Program for DC-2001 Agricultural Ontology Server (AOS) Workshop

Duration: 2 hours

Participants: 15 – 20, comprised of thesaurus and ontology specialists, standards experts and managers from information resource description organizations

Structure for the Workshop:

1. Presentation [30-40 minutes]: Introducing the Agricultural Ontology Server (AOS)[1].
2. Discussion [60-70 minutes]: Will center on issues surrounding planning and development of the project, participant selection, choices of technologies and standards, and understanding of user types. It will be initiated with a handout listing overarching questions, such as:

   - What kind of need do you see for a meta-ontology paralleling what the UMLS[2] has done? For what would you use such a system?
   - Is it conceivable to run this project as a series of pilot projects with subject domains (e.g., forestry, fisheries, sustainable development, crop wild relatives) – in the end building the complete AOS?
   - What issues do you see regarding the building of ontological associations?
   - Who should participate in the project as full partners and who as peripheral partners? What are their respective responsibilities?
   - Who are the primary and secondary user types for the AOS?
   - What toolkit will be needed to create and maintain the AOS? What are the components of this toolkit?
   - What encoding standards should be used (e.g., RDF, DAML+OIL)?

3. Wrap-up [20 minutes]: Sharing of project timeline and contact information, and invitation to participants of the workshop to become partners with FAO.

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[1] Attached is the concept paper for the AOS.
[2] Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) Knowledge Source Server. (umlsks.nlm.nih.gov) Registration required. Please contact Johannes Keizer (johannes.keizer@fao.org) for access information.