



## REPORT OF A JOINT INIS/AGRIS TRAINING SEMINAR IN ANKARA, TURKEY, 12-20 JUNE

This meeting was sponsored jointly by the IAEA and FAO, and held at the Turkish Institute of Standards.

# INIS/AGRIS Training Seminar



For the first time in the history of INIS (International Nuclear Information System) a joint training seminar was organized with a second essentially compatible information system, AGRIS (International System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology). Both are computerized information systems fed by decentralized input, and data processing for both is carried out at IAEA headquarters in Vienna.

Particularly in a system using decentralized input, thorough training in input preparation is necessary in order to ensure input of a high quality which is computer-acceptable and can be entered into the system with a minimum of delay caused by errors. In the first five years of its existence, i.e. between 1970 and 1974, six INIS training seminars took place. Three of them were held in Vienna (1970, 1972 and 1973), two were regional seminars, for South East Asia and the Far East (Bombay 1970) and for Latin America (Buenos Aires 1971), respectively, and one seminar was held in Luxembourg (1974). In the early days of INIS operation, emphasis was essentially on all aspects of input preparation, with courses on cataloguing, abstract preparation and indexing. Subsequently, interest shifted increasingly to output utilization. Since 1972, retrieval strategy has formed a major part of each seminar. For the first time in this seventh seminar, as many as 8 INIS courses were offered. Two were 2-day orientation courses, intended to give a bird's-eye-view of the principles, mechanics and practice of INIS descriptive cataloguing on the one hand, and indexing and retrieval\* on

\* IRMS (IBM-Information Retrieval and Management System) adapted for INIS and AGRIS was used.

the other. It was aimed at people unfamiliar with the system (e.g. AGRIS participants) or that particular aspect of input preparation. Subsequently, six 5-day courses were given: one a beginners' course in indexing and retrieval, the other five advanced courses in descriptive cataloguing and in indexing and retrieval in the fields of physics, chemistry, engineering and technology, and on the life sciences. A test data base of 100,000 documents was available, and computer processing of test examples and query profiles for retrieval was carried out from one day to the next.

One course was offered for AGRIS which involved principles of input preparation, categorization and descriptive cataloguing. Retrieval for AGRIS was made on a data base of 20,000 documents collected in the last six months. The AGRIS file could be searched by commodity code and geographical code, both INIS and AGRIS could use subject categories, type of record, literary indicator, and language as search points, and select the particular volume and issue number of the printed index (INIS ATOMINDEX or AGRINDEX) to be scanned, whereas descriptors could, in addition, be searched for INIS.

A number of AGRIS participants attended orientation courses. Some joint cataloguing sessions and some plenary sessions were held as part of a discussion forum on information storage and retrieval, and retrieval operations in Member States were discussed.

A peak attendance was registered for this Joint INIS/AGRIS Training Seminar attended by nearly 90 participants representing 33 countries and 7 international organizations — 24 countries and 4 international organizations for INIS, and 15 countries and 3 organizations for AGRIS. There were two scientific secretaries: Mrs. M-H. Binggeli (IAEA, Vienna) for INIS and Mrs. M.T. Martinelli (FAO, Rome) for AGRIS.

INIS has proved not only an operative information system on a decentralized basis but has also acted as a model. The success of AGRIS will, in time, inspire new ventures. The Joint Seminar followed basic UNISIST philosophy. It is clearly not only essential to ensure effective collection and dissemination of information in one subject area: it is also necessary to establish and maintain communication between different information systems, in such a way that each can profit from the other.

