

ISTRO INFO

**A Publication of the
International Soil Tillage Research Organization**

December 2005

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ISTRO INFO – December 2005

As we approach the end of another year, I hope that everyone reading this message will take a few minutes to reflect on the blessings you have received during 2005. Whether or not our experiments have been successful or our yields have been good, I am sure that we have all had opportunities to help others and to be helped by them. To me, our ability to work with the soil and to strive for management practices that will help ensure its sustainability for many generations to come is a blessing in itself. As always, I invite each of you to share your thoughts and experiences with others through this quarterly update. Just send me an email or better yet a word document with the information you would like to share. Don't worry about the grammar or writing style. I will gladly edit the information and if I have questions contact you before circulating the wrong information.

A significant portion of this ISTRO-INFO is devoted to sharing information from our upcoming conference. Perhaps you will have seen many of the announcements since they were generally compiled from email messages that I have received during that past few months. However, it never hurts to have information from more than one source. I also encourage you to frequently visit our website which was updated during the past year. The site can be reached at www.istro.org. In addition to visiting the site as often as you can, we encourage you to forward announcements of Branch activities or Working Group meetings to both the webmaster Jan van den Akker (janjh.vandenakker@wur.nl) and me. Through our collective efforts to communicate with each other, we will continue to develop a very strong international organization dedicated to (1) promoting contacts among scientists undertaking research in soil tillage and field traffic and their relationship with the soil environment, land use and crop production, (2) stimulating scientific research in the domain of soil tillage and related fields, and (3) furthering the application of the results of such research into agricultural practice. Happy Holidays!

With Blessings for all,

Doug Karlen

Assistant Secretary General

Financial Support for ISTRO Working Groups and Branches

A healthy organization requires active members not only at our meetings but also in the periods between the tri-annual conferences. To our regret there is a trend indicating a slow decrease in the membership of ISTRO. On the other hand our ISTRO journal *Soil & Tillage Research* is doing very well. ISTRO also has some active Working Groups and ISTRO Branches. I and the Board of Directors think there is a potential for more activity of ISTRO in the periods between triennial conferences. The financial position of ISTRO is sound and therefore it is possible to give some financial support for activities of ISTRO Working Groups and Branches. Therefore, at the mid-term Board meeting held this year in Kiel, Germany it was agreed to support active and official Working Groups and Branches of ISTRO based on the following rules:

1. The ISTRO Working Group or Branch must send the Secretary—General an indicative budget and/or an explanation where the money will be used for.
2. The ISTRO Branch must be officially registered and must have paid its fees.
3. The workshop or conference should be announced in ISTRO-INFO.
4. A condensed report (1 to 2 A4 size pages) about the meeting should be written as contribution to ISTRO-INFO.
5. The treasurer must confirm that there is enough money for this event.
6. The maximum total financial support to a Working Group or national Branch in the three years between the ISTRO conferences is 1000 EURO¹
7. The decision will be made by the President, Secretary-General and Treasurer and must be unanimous
8. In case of a financial surplus of the workshop or conference, support from ISTRO should be refunded up to a maximum of the surplus or the support that was received.

Jan van den Akker, Secretary-General ISTRO

¹ With good arguments exceptions can be made and more support than 1000 EURO is possible, however, this will require agreement of the total ISTRO Board.

17th ISTRO Conference Update

Plans for the 17th ISTRO Conference (August 28th –September 3rd, 2006) at the Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel, Germany, as well as the pre-, post-, and mid-conference tours are progressing very well. The conference will last 5 days and will include a symposium on soil structure, Working Group discussions, tours, and displays. Christian-Albrechts University was founded in 1665 and today has approximately 22,000 students. It is located 4 km from the heart of Kiel and is close to the Kiel Harbour as well as to the world-wide known Kiel Kanal. Kiel is the capital of Schleswig-Holstein and is located on the Baltic Sea. It is approximately 1 hr from Hamburg, 6 hr from Munich, 5 hr from Copenhagen, and 18 hr from Oslo.

By now, you should have received confirmation that your paper or poster has been accepted for presentation at the conference. In the mailing, you should have also received a registration form and information about housing from the Kiel Tourist Information Center. Please note that early registration ends on 15 January, 2005. In case you did not receive yours or get them from the website (www.istro.org), copies of the registration and housing forms are included on the next two pages.

The **Pre-conference Tour** (August 21 – 26) starts at the Frankfurt Airport and will visit sites evaluating long-term tillage research, soil deformation in agriculture, forestry, and in winegrowing areas, water erosion, soil amelioration, open cast brown coal mining, water studies in sandy regions, deep ploughing of peat soils and consequences of land use. There will also be stops at the Liebig and Thaer Museums in Giessen and Celle. The **Post-conference tour** (September 3 – 9) ends at the Frankfurt Airport after stops at sites evaluating soil management and sustainability issues in agriculture and forestry, brown coal mining, soil deformation, subsoiling, amelioration and lysimeter experiments. There will also be stops at the castle in Potsdam, city of Dresden and of Weimar. There will also be four different mid-conference tours in the Schleswig-Holstein area on August 30, 2006. The maximum cost for these tours will be an additional 550.00 Euros.

Conference Registration and Hotel Reservations

Please see the attached two Microsoft Word documents for completing the conference registration and hotel reservations.

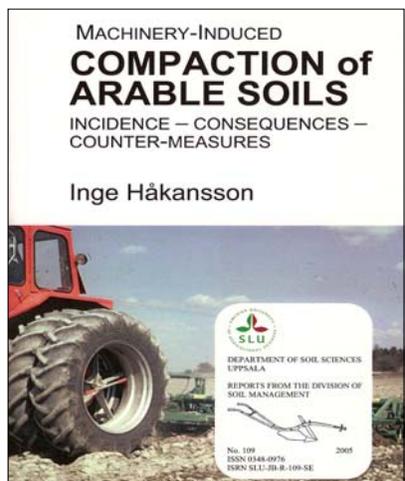
Scholarships for Young researchers

As of this writing, I have received only one application for assistance to the ISTRO meeting. Therefore, I am reprinting the following announcement from the September newsletter.

Please don't forget that the ISTRO Board unanimously agreed to sponsor four (4) scholarships to help young researchers (under the age of 40, with demonstrated superior research accomplishments) attend the ISTRO conference. One scholarship is open to young scientists from all countries, while the other three are for researchers from all countries except those classified as being "high-income." This listing is found at the website http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low_income. The scholarships will cover airfare (lowest cost possible), registration, the Conference Dinner and provide 35 EURO per day toward the hotel accommodation. Scholarship candidates must be current members of ISTRO themselves and nominated by current members of ISTRO.

Nominations including supporting material documenting their research activities (e.g. two recent journal or conference publications), a curriculum vitae listing education and all publications, presentations and teaching activities, and the Abstract for a paper to be presented at the 2006 ISTRO Conference must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary-General (Doug Karlen) **by February 1, 2006**. The selection committee will consist of the two new Board Members (Allen Torbert and Laura Alakukku). After the selection, the scholarship winners and losers will be informed by the Assistant Secretary-General who will also notify the Conference Organization. Heiner Fleige (Organizing Committee) will then assume all correspondence with the winners.

New Book Available



Håkansson, I., 2005.
Machinery-induced Compaction of Arable Soils, Incidence – Consequences – Counter-measures.
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Dept. of Soil Sciences, Reports from the Division of Soil Management, No. 109, 154 pages, ISSN 0348-0976, ISRN SLU-JB-R-109-SE.

The book can be ordered from SLU, Dept. of Soil Sci., P.O. Box 7014, SE-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden, **e-mail:** Britt-Louise.Atterdagsdotter@mv.slu.se or Inge Håkansson, Morkullv. 84, SE-756 52 Uppsala, Sweden, **e-mail:** hakansson.inge@spray.se

Price: 30 € plus (when applicable) 7-10 € for postage and VAT.

This book is written as an introduction and concise reference book to soil compaction problems for people involved in agriculture and environmental protection and for other people interested in sustainable use of our natural resources. The author,

Professor emeritus **Inge Håkansson**, worked at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU, Uppsala, from 1954 to 1995, most of the time as Research Leader for soil tillage research throughout Sweden. He carried out extensive research into various soil tillage problems such as soil structure, primary tillage, seedbed preparation and sowing. He is an acknowledged world expert on the effects of machinery traffic on soils and crops. In this book, he uses his extensive experience to summarise and evaluate current knowledge on the effects of machinery traffic on soils and crops from both a scientific and a practical point of view. He also discusses the environmental impact of soil compaction by machinery during crop production and suggests measures to alleviate or prevent negative effects of short-term or permanent character.

The book is largely based on experience from Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, where field experimentation on soil and crop responses to machinery traffic has been more extensive than in most other parts of the world, but the situation in other climatic zones of the world is also considered. In nine chapters, the following subjects are discussed: 1) traffic intensity in arable fields, 2) stress distribution under wheels and tracks, 3) extent and persistence of soil compaction, 4) effects of compaction on soil properties and processes, 5) effects of compaction on crop growth and yield, 6) ecological and environmental effects of compaction, 7) methods to minimise compaction or its negative effects, 8) economic consequences of compaction and 9) present situation and need of load limits.

18th World Congress of Soil Science Update

More than 2500 abstracts for papers and posters have been submitted for the 18th World Congress of Soil Science that will be held July 9-15, 2005 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. The abstracts will now be organized into more than 80 different symposia. For more information about this conference or to submit your registration and housing requests, please go to the website www.18wcoss.org. The early registration fee is US\$550, but the cost will increase on both February 1st and May 1st, 2006.

National Branch Support for Conference in Kiel

As discussed previously with regard to ISTRO assistance to Working Groups and Branches for sponsoring meetings and conferences, a similar policy has been established with regard to helping National Branch members attend the ISTRO Conference in Kiel. For example, it may be desirable for several Branch members to travel to Kiel via a chartered bus or by renting vehicles. The procedure for requesting such assistance is as follows:

1. The ISTRO Branch must send the Secretary—General an indicative budget and/or an explanation where and how the money will be used.
2. The ISTRO branch must be officially registered and must have paid its fees for 2004, 2005 and 2006 and must have sent to ISTRO all names and addresses including e-mail address of their members.
3. The treasurer will confirm that there is enough money for this request.
4. The maximum total financial support to a national branch is 1000 EURO²
5. The decision is taken by the President, Secretary-General and Treasurer and must be unanimous
6. In case of a financial surplus the support should be refunded up to a maximum of the surplus or the support

² As stated previously, with good arguments exceptions can be made and support of more than 1000 EURO is possible, however, this will require agreement of the total ISTRO Board.

Final Comments

First of all I would like to thank my secretary Becky Roland for her assistance in distributing ISTRO-INFO during the past year. I know that several of you have written to her thanking her for sending the information and also to update your email addresses. Without her assistance, achieving consistent communication among ISTRO members would be much more difficult.

I would also like to encourage every Branch and Working Group to send Becky or me information about your research, technology transfer activities, interesting problems in your area, or other information that your colleagues might be interested in reading about. Don't worry about the grammar or quality of writing. I will gladly work with you to be sure ISTRO-INFO is a useful and desired communication tool for our organization. In addition to sending us information to share, I also encourage each of you to share your copy with one other colleague and to invite them to join our wonderful organization.

If there are any other ways for me to improve this document please let us know. We are truly here to serve you and look forward to your comments.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!