Introduction to EcoLearnIT

Learning Objective: Learn about the capabilities of the EcoLearnIT RLO System to create and access RLOs.

EcoLearnIT

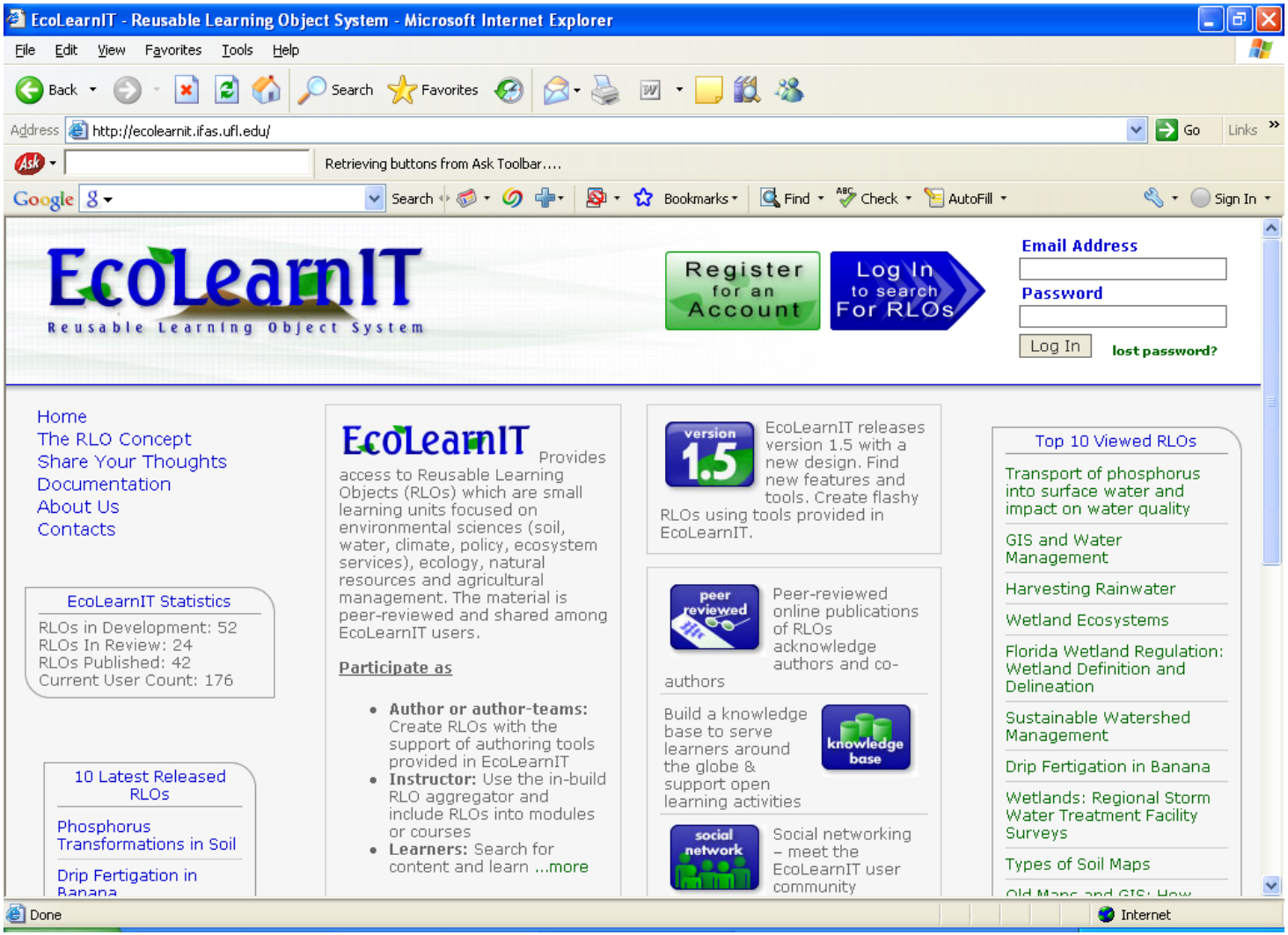
Reusable Learning Object System

Introduction to the EcoLearnIT RLO System

Reusable

Learning

Object



http://EcoLearnIT.ifas.ufl.edu

Functions of EcoLearnIT

Peer-reviewed online publications of RLOs acknowledge authors and co-authors

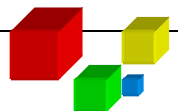
Build a knowledge base to serve learners around the globe & support open learning activities

Social networking – meet the EcoLearnIT user community

RLOs provide stimulating content in the form of text, graphics, video, and audio. RLOs also provide assessment.

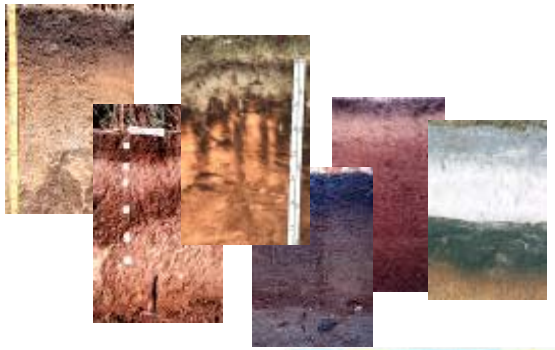
What is EcoLearnIT?

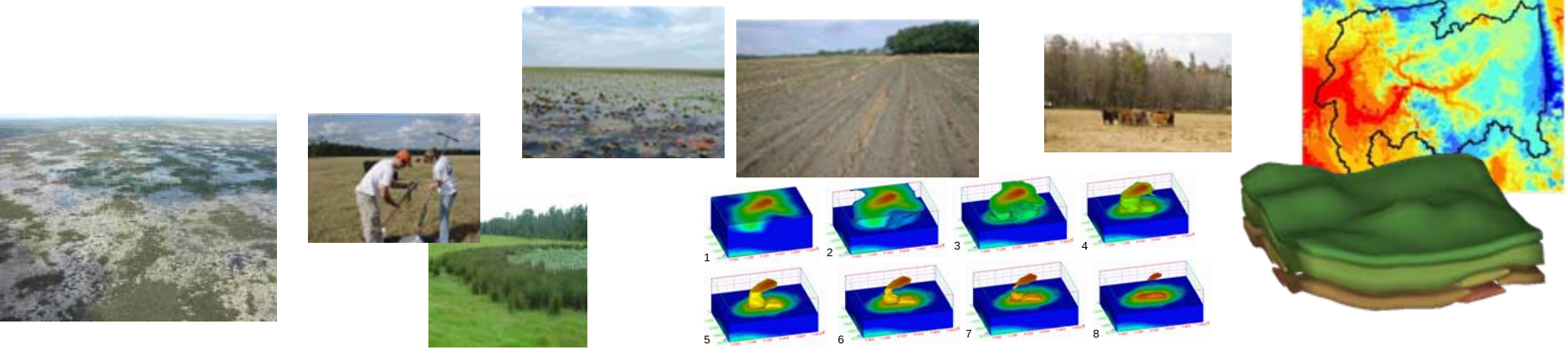
- Open-access digital repository of shared learning resources
- Contains peer-reviewed and published RLOs
- Provides tools to develop RLOs
- In the spirit of Web 2.0 – everybody can contribute and develop RLOs (learning / extension materials)



EcoLearnIT – A System to Support Learning

- Provides access to RLOs
- Focused on:
  - Environmental sciences (soil, water, and climate)
  - Agriculture and life sciences
  - …. and more





Participate in EcoLearnIT as:

Author or author-teams: Create RLOs with the support of authoring tools provided in EcoLearnIT

Instructors: Use the in-build RLO aggregator and include RLOs into modules or courses

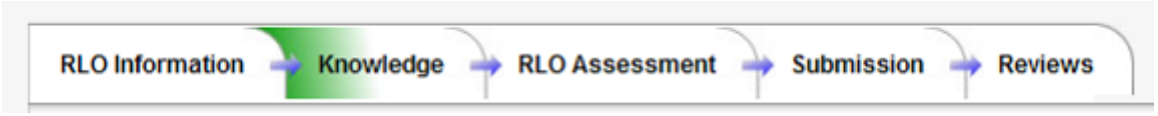
Learners: Search, browse, and rank RLOs; learn

Steps: Create an RLO Publication

Assign:

- Author and co-author names
- RLO title
- Title image (optional)
- Learning objective
- Abstract
- Ranking (1: Basic/simple to 5: Complex/advanced learning material)
- Target audience
- Keywords
- Acknowledgement
- References

Steps: Create an RLO Publication

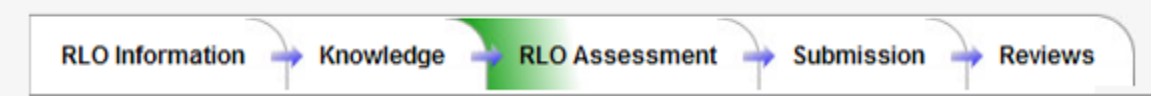


Knowledge / instruction component:
Provide a clear explanation of the theory behind the subject being covered; knowledge that is encapsulated in the learning unit

Upload learning material:

- Text, graphics, video, audio, and animations
- Accepted formats: txt, doc, ppt, pptx, jpg, png, gif, flv, mp3, swf; Adobe Presenter (zip); Articulate (zip)

Steps: Create an RLO Publication

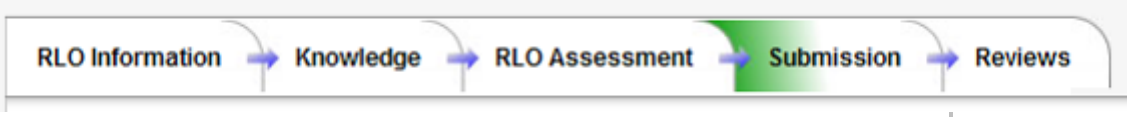


Add assessment questions and answers: Interactive questions that test learners knowledge on specific learning topic presented in an RLO.

Question types:

- True/false
- Single correct answer
- Multiple correct answers

Steps: Create an RLO Publication



RLO in development
(RLO assessable only by author team)

1.

Submit RLO for peer-review

2.

RLO in review (RLO only accessible to Editor)

3.

EcoLearnIT Editor assigns reviewers

4.

EcoLearnIT Editor makes decision
(based on reviewer's comments)

5.

RLO returned to author(s) for revisions (white paper status – RLO is now viewable to EcoLearnIT users; author(s) revise/update RLO)

Resubmit RLO

6.

7.

RLO published
(passed peer-review; viewable to EcoLearnIT users)

RLOs ~ Online Publications

Each RLO is an online publication and can be tracked/cited by author and co-author name, title of RLO, and RLO publication number similar to a journal article or online publication.

There are different types of RLO publications:

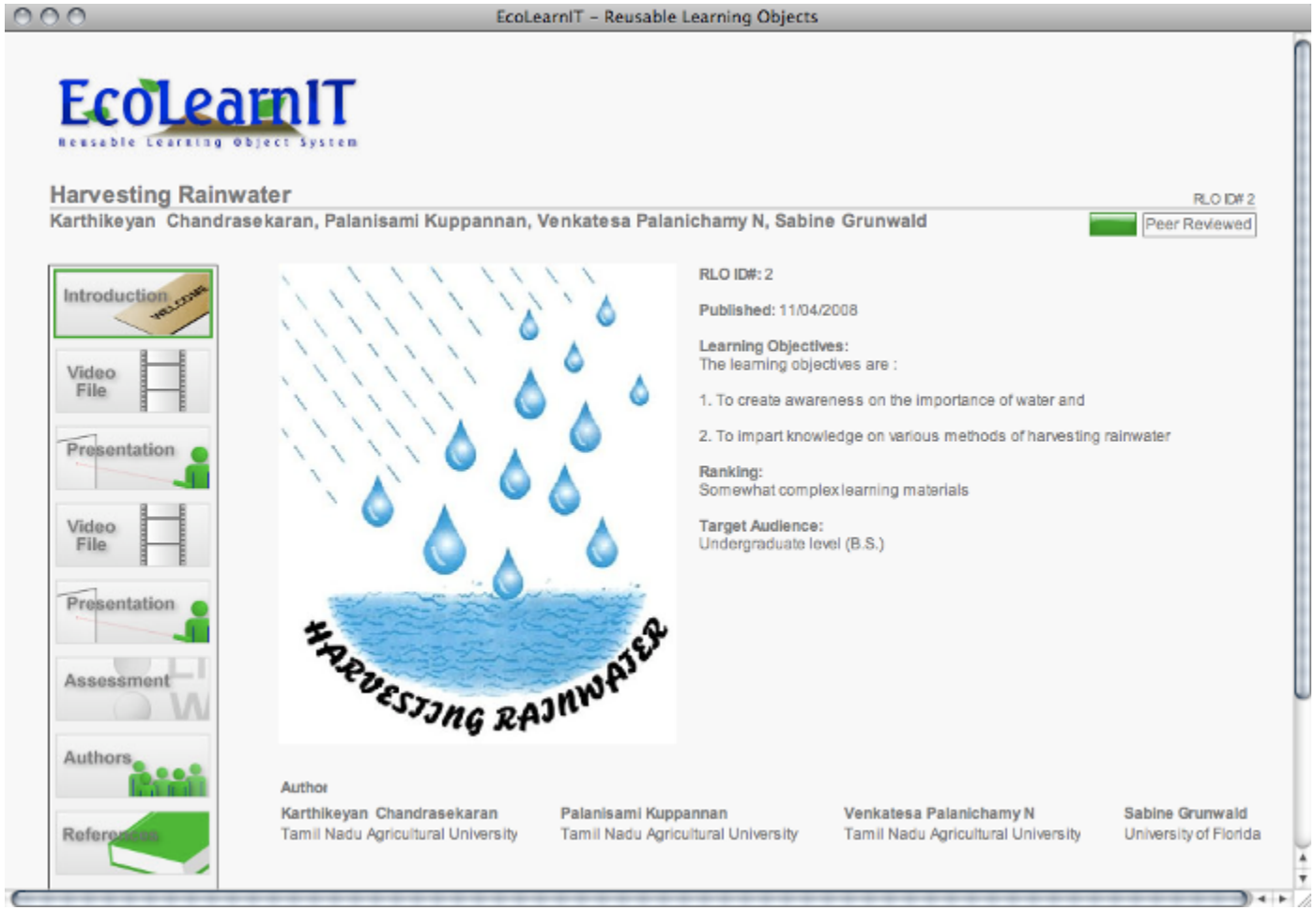
- *Peer-reviewed* RLO publications (completed publication)
- *White paper* (temporary) RLO (need to be edited/revised by RLO author(s) to make it a complete peer-reviewed publ.

- RLO *in review*
- RLO *in development*

} Not visible to public; only accessible by authors

Collaborative Environment to Form Author Teams

- Joint development and publication of RLOs
- Main (first) author initiates an RLO and adds co-authors



Author Acknowledgement

EcoLearnIT – Reusable Learning Objects

EcoLearnIT
Reusable Learning Object System

Harvesting Rainwater

RLO ID# 2

Karthikeyan Chandrasekaran, Palanisami Kuppannan, Venkatesa Palanichamy N, Sabine Grunwald

Peer Reviewed

- Introduction
- Video File
- Presentation
- Video File
- Presentation
- Assessment
- Authors

Karthikeyan Chandrasekaran
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Bio
Date of Birth - 14 November 1970

Qualification - B.Sc.(Agriculture), M.Sc.(Agri.)Ph.D.,

Occupation - Associate professor (Ag. Extension), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore 641 003, India

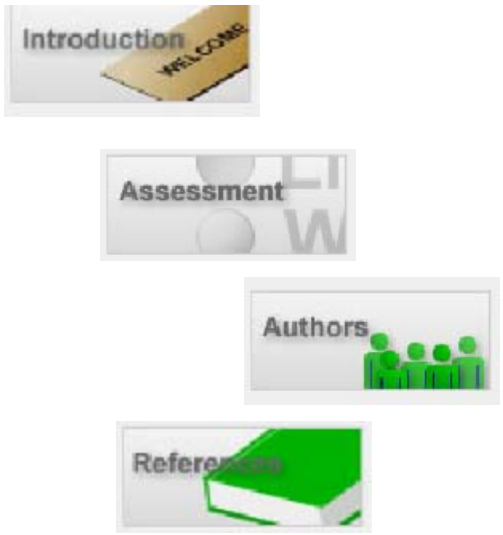
Experience - 10 years in TNAU as Teacher and Researcher in Agril. Extension. Now handling one research project on Irrigation sociology sponsored by IFS, Sweden 2007-09.

Expertise
Research and teaching post graduate courses on ICT based Agricultural Extension Services.

Recently engaged in one cyber extension project for technology transfer to farmers in tamil nadu state.Expertise in conducting PRA, Gender studies and policy research in Agricultural extension.

RLO Content

Text fields and tools



Upload files

Content can be implemented (uploaded) in various digital formats including text, artwork (various graphics formats and Power Point), video and audio files, and Flash animations to add interactive features.

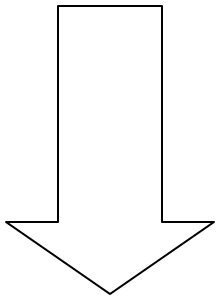
RLO Content

- To mix different digital media → create stimulating learning material that engages learners
- Uploaded material is compiled on-the-fly and a Flash wrapper encapsulates the completed RLO to provide a common feel and look

Reading
Reading *& visuals*
Reading, visuals *& sound*
Reading, visuals, sound *& interaction*

Acknowlegement of RLO Authors

- Author and co-author names are attached to each RLO to acknowledge their work
- *EcoLearnIT* is a peer-reviewed system (only RLOs that were approved for publication are published)



RLOs are publications

(similar to a research publication)

Who owns RLOs in EcoLearnIT?

- RLOs hosted in *EcoLearnIT* are owned and shared with the community of *EcoLearnIT* users in "open-access mode“

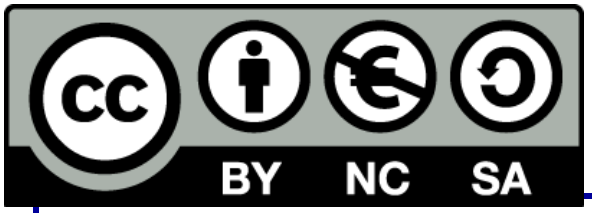
Source: Google Images

Licenses Implemented in EcoLearnIT

- The access to RLOs is based on a:
  - Share alike (SA) license
  - Non-commercial (NC) (end-users cannot use the RLOs commercially for their own purpose and are not allowed to restrict their use and distribution

- This model does not discriminate based on social status, geographic region, funding or other reasons

EcoLearnIT Adopts a Creative Common License



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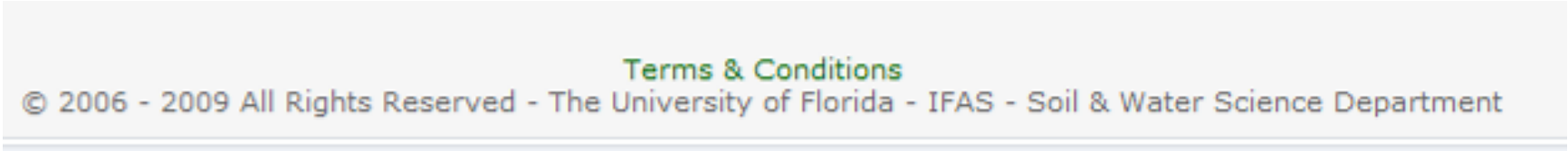
EcoLearnIT Ownership

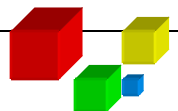
- Copyright of *EcoLearnIT* System:

  Soil and Water Science Department, IFAS,

  University of Florida



- Content / RLOs are owned by RLO developers

Summary

This module provided an introduction to the EcoLearnIT RLO system.