



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Bridging the Online Language Barriers with Machine Translation at the United Nations

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About FAO


- International organization with >190 member countries
- Global mandate on agriculture, food standards, animal diseases, genetic resources, forestry, fisheries.
- 5 regional offices, 11 sub-regional offices, 82 country offices.
- Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian.

renewed website FAO.org launched in June 2013

- website visits: 5.5 million per month
- downloads of documents and pubs: 7.3 million per month



Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, 6 – 9 May 2014 – Santiago, Chile



FAO and National Geographic announce collaboration exploring future of food

Partnership kicks off with live-streamed May 2 event in Washington, D.C., and May cover story in National Geographic Magazine

In Action



Accentuating the "culture" in agriculture

In addition to boosting income, farmers who maintain GIAHS can leverage increased recognition to safeguard their way of life.



Bali Serves as a Model for Control of Rabies

Since 2011, FAO has been supporting the Government of Indonesia to rapidly control the deadly rabies virus on island of Bali through an innovative strategy centered on comprehensive mass dog vaccination.



Partnerships



New EU programme to strengthen land governance in ten African countries

Voluntary guidelines applied for the first time – major success in EU-FAO partnership



Fight Hunger



use for... ?

Water – the most basic resource but also the most essential

How much water do we



False fact sheet!

Asia-Pacific countries take Zero Hunger Challenge by the horns

Share and enjoy our True or



International Year of Family Farming



Family farmers around the world, key facts and figures

Family farming is inextricably linked to national and global food security. Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector.

Food Price Index



Calendar of meetings

FAO Regional Conferences 2014

**Finance Committee
153rd Session
Rome, 12–14 May 2014**

**Programme Committee
115th Session
Rome, 26–30 May 2014**

**Committee on
World Food Security**



Background

- Most information originated in English – website reflects that.
- particularly low language coverage in AR, ZH, RU.
- proposal for using gist translation for those languages accepted.
- DIY SMT: encouraging, but
- support from countries: “management was urged to continue to quality test automated translations” (June 2013).



Implementation approach

- define scope: provide gist translation to help users understanding the content and provide their feedback regarding the quality of MT and the need for human translation.
- identify stakeholders: users. (but also government representatives, senior management, translation service, IT service, web service).
- constituting a team (translation, IT, web)
- keep informed: government representatives, senior management.



Process

Internal team to agree on:

- definition of requirements; methodology for evaluation; relative weight of evaluation criteria; minimum score for each requirement.

Senior management / countries to agree on:

- policies (language policies) ... and budget.

ALL to agree on:

- usability, metrics, cost-benefits



Selection

- Expression of Interest.
- RFP: 10 companies invited, 3 replied, 2 qualified.
- evaluation of IT and translation quality aspects.
- 3 translators used by language; 800 sentences.
- results exactly the same as per BLEU analysis

	EN-AR	EN-RU	EN-ZH
Solution-1	23.16	29.67	11.51
Solution-2	15.13	24.26	28.04
Solution-3	20.37	25.33	43.85



Q: How does it work?

A: <http://labs.fao.org/>



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Soil survey

Soil Assessment

Soil Biodiversity

Soil Management

Soil Degradation/ Restoration

Soil Policies and Governance

Why soil matters ?

It is difficult to rate the importance of the different soil functions, since all are vital to our well-being, to some extent. However, the function of **supporting food production** and **agriculture** worldwide is fundamental for the preservation and advancement of human life on this planet.



IN FOCUS



WORLD SOIL DAY



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+


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Это инструмент ФАО, позволяющий сделать автоматический перевод текстов, которые еще не переведены вручную.

На настоящий момент ручной перевод этой страницы недоступен. Пожалуйста, оцените качество автоматического перевода.

Количество переведенных на русский язык предложений: 56.

Помогите улучшить перевод

☐ Показать исходный текст — ☒ Показать перевод

[Мне нужен ручной перевод этого текста](#)



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Почему вопросы почв?

Трудно классифицировать значимость различных функций почвы, поскольку все имеют жизненно важное значение для нашего благосостояния, в некоторой степени. Вместе с тем **задача производство продуктов питания и сельского хозяйства** во всем мире имеет фундаментальное значение для сохранения и улучшения положения





Feedback mechanism

Three ways:

- at sentence level in the browser, to retrofit engine.
- at page level in the browser, to identify needs for human translation.
- on the overall process (survey), to identify general feedback on usability



Lessons learned

- born to be multilingual (for all pages).
- evaluation of Arabic SMT have additional complexity (technical, political, ..)
- involvement of translation services is key.
- need for best practices available for decision-makers.
- cost-benefit analysis to be easily explained.
- planning. It takes longer than expected.
- still learning.



Next steps

- May: finalize testing phase.
(keep informed.)
- June: finalize policies and metrics – when the widget can be used and for how long? Demonstrate technology
(keep informed...)
- July: deploy in FAO.org
(and ... keep informed!)



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Thank you!

For additional information,
please contact us at web@fao.org