

INFOCRIS and the IUPAC compendium of agrochemical information

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INFOCRIS (<http://www-infocris.iaea.org/>) is an FAO/IAEA knowledge commons on food and environmental contaminants. The system focuses on properties and analytical methodologies. Acquiring and maintaining up-to-date information is distributed globally using the Internet to keep transaction costs low. Information is associated with the contributing author or editor and entered directly over the Internet under a system of password protection and privileges. The Wikipedia-like commands for linking information are readily mastered by editors and require no specialized knowledge of HTML to produce quality web pages. Linkable resources include a glossary terms, references, multimedia, methodologies, FAQ, and the method validation reporting service (MVRS).

INFOCRIS evolves every time an individual editor contributes ideas and knowledge. Sharing is placed above intellectual property rights to foster knowledge accumulation and dissemination via eArticles, slide shows, and knowledge portals. Thus, open science is fostered. Yet the concept of self-interest is not threatened since ownership of the information remains under the banner of the contributing editor or organization.

In 2005 IUPAC members adopted 60 key INFOCRIS records as a part of the IUPAC project on global availability of information on agrochemical. Records are built dynamically by INFOCRIS and displayed in a standard compendium format through the FAO/IAEA eLearning system and an IUPAC portal. IUPAC “gatekeepers” provide content quality assurance and peer-review. The IUPAC compendium will eventually contain over 600 agrochemical records.

This workshop will demonstrate the value of INFOCRIS and the IUPAC compendium to analysts and decisions-makers in their day-to-day work and will call for new editors.