists was found to be similar to the definition of “*animal husbandry*”, also a concept already present in AGROVOC.

- Different spelling of the concept. **Example:**

- The suggested concept was “*feeding behavior*”. However, it is already present in AGROVOC but spelled as “*feeding behaviour*”;
- The suggested concept was “*landraces*” but it already exists in AGROVOC as “*land races*”.

3.2. Main points of discussions

- **Livestock breeds:** Working on livestock concepts/terms, a good number of livestock breeds were submitted. However, only important and recognized breeds are listed in AGROVOC.

- **Definitions and sources of definitions.**

- ❖ **Finding a suitable definition. Example:**

The suggested concept is “*natural fertilizers*”. In AGROVOC there are “*organic fertilizers*” and “*inorganic fertilizers*”. The European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) dictionary mixes natural and organic fertilizers ([here](#)) whereas the World Bank thesaurus separates organic and natural fertilizers ([here](#)).

- ❖ **Finding a good, clear, and short definition that explains what the concept does and that can be translated by users.**

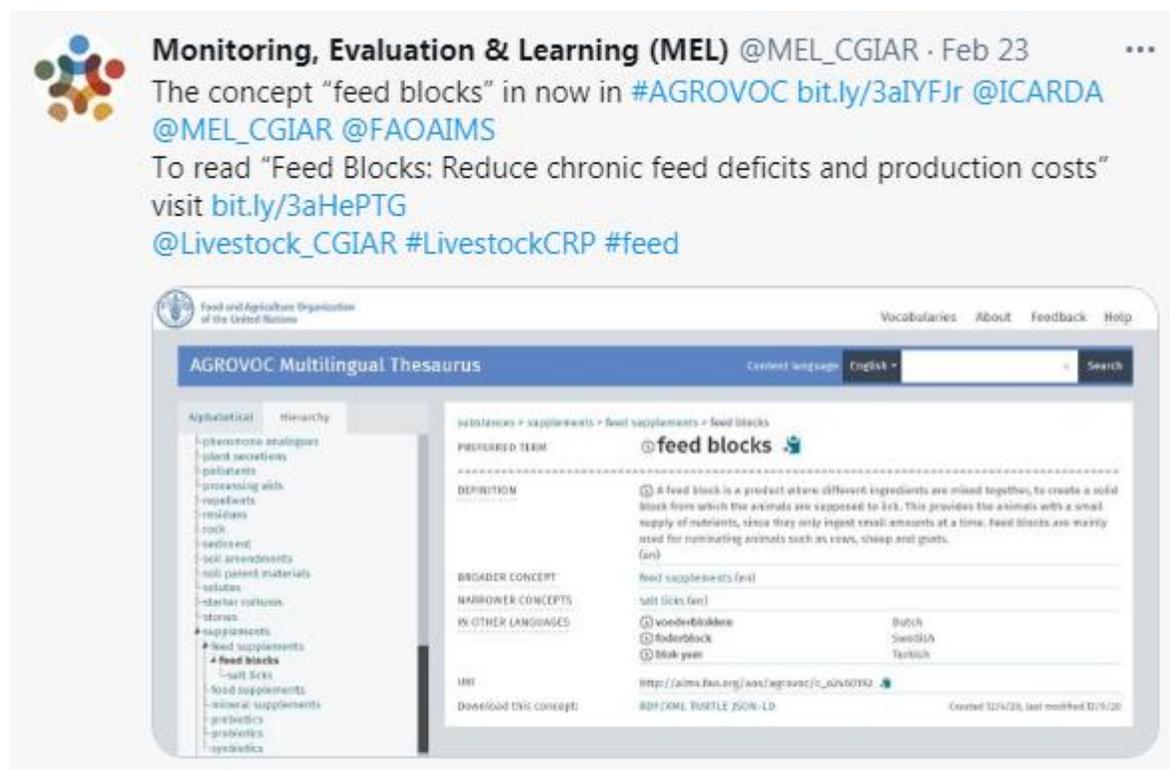
- ❖ **Finding good definition sources.**

4. Target for 2021

The activities planned for 2021 are the following:

- Participate in the “concept of the month” activity launched by the AGROVOC team.
- Increase the number of tweets, covering this activity, shared through the MEL Twitter account [@MEL CGIAR](#) and tagging [@FAOAIMS](#) [@ICARDA](#) [@LIVESTOCK CGIAR](#) [#AGROVOC](#) and [#LivestockCRP](#) (Picture 1).
- Participate in meetings/webinars organized by AGROVOC.
- Translate to Arabic 50 livestock concepts.
- Introducing more concepts within the livestock domain to AGROVOC.

Photo 1. @MEL_CGIAR tweet about the addition of "feed blocks" to AGROVOC



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