



ISTRO INFO

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International Soil Tillage Research Organization**

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ISTRO INFO – March 2008

Once again, another three months have zipped by and I'm running out of time to still get this issue to you during March! For those in the southern hemisphere, I hope you have had a very good summer and excellent cropping season. In the Midwestern U.S., we have had one of the longest and snowiest winters in a long time. Everyone is anxious for some warm weather and a chance to return to the fields. Hopefully by now you have received your first announcement of the 18th ISTRO triennial conference, which will be held June 15-19, 2009 in Izmir, Turkey. In case you did not get your copy, I have put a copy of the themes and other information in this issue of ISTRO INFO. Be sure to start your planning soon and to submit your presentation abstract as requested. It is also time to begin preparing your nominations for the various scholarships that are available to help cover some of the conference expenses. I also hope that some of the Branches are looking into group transportation as a way to increase attendance with minimum cost for every participant. If you have any questions about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact our host and ISTRO President, Professor Engin Cakir, or any Board member. We will do our best to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

I am also pleased to report that during the past three months, several new ISTRO registrations and renewals have passed across my desk. I hope some of these are the result of your efforts to pass on your copy of ISTRO INFO to at least one other student or professional colleague and to encourage them to consider joining our organization. As always, be sure to let them know of the many activities that are available through our Branch Chapters and Working Groups. Also, be sure to send me information to share with our other members about your research, extension experiences, or other items of interest. Finally, please remember that if you would like to translate this newsletter into other languages for better communication, please feel free to do so.

Doug Karlen
Assistant Secretary General

18th Triennial Conference Information

Hopefully you have already received your copy of the first call for submissions to the 18th Triennial ISTRO Conference that will be held June 15-19, 2009 in Izmir, Turkey. The conference will last five days and include various technical sessions, Working Group meetings, tours and displays. Two different tours will be offered. They are for a Field Day & City Tour on June 17th and Historical Site: Ephesus – House of Virgin Mary on June 18th. Critical times to remember include:

Date	Critical Action
October 15, 2008	Deadline for abstract submission
December 1, 2008	Notification of authors
December 15, 2008	Deadline for early registration
January 31, 2009	Deadline for submission of full papers
March 15, 2009	Notification of Oral and Poster venues

Conference Themes under which oral and poster presentations are to be submitted are:

1. Conservation tillage, direct seeding, & no-till applications
2. Sustainable forest management
3. Rehabilitation of degraded areas
4. Soil compaction: Causes, effects, & control
5. Soil dynamics & traction
6. Soil Management as a tool to reduce erosion, nutrient leaching and greenhouse gas emission
7. Production of bio-fuel
8. Soil biological quality & health

Abstracts of 250 words or less should be submitted by **October 15, 2008**, as a Microsoft Word file on the Congress website (www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr) or in an email to istro2009@mail.ege.edu.tr. Please name the file attachment with your last and first name.

The Conference will be held at Surmeli Efes Hotel & Resort in Selcuk, Izmir. This site is located about 60 km from the Adnan Menderes International Airport and is very close to the city centre. For more information about the venue, please view their website at: <http://www.surmelihotels.com/eng/SurmeliEfes/default.asp>. Registration and lodging as a package that also includes meals, banquet dinner, field day tour, and CD is:

Registration for:	Conference Only		Lodging & Conference	
	Early*	Late	Early*	Late
Members	€350	€450	€650	€750
Non-members	€400	€500	€700	€800
Students	€250	€350	€550	€650
Partners			€500	€600
Children (age 6-12)			€400	€500

*Early registration ends 12/15/2008. Also, hotel room prices are for one bed shared in double bed rooms. For single room, please add €25 per day to the room price.

Registration fees should be paid through the website (<http://www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr>) or directly to the following banking account: **AKBANK** (Euro Account) (Office of Ege University, **Office Code: 940**), Account Number: **940-07772**; IBAN Number: **TR40 0004 6009 4003 6000 0077 72**.

Scholarships For Young Researchers

The ISTRO Board unanimously agreed to once again help young researchers attend the 18th Triennial ISTRO conference by sponsoring four (4) scholarships. Note that young scientists are defined as being under the age of 40, and having demonstrated superior research accomplishments. The Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship is open to young scientists from all countries. The other three scholarships are open to researchers from all countries except those classified as being "high-income." Eligible "low-income" countries

can be found at:

http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low_income

The scholarships will cover the costs of airfare (lowest cost possible) and the package deal of the ISTRO2009 conference (www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr). This package deal of € 650 includes registration, lodging (shared double room), all meals, banquet dinner, field day tour and CD. Scholarship candidates must be current members of ISTRO themselves and be 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 2009 ISTRO Conference must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary-General (Doug Karlen, doug.karlen@ars.usda.gov) by December 31, 2008. The selection committee will consist of the three new Board Members (Totka Mitova-Trifonova, John Fielke, and Mekhlis Suleimenov). After the selection, all applicants will be informed by the Assistant Secretary-General who will also notify the Conference Organizers to help make the final arrangements.

No-Till Farming Systems Book & CD Released

The World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC) has published and released a new book and accompanying CD entitled No-Till Farming Systems. The book was edited by: T. Goddard, M. Zoebisch, Y. Gan, W. Ellis, A. Watson and S. Sombatpanit and includes 34 contributions from renowned experts and practitioners around the world. Special Publication No. 3 provides a comprehensive review of how no-tillage has grown, the barriers that have been overcome, and the challenges that lie ahead. The chapters present current research, suggest new directions, and outline critical policy issues for adoption and extension. South American authors review the reasons that no-till has been adopted so quickly on that continent, while American and European authors contrast the adoption rates in the U.S. and on the European continent. Unique adoption techniques are presented from many countries including

China, Australia, Paraguay, Micronesia, and Cameroon. Changes in the soil ecosystem due to the practice are presented and reviewed. The environmental benefits of no-till are discussed and new, integrated projects to examine the multiple and integrated benefits of no-till farming systems are presented. The CD was planned as a collection of supplementary reference materials, to serve as a companion to the printed book *No-Till Farming Systems* (2008). It is entitled the **25th Anniversary Souvenir Edition** of the WASWC (established in 1983) and is a contribution to the **International Year of Planet Earth**. The CD includes 17 sections, comprised of 1,008 files in 106 folders, mostly in PDF, PPT, and Word, describing no-till and other related SWC works from many national and international organizations.

The book (ISBN: 978-974-8391-60-1, 544 pages) and accompanying CD range in cost from US \$15 to \$20 including delivery - depending upon destination (Asean: \$15; Other Asian countries: \$16; Africa, Australia, Europe, Oceania: \$18; Western Hemisphere: \$20). The CD, if purchased separately, costs only US \$5/copy, with delivery to any post address worldwide. Buyers are most welcome to reproduce and use all materials in any form, without restriction. For more information, please contact the WASWC Immediate Past President and Coordinator Samran Sombatpanit (sombatpanit@yahoo.com, <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>).

EUROSOIL 2008

Soil – Society – Environment is the theme for the 2008 Eurosoil Congress that will be held at Technical University, Vienna, Austria on 25 – 29 August, 2008. The Congress will feature approximately 30 symposia, 10 workshops, 24 technical excursions, and two social events. It is being organized cooperatively by the National Soil Science Societies of Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Switzerland. It is being supported by the International Union of Soil Science Societies (IUSS), Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Vienna Convention Bureau, Vienna Medical Academy, Austrian Airlines, and Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research. For detailed information about the scientific

and organizing committees, registration and abstract deadlines, registration fees and other details, please see the Congress website at: <http://www.ecsss.net>.

Registration Category	February 1 through 31 May 2008	After 31 May 2008 and onsite
Regular participants	EUR 300.-	EUR 350.-
Student	EUR 150.-	EUR 200.-
Accompanying persons	EUR 55.-	EUR 55.-

Controlled Traffic Farming (CTF) Working Group Update

The CTF Working Group, one of ISTRO's most active and exemplary groups, has several workshop opportunities planned for 2008. To stay current with their activities, please see their website at: <http://www.controlledtrafficfarming.com/content/default.aspx>.

Among the upcoming workshops, the first will be held at Unilever R&D Colworth in Bedfordshire on April 10th. There will be some papers on land management in general, but equally important, the workshop will give participants an opportunity, with the aid of experts, to look at how the soil has changed under CTF compared with traditional practices. There is one field at this site which has been in CTF since 2004 and an additional eight that were converted in 2006, bringing the total area to approximately 70 ha. Crops include wheat, beans, oilseed rape, and spring barley. The workshop will include presentations on "Crop responses to soil strength", "Land use, soil management and issues" and "Soil and biodiversity in modern potato production." Bob Palmer, a soils specialist with 40 years of experience, will help participants compare and contrast the soil conditions under CTF and conventional practices. Registration is limited but slots may be available by contacting Tim Chamen at Tim@ctfeurope.eu.

The next CTF workshop will be in Slovakia on 22 - 25 April 2008. This workshop will include both presentations and farm visits. The latter will give participants a good chance to understand agricultural production in Slovakia (which is around 350 km long by 140 km wide). The tours will provide an opportunity to visit a number of individual farms ranging in size up to approximately 10,000 ha. Unfortunately, registration closed in February, but information about the conference can be obtained by contacting Tim Chamen.

There will also be workshops in Germany in early May focused on maize rotations (Christoph@ctfeurope.eu), in Denmark in June with a focus on forage production on livestock farms (HansHenrik@ctfeurope.eu), and at Lelystad in the Netherlands on July 3rd with a focus on soil quality effects of CTF (Sander@ctfeurope.eu).

Tillage Erosion Working Group (TEWG) Update

The TEWG began 2008 with a new slate of officers and vigorous efforts to sponsor a tillage erosion session as part of the 2008 European Geosciences Union conference on April 13-18, 2008, in Vienna, Austria. The new Working Group chair is Kristof van Oost from the Département de Géologie et de Géographie at the Université Catholique de Louvain Place, in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium (Kristof.Vanoost@uclouvain.be) and the new secretary is Shen Li from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. (umlis2@cc.umanitoba.ca). Sheng Li and Kevin Tiessen are also co-editors of the website and email news list at: www.tillage-erosion.org.

The special session at the EGU conference will address topics on past and present landscape transformation by tillage, soil degradation, experimental and laboratory studies, processes and factors, field measurement and quantification, modeling and mapping erosion risk assessment, prediction, and soil conservation policies of agricultural land.

Fun On The Farm!





Final Comments

I certainly hope this issue of ISTRO-INFO finds all of you off to a good start for 2008. Please be sure to start planning now for our 18th Triennial Conference in Izmir. As always, I want to encourage each of you to continue sending information for me to share with your fellow ISTRO members and to share your copy of this newsletter with others who may be interested in ISTRO activities. To illustrate this, I have included a series of photos that were sent to me by my brother who operates a dairy farm in southern Wisconsin. As noted, he entitled this collection "Fun on the Farm." I hope you enjoy them as much as I did, but even more I hope that none of them were from your personal experiences.

Finally, please continue to let me know if there are specific types of items that you would like to see in future newsletters. Information from ISTRO Branches and Working groups is always welcome, and please remember that a Newsletter is only as good as the News it contains.

Doug Karlen

Assistant Secretary General