

# Agricultural and Aquaculture Facilities – Executive Summary

The data specification for *Agricultural and Aquaculture Facilities* is required to facilitate the interoperability of geographical information related to these topics among member states. In the context of this data specification *Agricultural and Aquaculture Facilities* concern the description of all the physical instruments and constructions with permanent or semi permanent emplacement (inland or outland) that are related to Agricultural and Aquaculture Activities. The general scope has been extended beyond the scope of the term “facility” in order to allow the inclusion of information about delimited portions of land or water related to Agricultural and Aquaculture activities that are subjected by law to special permission, monitoring or management (“plots”). The intention is to cover the potential lacks in the scope of other Thematic working groups also covering Agricultural or Aquaculture concepts but with a different level of detail. Mainly it could be possible to define that *Agricultural and Aquaculture Facilities* scope covers all the terms related to the Agricultural and Aquaculture activities in which is possible to identify a legal responsible for their management or operation.

Although the title of the thematic group involves two different concepts, Agricultural and Aquaculture, both scopes have been included on the same conceptual model. This is because the model has been defined based on the abstractions of geographical entities required by the legislation. In that sense, in the model Agricultural Holding is defined at the same level than Aquaculture Holding being able to identify separately through the Activity performed (attribute). The same rule applies to other levels of detail like installations.

This data specification does not include information related to areas of management that involve sets of holdings grouped by different criteria (areas affected by diseases) or classification of the land (urban and rural planning) which should be covered by other INSPIRE thematic areas.

The thematic scope of this data specification is aimed to provide a solid framework for mapping, reporting and modelling purposes. This is necessary to support policy formulation through better reporting and management of pan European initiatives, such as waste management, water, animal movements, epidemiological control, food traceability, etc where *Agricultural and Aquaculture Facilities* data fulfils a function in relating information to real world objects.

The *Agricultural and Aquaculture Facilities* theme concerns the physical elements related with these kinds of activities. It does not define attributes that should be reported and, as a consequence, it should not be considered in isolation from other INSPIRE themes or reporting obligations as described by other legislations. It is also acknowledged that the model might be extended with further user requirements identified in the future.

Considering the relevance of the Agricultural and Aquaculture activities over the territory and in consequence over the environment, the thematic working group (TWG) has decided to include the geographic description of different entities from simple installations to plots; it is expected that relevant developments such as the European WISE and SEIS projects will use this specification as a base for further extension with reporting obligations within the EU.

The data specification has been prepared by the thematic working group on *Agricultural and Aquaculture Facilities*, a multinational team of experts in the field drawn from all parts of the European Union. Their brief has been to create a specification, which requires no additional data capture by member states, and is in addition, easily understood and as flexible as possible. In this way it is designed to minimize the effort required to supply conformant data.

The data specification has been based on existing standards, as far as possible.