

8. Glossary of Terms

Agricultural Holding

An economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form, or size.

Approval File

File of a relational database in which records are approved during execution of a query.

A-priori Land Use Classification

The process of defining land use classes on the basis of criteria that are not derived from the collected land use data.

Benefit

An immaterial/intangible result of a land use system.

Boolean Connector

An AND or OR statement connecting rules in a query condition.

Cadastral Number

The registration number of a cadaster (ownership unit).

Classifier

A diagnostic criterion used to define a class.

Condition

See: Query Condition

Context Classifier

A diagnostic criterion describing the land use context that is used as a criterion to define a class.

Criterion

The combination of an operator and a value, as part of a rule to define a query condition.

Database

A collection of related information arranged in an organized way and stored in one or more related computer files.

Data Entry Filter

A selection of fields (parameters) and a pre-selection of glossary items (parameter values) that may be specified for the data entry procedure.

Data Model

A structure for data storage.

Database File

A structured collection of information stored in one computer file.

Data File (in The Land Use Database)

A file belonging to the Land Use Data or Land Use Classes database.

Dataset (in The Land Use Database)

All records belonging to one set of collected land use information.

Edit Screen

A window displayed on the computer screen in which information on one or more parameters can be entered or edited.

Enumerator

The person collecting land use information.

Farming System

A class of similarly structured farm systems.

Farming Systems Analysis

Investigation of farm-level constraints, translation of this knowledge into improved technology and testing of the technology.

Farm System

A decision making unit, comprising the farm household, cropping and livestock systems, that produces crop and animal products for consumption and sale.

Field (in The Land Use Database)

The space in an edit screen or database file allocated to enter or store parameter values. Note that an agricultural plot is not meant by this term.

Field Name

The name of the parameter.

File

A collection of data stored on a disk under one name.

Generalised Land Use System

A description of the common properties of several plot-specific land use systems.

Geo-referencing

Defining the location of an entity (object) by registering its x and y coordinates in a specific coordinate system.

Glossary (in The Land Use Database)

A large amount of terms used to describe land use, arranged in a hierarchical structure.

Glossary Item

An item from the glossary of The Land Use Database which can be used to specify a value for a parameter related to land use.

Glossary Tree

A hierarchical structure of related glossary items.

Graft

A procedure to move items from one to another level in the hierarchical structure of a glossary tree.

Holder

A civil or juridical person who exercises management control over the (agricultural) holding operation and takes major decisions regarding resource use.

Holding

See: Agricultural Holding.

Implement

A machine, tool, instrument, equipment or utensil used to carry out an operation or observation.

Index Key

A reference code linking information stored in various database files.

Infrastructure

Permanent installations constructed to assist economic activity, such as roads, irrigation or drainage works, buildings and communication systems.

Land

Any delineable area of the earth's terrestrial surface, involving all attributes of the biosphere immediately above or below this surface, including those of the near-surface climate, the soil, the terrain forms, the surface hydrology (including shallow lakes, rivers, marshes, and swamps), near-surface layers and associated groundwater and geohydrological reserve, the

plant and animal populations, the human settlement pattern and physical results of past and present human activity (terracing, water shortage or drainage structures, roads, buildings, etc.).

Land Cover

The vegetation (natural or planted) or man-made constructions (buildings, etc.) which occur on the earth surface. Water, ice, bare rock, sand and similar surfaces also count as land cover.

Land Evaluation

The assessment of the suitability of land for specific uses. Assessment is made in terms of production, sustainability, the inputs needed to obtain that production, and (in the case of quantitative land suitability classification) economic return.

Land Unit

An area of land which possesses specified land characteristics and land qualities and can be mapped.

Land Use

A series of operations on land, carried out by humans, with the intention to obtain products and/or benefits through using land resources.

Land Use Class

A generalised land use description, defined by diagnostic criteria derived from the land use purpose(s) and operation sequence followed, and without any specific location or period indications.

Land Use Classification

The process of defining land use classes on the basis of selected diagnostic criteria.

Land Use Classification System

A structured collection of land use definitions.

Land Use Planning

The systematic assessment of land and water potential, alternative patterns of land use and other physical, social and economic conditions, for the purpose of selecting and adopting land use options which are most beneficial to land users without degrading the resources or the environment, together with the selection of measures most likely to encourage such land uses.

Land Use Purpose

The product or benefit aimed at through land use.

Land Use Survey

An inventory, classification and mapping of land use, and analysis of land use in a certain area.

Land Use System (definition as adopted in development of The Land Use Database)

A specific land use, practised during a known period on a known and contiguous piece of land with identical characteristics.

Land Use System (definition of the FAO Framework for Land Evaluation)

A specified land utilization type practised on a given land unit, and associated with inputs, outputs and possibly land improvements.

Land Use Type

A kind of land use described or defined in a degree of detail greater than that of a major kind of land use, i.e. of which specific data on management, economics and technical inputs are given.

Land Utilization Type

See: Land Use Type

Livestock

All animals kept or reared in captivity on the holding mainly for agricultural purposes.

Livestock Production System

Systems comprising pastures and herds and auxiliary feed sources transforming plant biomass into animal products.

LUS

See: Land Use System

Mapping Unit (= Map Unit)

A set of areas (polygons) on a map that represents a well-defined feature or set of features.

Material Input

An intentional flow of substances into the land use system that does not leave the system afterwards.

Module

Part of software which offers specific functions to the user.

Multi-Purpose Land Use

A land use in which more products and/or benefits are aimed at.

Nominal data (= attribute data, categorical data)

Parameters that cannot be measured but must be expressed qualitatively .

Observation

A description/measurement of a condition that may influence the performance of a land use system, that states its impact on the environment, or that reflects the knowledge of the land user about the land use system.

Operation

A distinct and intended management action carried out by humans on land.

Operation Sequence

A series of operations on land, carried out by humans, in order to realize set land use purposes.

Operation Sequence Classifier

A diagnostic criterion describing the operation sequence or individual operations, that is used as a criterion to define a class.

Operator

The statement connecting a parameter with a value, forming a rule for a query.

Parameter (in The Land Use Database)

A single category of information. The parameter name equals to a field name in a database file and in an edit screen.

Parcel

A contiguous piece of land with identical tenure and physical characteristics. It is entirely surrounded by land with other tenure and/or physical characteristics, or by infrastructure, e.g. roads or water.

Performance of a Land Use

The biophysical (ecological) productivity, feasibility and sustainability, plus the socio-economic feasibility, acceptability and impact of a land use.

Picklist

A menu displayed on a computer screen containing items from which one may be selected.

Plot

A contiguous tract of land, with identical characteristics, under a specific land use.

Posteriori Land Use Classification

The process of defining land use classes on the basis of criteria that are derived from the collected land use data.

Power Source

The source of the energy used to perform a land use operation.

Purpose

See: Land Use Purpose

Purpose Classifier

A diagnostic criterion describing the land use purpose that is used as a criterion to define a class.

Product

A material/tangible result of a land use system.

Query

The procedure to search and retrieve a subset of information stored in a database that meet a certain condition.

Query Condition

One or more rules, used to execute a query.

Record

A number of values for several parameters, belonging to one set of information and stored in one file.

Relational Database

A collection of database files which are linked to each others by index keys.

Rule

The combination of a parameter and the criterion which it should meet, used in a query condition.

Service (in The Land Use Database)

A function of a land use system from which a benefit is obtained.

Species (in The Land Use Database)

A plant grown or animal held in a land use system from which a product or benefit is obtained.

System

A limited part of reality with well-defined boundaries that contains interrelated elements, where the elements within the boundaries have strong functional relations with each other, and limited, weak or non-existent relations with elements in other systems.

Task Time

The total labour time spent to carry out a land use operation.

Tenancy Arrangement

The rights or arrangement under which a holder uses a parcel.

Value

The specific information for a parameter.