

# agINFRA Newsletter

Promoting Data Sharing and Development of Trust in Agricultural Sciences

agINFRA Newsletter, Issue 1

June 2012

## Editor's Corner

Welcome to the first instalment of the **agINFRA** newsletter, bringing you all the relevant news and developments to keep you up-to-date with the project, the world of data-intensive agricultural research and developments in the world of infrastructure science. For more information visit [www.aginfra.eu](http://www.aginfra.eu)

Enjoy!



## Introducing agINFRA, a New Infrastructure for Data-intensive Agricultural Science

**agINFRA** is a FP7 Integrated Infrastructure Initiative (I3) project working to introduce scientific communities in the domain of agriculture to the vision of open and participatory data-intensive science. **agINFRA** is designed to remove obstacles blocking open access to scientific information and data in agriculture, as well as improve the preparedness of agricultural scientific communities to face, manage and exploit the abundance of relevant data that is available to support agricultural research. Ultimately, **agINFRA** will demonstrate how a data infrastructure for agricultural scientific communities is set up to facilitate data generation, provenance, quality assessment, certification, curation, annotation, navigation and management.



*agINFRA brainstorming session during the project kick-off meeting*

## agINFRA's Key Goals

The **agINFRA** project represents a unique opportunity for the innovation and transfer of scientific and technological results in the agricultural field into real outcomes that help improve scientific community-driven policy development and service deployment for data generation, management and sharing. The key goals of **agINFRA** are as follows:

### Scientific Goals

- Increased sharing and federation of agricultural data
- Efficient data management in the agricultural research process

### Technical Goals

- Deployment of robust European service infrastructure for scientific agricultural data
- High interoperability between agricultural and other data resources

## agINFRA Underway!

The first **agINFRA** project meeting took place in November 2011 in Rome, hosted by FAO which kick-started the consortium work on the project and allowed the team to discuss the practical issues covering all the details related to its management and implementation.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> project meeting hosted by the University of Alcalá in April 2012 saw each of the 12 international **agINFRA** partners giving their detailed presentations on the progress of their work packages. Partners discussed important details of how this innovative infrastructure would revolutionize data-sharing in agricultural research. Also discussed in detail were the results of the User Needs analysis, which provided project partners with an accurate glimpse into the needs and priorities of Europe's top researchers in the field. The next phase of the project will see the development and introduction of the Infrastructure itself!



## agINFRA Makes New Friends



**agINFRA** joined representatives from the ViBRANT and BioVeL projects at the 2<sup>nd</sup> BioVeL Workshop on taxonomic and phylogenetic which took place in May 2012 at the premises of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden to discuss areas of overlap and cooperation between the three projects. At a broad-brush level, ViBRANT (<http://vbrant.eu>) is providing biodiversity users with a collaborative platform Scratchpads, and populating that environment with various tools and services.

BioVeL ([www.biovel.eu](http://www.biovel.eu)) offers the possibility to use computerised "workflows" (series of data analysis steps) to process data, be that from one's own research and/or from existing sources. **agINFRA** focuses on the more applied end of the biodiversity spectrum and thus gives the other two projects the scope to extend their activity range away from their more academic origins. Most importantly, though, **agINFRA** is the only one of the projects that is basing its activities in Linked Open Data.

Both BioVeL and ViBRANT have components dedicated to vocabularies and ontologies, but in neither case are they central to the project's strategy. A growing realisation developed during the workshop that there is practically no competition between the projects but a tremendous opportunity for synergy.

**agINFRA** expect to explore BioVeL tools in an agricultural context by selecting a small group to explore the possibilities. We will expose **agINFRA** infrastructure providers through the ViBRANT batch operations engine (OBOE). This can work in two directions, first exploring user uptake of **agINFRA** computational resources through task-specific applications, and second by developing agriculturally relevant workflows that can be offered through the interface.





### Attention all Agricultural Researchers!

We want to hear from YOU what works about our new infrastructure and what needs little tweaks to make it event better! Stay tuned to future issues for information of how to access the results of the infrastructure and provide feedback to the team, suggest a repository for inclusion or just learn more about the project's work!



### New Look Statistical Site from FAO!

The **Statistics Division** of the FAO has launched the first version of the **new FAOSTAT**, which is part of the organization's mission to improve data collection and dissemination for development and the fight against global hunger and malnutrition. The new platform continues to offer free and easy access to data for 245 countries and 35 regional areas from 1961 through the most recent year available. It also contains many new features. These include:

- The Browse data option for new and easier ways to visualize data.
- The Advanced data search to search by item, element, country and region.
- The Compare data option to compare data for different countries and items.
- The Analysis tool for univariate statistics and linear regressions.
- The Download data option for faster extraction of data and a more user-friendly interface.

### agINFRA Partner Spotlight: Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

CAAS, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences the nation's major player in agricultural research area. Agricultural Information Institutes (AII), one of the institutes of CAAS and established in 1957, is a nonprofit research institute at national level. AII's mission is to undertake scientific innovation in the field of agricultural information and to provide agricultural sci-tech information services. AII is devoted itself into three major scientific research fields of ICT application in agriculture, agricultural information management and agricultural information analysis. AII is also the national agricultural sci-tech documentation center as being the National Agricultural Library. Now, AII has 20 divisions and 319 staff. The National Agricultural Library with AII has a collection of 2.1 million copies of books and journals.



**CAAS to add more on their role**

## Upcoming Events

Conference Name		Location & Date	URL
World Sustainable Agriculture Congress 2012	Singapore	10 to 12 July 2012	<a href="http://www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org">http://www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org</a>
5th Annual International Symposium on Agriculture	Athens, Greece	16 to 19 July 2012	<a href="http://www.imapac.com/index.php?page=WorldSustainableAgricultureCongress2012">http://www.imapac.com/index.php?page=WorldSustainableAgricultureCongress2012</a>
Agriculture Outlook Europe 2012	London, United Kingdom	26 to 28 June 2012	<a href="http://www.atiner.gr/agriculture.htm">http://www.atiner.gr/agriculture.htm</a>
4th international conference on the organic sector development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries	Izmin, Turkey	13 to 14 April 2012	<a href="http://www.tradeshowalerts.com/miscellaneous/agriculture-outlook-europe-2012.html">http://www.tradeshowalerts.com/miscellaneous/agriculture-outlook-europe-2012.html</a>
A case study in sustainable agriculture.	London, United Kingdom	8 may 2012	<a href="http://www.ifoam.org/events/calendar.php">www.ifoam.org/events/calendar.php</a>
Green Ideas	Turin, Italy	TBC	<a href="http://www.naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk/ecologists-economists">www.naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk/ecologists-economists</a>
National organic cereals 2012	Blandford, Dorset	5 July 2012	<a href="http://www.agroknow.gr/greenideas/gi/about">www.agroknow.gr/greenideas/gi/about</a>
ICSAEF 2012: International Conference on sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Forestry.	Rome, Italy	26 to 28 September 2012	<a href="http://www.organicfarmers.org.uk/news-events/ofg-events/national-organic-cereals/">www.organicfarmers.org.uk/news-events/ofg-events/national-organic-cereals/</a>

## Publications Zone

- **Project Partners to Complete with Relevant Publications and articles**

## About the Project

**Start date:** 2011-10-15

**End date:** 2014-10-14

**Duration:** 36 months

**Project Reference:** 283770

**Project cost:** €4285480

**Project Funding:** €3750000

**Programme type:** Seventh Framework

**URL:** [www.agINFRA.eu](http://www.agINFRA.eu)



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## Join Our Discussions!



**agINFRA**



**@agINFRA**



**[www.flickr.com/photos/aginfra](http://www.flickr.com/photos/aginfra)**



**[www.linkedin.com/groups/AgINFRA-4408574](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/AgINFRA-4408574)**

## Friends of agINFRA

*Meet VOA3R!*



The VOA3R project aims to improve the spread of European agriculture and aquaculture research results by using an innovative approach to sharing open access research products. This will be achieved by carrying out innovative experiments with open access to scientific agriculture and aquaculture contents and by developing and providing services that integrates existing open access repositories and scholarly publication management systems by means of a federation approach. <http://voa3r.eu/>

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