



ISTRO INFO

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

September 2007

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ISTRO INFO – September 2007

For those in the northern hemisphere it appears that harvest season is once again upon us. Hopefully you have had a productive growing season and that your soil and tillage experiments are providing the type of results and information that will be useful to you and your clients. In the U.S., there was a major increase in corn (*Zea mays*) production due to an increased number of ethanol plants. For the nation as a whole, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports that compared to the average for 2000 through 2006, 17% more corn was planted in 2007. For the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin the increase ranged from 12 to 19%. Most of the increase was at the expense of soybean which is now selling at near record prices and forage crops. From a Soil and Tillage perspective, this rapid increase raises concern among some regarding subsequent effects on erosion, nutrient leaching, and the potential for increases in the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to the use of corn grain for ethanol, interest is expanding rapidly for the use of crop residues as cellulosic feedstocks. Certainly we all have many opportunities and challenges ahead as we strive to improve management practices through research and organizations such as the ISTRO.

As always, I want to thank those who sent information to be included in this quarterly newsletter. Please continue to do so. I also encourage the ISTRO Branches and Working Groups to continue to send me reports for inclusion or attachment to this file. A Newsletter is only useful if it succeeds in sharing information among those who receive it. Finally, I want to encourage you to forward your copy of this newsletter to students or colleagues that may be interested in ISTRO activities and to be sure to invite them to join our organization. Also, if you would like to translate this newsletter into other languages for better communication, please feel free to do so.

Cheers,

Doug Karlen

Assistant Secretary General

18th Triennial Conference Planning Begins

The 18th Triennial Conference of the International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO) will be held **June 15-19, 2009 in Izmir, Turkey**. It is anticipated that the Registration fee will be 350 Euro and that this will include the welcome reception, banquet dinner, and a special boat trip for sight-seeing, visiting, and relaxation. The expected hotel rates will be approximately 60 Euro for one person sharing a room with another person or 80 Euro for a single room. Negotiations are underway with the hotel to establish a family rate.

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

Registration Category	Until 31 Jan. 2008	February 1 through 31 May 2008	After 31 May 2008 and onsite
Regular participants	EUR 250.-	EUR 300.-	EUR 350.-
Student	EUR 100.-	EUR 150.-	EUR 200.-
Accompanying persons	EUR 55.-	EUR 55.-	EUR 55.-

9th International Conference on Precision Agriculture

After ~16 years in Minnesota, the International Conference on Precision Agriculture (ICPA) is moving to the mile-high city of Denver, Colorado USA. The 9th ICPA will be held at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center from **July 20 - 23, 2008**. The conference is envisaged to be the largest ever; with more than 500 attendees from all over the United States and 35 countries. July is also a gorgeous time of the year to be in beautiful Colorado. Surrounded by the Rocky Mountain National Park on the West and the Great Plains on the East, Denver is nestled in the heart of the USA.

Abstracts not to exceed 300 words must be submitted online for the ICPA by November 30, 2007. Each abstract will be reviewed for suitability based on scientific content and clarity. Those meeting these criteria will be accepted for presentation as either oral or poster presentations at the Conference. Authors of accepted abstracts will be entitled to present their research at the Conference after payment of registration fees. They will also be entitled to submit full papers (more details later) for the Conference Proceedings in March of 2008. A Conference Proceedings will be published on CD-ROM and will be available at the conference. Questions pertaining to abstract submissions should be addressed to abstracts@icpaonline.org. For general information about the ICPA please see the website: www.icpaonline.org.

ISTRO BRANCH NEWS

The Czech Republic Branch will be hosting their 5th International Soil Conference on June 20-July 2, 2008. For more information, please look at their website www.vupt.cz.

Several proposed new and almost-officially-completed ISTRO Branches are currently being developed in Iran, Lithuania, Mexico, and Croatia. New Branches are always welcomed and can help to further the global character of ISTRO.

The ISTRO Branch development Committee currently consists of Inge Hakansson, Willem Hoogmoed, and John Morrison. Please contact any or all of them for the assistance that your ISTRO Branch might need.

43rd CROATIAN & 3rd INTL. SYMPOSIUM ON AGRICULTURE

ISTRO members and others are invited to participate in a conference that will be held at the Grand Hotel Adriatic in Opatija, Croatia on February 18-21, 2008. The primary goal for this conference is to present to agronomists and the general public results of scientific and professional work of Croatian and international specialists addressing agricultural production. Themes for the plenary lectures will include (1) Croatian agriculture, agricultural and rural policies – status and outlooks in the EU accession process, (2) Relations between Croatian and European agriculture, (3) Applicability of science in agricultural practice, and (4) Non-food agriculture including production of alternative energy sources. Registration for the conference is 80 Euro before January 15, 2008, and 100 Euro thereafter. For more information about the conference please see the website <http://sa.agr.hr>

Ph.D. OPPORTUNITY IN SOIL PHYSICS

Per Schjønning, Senior Scientist at Aarhus University is looking for master students interested in international Ph.D. studies in soil physics. Attached to this issue of ISTRO-INFO is a PDF with additional information about their programs. **PLEASE NOTE:** the closing date for applications is November 1, 2007. For more information on the project please visit their web-site: <http://www.agrsci.dk/soil-it-is>

19th World Congress of Soil Science

The 19th World Congress of Soil Science will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, August 1-6, 2010. The Congress, held every four years, presents a global forum at which all those involved in Soil Science can meet with scientists, researchers, academics and professionals to discuss and find Soil Solutions for a Changing World. Details regarding the Congress are regularly updated on the website www.19wcscs.org.au. Please check out the site and be sure to register your interest in participating so that you can stay informed about the upcoming activities and deadlines.

DID YOU GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE?

ISTRO treasurer, Allen Torbert, recently sent ISTRO Membership certificates to everyone who has paid their membership dues. The certificates were sent as PDF files attached to an email message. Each acknowledges the membership in our organization and gives the year through which membership dues have been paid. If you did not receive your certificate, please contact Allen at: atorbert@acesag.auburn.edu.

FINAL COMMENTS

This issue of ISTRO-INFO is obviously filled with many opportunities to share your research results or to pursue further training. You will note that each issue is a little different because I depend on you – THE READERS – to send me information you wish to share. I encourage you to send me interesting summaries of recent experiments - even better your publications. Feel free to raise questions or make requests for your fellow ISTRO members to respond to. For example, with increasing global interest in harvesting crop residues for agro-energy and uses other than soil protection, what effects are you seeing in your countries? How are EU goals for increased organic production affecting your soil and tillage research programs? Is soil quality an issue in your country? Any of these issues would be of interest to many ISTRO-INFO readers. Once again, I also encourage the ISTRO Branches and Working groups to send information or reports about your activities. A Newsletter is only as good as the News it contains.

Doug Karlen
Assistant Secretary General