

European Regional Workshop
Internet-based communication support for ESCORENA
Thematic Knowledge Networks in Agriculture

10-12 April 2008, INF, Poznan, Poland

***Presentation of the Workshop agenda, goals and targets –
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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear prominent guests,

You are welcome at the Institute of Natural Fibres, which since 1988 has been acting as the Coordination centre of the ESCORENA European Cooperative Research Network on Flax and other Bast plants such as industrial hemp, jute, ramie, kenaf, fibrous nettle and allied with Prof. Dr. Ryszard M. Kozlowski as the Co-ordinator constantly from 1988. I have been serving this Network since 1994 as the Network secretary, so I am involved in ESCORENA activities as well.

The goals and targets of the European Regional Workshop:

- Generally it is internet-based communication support for ESCORENA Thematic Knowledge Networks in Agriculture.
- FAO has a new policy towards the ESCORENA Networks: to help them not by financial means, but through the improvement of the worldwide visibility of the ESCORENA Networks activities through the creation and improvement of ESCORENA website with the help of FAO in Budapest and INF.
- The objective is to discuss the current activities of ESCORENA networks – strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and constraints, problems, proposed new objectives, future prospects during the Working Groups sessions, where the Network Coordinators would be divided into 3 groups and will discuss with the help of facilitators and will report in plenary.
- Knowledge-sharing session will take place, where the participants will consider ESCORENA network roles and capacities of coordinators/leaders

But these activities would be conducted after lunch and first the following presentations will take place:

Prof. Dr. Ryszard Michal Kozlowski will present the ESCORENA background, history, and objectives.

The current ESCORENA network active on the web: RAMIRAN as a good example to follow will be presented by Mr. Tom Misselbrook, the Network Coordinator from UK

Ms. Nadia Loumbeva, from FAO-Headquarters in Rome, from Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building department will present the new generation web-based technologies for knowledge sharing; examples from the agricultural domain; good practices for web-based thematic knowledge networks.

The next goal: including new Networks into ESCORENA system: CENTAUR and European Agriculture Museum Network.

There are the representatives of other than ESCORENA thematic Networks in Agriculture such as CENTAUR - Veterinary Biotechnology, Epidemiology and Food Safety Network- Prof. Kris Wojciechowski from Warsaw and Ireland or the European Network of Agriculture Museums, represented by Mr. Jan Mackowiak and his staff -Director of the Agriculture Museum in Szreniawa near Poznan (you have the flyers of this Museum in your Workshop materials). The web based Networks in Agriculture so called AgroWEb Networks has got a long history and fruitful activity under FAO umbrella as well and are following Networks are represented here: AgroWeb Ukraine – represented by Dr. Natalia Morze - the Vice Rector of National Agrarian University Kiev, AgroWeb Poland –by Ms. Malgorzata Kosieradzka and the Bio Institute from Czech Republic is represented by Prof. Borivoj Sarapatka.

The further goal: to confirm the ESCORENA focal point to be coordinated by Professor Kozlowski and INF:

- The FAO in Budapest asked INF, led by Prof. Dr. Ryszard Michal Kozlowski, Coordinator of the Flax Network to serve as the ESCORENA focal point and to help the development of the ESCORENA system and website.

Let us inform you, that INF has registered an ESCORENA website
<http://www.escorena.net>

This website has been created in collaboration with FAO REU Budapest. Now it managed and developed at INF by Dr. Jorge Barriga-Bedoya – the Head of Science Information and Editorial Department of our Institute, starting from creating the Workshop website.

The target is to confirm the acceptance of the proposal by other Network Coordinators and other official bodies- ESCORENA focal point to be managed by Professor Kozlowski, INF and ESCORENA IT working group.

The Representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and the Government of Poland support this idea, as you have heard during the Opening ceremony.

As far as the agenda of the second day is concerned:

- Future prospects and feasible objectives for Internet-based collaboration in ESCORENA networks will be discussed in Groups.
- Possible vision for establishment of Internet-based platforms for ESCORENA networks to enhance participation from experts and increase worldwide visibility will be discussed during the second day of the Workshop as well.

The participants will have as well the Hands-on Internet Session, to make them more familiar with Internet possibilities and tools.

Thank you for your attention and contributions.