

WASWC HOT NEWS 2008 (09) SEPTEMBER 6, 2008 (FV)

Compiled and sent out monthly by Samran Sombatpanit, Editor

Pls send your contributions/ information for next issue/s of HOT NEWS and WASWC Newsletter to sombatpanit@yahoo.com and samran_sombatpanit@yahoo.com

This document is NOT properly edited, to enable a quick release, to meet many deadlines.

Previous information is available on the website <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>, subpage WASWC HOT NEWS

New items are highlighted in light blue for easy identification

This is **FULL VERSION** for posting on the web; the **Light Version** is sent to members by e-mail

REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

These are what every one of us can do to help mitigate global climate change - our imminent threat.



PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE YOU PRINT THIS HOT NEWS

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HOT JOB

Dresden University of Technology

Chair of Soil Science and Soil Protection

Post-doc position for a crop, soil or environmental scientist

For an interdisciplinary German-Brazilian research project about Integrated Assessment and Management Concept for Water Supply for the mega-city region Brasilia a post-doc position is offered for the period Oct 2008 until Dec 2010 (with possible extension for another 2 ½ years).

We are looking for a crop or soil or environmental scientist with experiences in tropical countries especially Latin America. She / he will be responsible for the analysis and assessment of agricultural and forest land use systems and vulnerability impact analysis with special focus on matter flow assessment. During the second phase GIS-based land use strategies for the catchments shall be developed and modelled considering climate and land use change scenarios.

Place of employment is Tharandt at Dresden University of Technology, Dresden, Germany.

The applicant should be able to speak English and Portuguese or Spanish fluently. Applications with a CV, publication list and information on soft skills should be sent to **Prof Dr Franz Makeschin** (makeschin@t-online.de), Institute of Soil Science and Site Ecology, Dresden University of Technology (see <http://boku.forst.tu-dresden.de/>) under the headword **IWAS-Soils** not later than September 15, 2008.

The job offer is also published under <http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/fas/dresden8081.html>.

Newsletter issue 24(2) for April-June 2008 will be ready soon and posted on the web.

Forty-four beautiful photos from closing ceremony of Beijing Olympics are posted on TAKE A BREAK page of our Guangzhou website as well as >100 photos on our Webshot photo website 2.

A new WASWC Special Publication on SOIL AND WATER ASSESSMENT TOOL (SWAT) will be published by the end of this year and we invite members and their institutions to join as co-publishers again, like what we did with the No-Till book. Details will be given in the next issue of HOT NEWS.

HOT MEETING

October 28-November 1, 2008

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

Investing In Sustainable Agriculture:

The Case of Conservation Agriculture and Direct Seeding Mulch-Based Cropping Systems

Phonsavanh, Xieng Khouang, Lao PDR

Organized by



In collaboration with



With financial assistance from



Workshop Objectives and Outputs

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. *Discuss on research and extension approaches* and transfer of knowledge for different stakeholders and to analyze the main constraints in up-scaling CA alternatives.
2. *Develop a knowledge base in the field of Conservation Agriculture* based on the experiences of the different countries of the GMS region in creating and validating CA and DMC systems.
3. *Strengthen and facilitate exchanges* between countries of the GMS region and to promote regional exchanges and synergies in the field of Conservation Agriculture.

Workshop Themes

- Agronomy and socio-economy of Conservation Agriculture and DMC systems.
- Environmental (services) economy and ecosystemic properties.
- Determining factors in up-scaling CA/DMC systems.
- Strategy and tools to interact in between stakeholders.

Deadline for submission of abstract is September 26, 2008. Drafts of selected presentations are expected for October, 17th. The Workshop language is English.

Some important Dates

1.	September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1st announcement▪ Selected papers announced by organizing committee and guidelines for paper preparation sent to potential speakers▪ Registration form posted on the web
2.	October 1, 2008	2 nd announcement – workshop program posted on web
3.	28 October - 1 November	Workshop
4.	June 2009	Publication of workshop proceedings

Provisional Workshop program (to be soon finalized):

Tuesday October 28, 2008

- *Session 1: Agronomy and socio-economy of Conservation Agriculture and DMC systems*

Wednesday, October 29, 2006

- *Session 2: Environmental (services) economy and ecosystemic properties*
- *Session 3: Determining factors in up-scaling CA/DMC systems*

Thursday, October 30, 2008

- *Session 4: Strategy and tools to interact in between stakeholders*
- Field visits

Friday October 31, 2008

- *Session 5: Working group on priorities themes for regional partnership (training and communication, research, exchanges...)*
- Field visits

Saturday November 1, 2008

- General discussion – Recommendations and presentation of working group discussion
- Closing

Details of the workshop will be ready by mid-September and will be published in the HOT NEWS extra as well as on the website www.nafri.org.la.

Contact: Workshop Secretariat:

CA-SCV Regional Workshop Secretary

National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute

PO Box 7170, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tel: 856-21-770-084, 856-21-770-027

Fax: 856-21-770-047, 856-21-770-027

Email: ca-scv2008@nafri.org.la; Website: www.nafri.org.la

JOBS

Opportunity to Join Revolutionary Agricultural Development Program as Program Officer for Soil Health Initiative

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has retained Kincannon & Reed to recruit a leader of its new soil health initiative within its Agricultural Development Program. We seek an exceptional, results-oriented leader for the Foundation's work in helping small-scale farmers in developing countries improve their soil management practices to make their land productive as possible while protecting natural resources.

Three-quarters of the world's poorest people – the 1 billion who live on \$1 a day or less – rely on agriculture to feed themselves and their families. Many small farmers in the developing world cannot grow enough food to sell or even eat. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (hereafter “the Foundation”) is working to break cycles of hunger and poverty by providing small farmers with the tools and opportunities to boost their productivity, increase their incomes, and build better lives for themselves and their families.

The Foundation's Global Development Program is one of three key grant-making areas tapping into an endowment of \$33 billion that supports work in more than 100 countries. Agricultural Development is a core sector of the Global Development Program (<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/GlobalDevelopment/Agriculture/>).

Working with wide range of partners, the Foundation is seeking to enhance the complete crop production value chain – from planting the highest quality seeds and improving farm management practices to bringing crops to market – while protecting farmers' natural environments.

The Agricultural Development Program is working with partners to improve crop yields in Africa and South Asia (with emphasis upon India, Pakistan and Bangladesh) where drought, insects, plant diseases, and depleted soil hinder productivity. In these areas of the globe, food production lags because its soils are low in nutrients, low in organic matter and have poor water holding capacity. The Foundation is embarking on a major soil health initiative that will support partners who are working to promote locally appropriate soil management practices and will invest in developing new soil health technologies and management practices to optimize the effectiveness of fertilizer and organic inputs in crop production.

We seek an experienced, driven leader to lead the new soil health initiative for the Foundation. This executive will assist in the development and management of strategies, plans, and a portfolio of high-impact grants in the crop productivity and soil health areas, contribute to the identification and selection of research program partners, and add creativity to the implementation and management of new and existing programs and partnerships. This Program Officer will play a key role in the Global Development Program's goal to help hundreds of millions of families in the developing world emerge from extreme poverty and hunger over the next 10 to 15 years.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Develop strategies, needs, and promising areas for soil health investments and project development related to:
 - Monitoring and analyzing trends and policy issues relevant to crop input access for small farmers.
 - Identifying, evaluating, and seizing new opportunities to reduce international inequity through improved crop input access.
 - Developing new soil technologies (e.g., high efficiency fertilizer, soil testing kits) and fertilizer formulation and production innovations to stimulate crop production growth.
 - Participating in strategic planning and initiation of projects to achieve program goals.
 - Forming partnerships with individuals and organizations to enhance the Foundation's strategic learning and investment plans.
- Build and manage a portfolio to execute key strategic objectives that are in keeping with overall program goals. This includes:
 - Partnering with grantees to develop projects, defining key outcomes and milestones, and ensuring robust evaluation of outcomes (e.g., the Foundation's investment in the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa's soil health program).
 - Consulting with grantees to achieve desired impact of grants, (e.g., conducting site visits, providing technical guidance, and convening meetings of key stakeholders).
 - Collaborating with team members to manage internal processes, portfolio progress, documentation, and grant budget information and reporting.
- Collaborate with other Agricultural Development program teams to ensure that efforts are aligned, supported, and enhanced by the work in other areas of the Foundation.
- Represent the Foundation to key external constituencies and participate on boards related to agricultural development (e.g., presentations and attending conferences and meetings).

General Candidate Profile:

We seek a visionary, passionate leader who has a track record of exceptional results working in the soil fertility management area and possesses private sector and/or consulting experience in the developing world. The ideal candidate will have:

- An advanced degree in soil science, agronomy, chemical engineering, biochemistry or a related plant science discipline and a minimum of 8 years experience in roles requiring excellent consultative and negotiation skills, such as a program officer or related role, responsible for managing programs and staff focusing on crop production systems and developing world issues.
- Experience leading or mentoring people and programs or initiatives in the soil health/fertility or fertilizer production areas. Experience recruiting and managing partners, consultants, employees and/or collaborative programs is desired.
- Strong analytical skills requiring the development and execution of creative business strategies combined with a sound understanding of business planning and budgeting methodologies and tools. Field experience in agricultural development is ideal, coupled with experience in collaborating in and with complex internal and external organizations.
- Experience developing and managing performance-based contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements.
- Demonstrated excellent research skills and a history of success in roles requiring logical, systematic thinking while managing multiple priorities in a highly dynamic environment.
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills, in positions requiring culturally sensitive communication with a broad and diverse audience. Demonstrated ability to work with flexibility, efficiency, and diplomacy both individually and as part of a complex team effort. Healthy sense of humor preferred. Possess highest integrity.
- Ability to travel 25% as needs dictate. The role is located in Seattle, Washington, USA.

For potential consideration as a candidate or to suggest a prospect, please contact in confidence:

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▲ PROFESSORSHIP AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

Kuwait University, Faculty of Science, Dept of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) invites application for appointment at ranks of Associate or Full Professor in the next academic year of 2008/2009 in the following areas:

- Mineralogy/ Petrology
- Stratigraphy/ Palynology
- Petroleum Geosciences/ Petroleum Reservoir
- Environmental Geology/ GIS
- Environmental Geology/ Land Degradation
- Environmental Geochemistry/ Clay Mineralogy
- Geophysics: I. Seismic Exploration and Seismology
II. Well logging and Potential Field Methods

Contact: Dean at jawadhi@kuc01.kuniv.edu.kw; Phone No. 965-4985602

▲ Science Director and Impact Director of CPWF (Challenge Program on Water and Food of CGIAR)

Dear Water and Food subscriber,

A new phase and a strengthened team – Opportunities to make a difference

It's an exciting time at the CPWF, with the onset of the successful program's second phase beginning in 2009. New leadership roles of CPWF Science Director and CPWF Impact Director are now being advertised on the [CPWF website](#) with links from the homepage. The CPWF team

AWARDS/ PRIZES/ FUNDS

▲ 2009 Call for Pre-Proposals for grants in support of one year of research related to global environmental change in Africa

START, the global change SysTEM for Analysis, Research and Training, seeks to enhance scientific capacity for global environmental change (GEC) research in developing regions. START seeks Pre-Proposals from African scientists for one-year projects on global environmental change in Africa. The Pre-Proposal must provide specific information on how the proposed research will contribute to:

- Improving knowledge of the Earth's changing climate and environment, including its natural variability, and/or how the research will improve understanding of the causes of observed variability and change. Improving quantification of the driving forces of changes in the Earth's climate and systems.
- Reducing uncertainty in projections of how the Earth's climate and related systems may change in the future
- Understanding the sensitivity and adaptability of different natural and managed ecosystems and human systems to climate and related global changes.
- Assessing impacts, adaptation and risk management strategies related to climate variability and change.

A Pre-Proposal may be submitted by any African scientist who is associated with an African institution of higher learning or with an African non-governmental organization. Proposals are due by EST on Friday, 15 August 2008.

For more information and the application see: http://www.start.org/Program/African_sm_grants.html.

▲ EPA & Puerto Rico Land Authority Announce Settlement to Improve Wetlands

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Puerto Rico Land Authority (PRLA) have reached a settlement that requires the creation of a task force to identify, monitor and protect wetlands in Puerto Rico in order to resolve a 2007 EPA complaint regarding Clean Water Act violations. According to the settlement, PRLA also will pay a \$25,000 (USD) penalty and set up a \$100,000 (USD) interest-bearing account, which will be used to establish a wetlands management program. View the [full news release](#).

Source: US EPA Region 2 news release, August 5, 2008.

▲ CGIAR Centers Receive US\$6 Million from Ireland to Combat Food Crisis

The Irish Government, through its Irish Aid program, is providing some €4.4 million (US \$6.47 million) in research funding to eight Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers working to achieve sustainable food security and reduce poverty in developing countries.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) will receive €640,000 (US \$940,800) to help advance its efforts in fighting hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa. Other research centers selected include Bioversity International, the World Potato Center (CIP) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

According to Peter Power, Minister of State for Overseas Development, the aid was being granted in response to spiraling food prices. Power said that top quality agricultural research plays a crucial role in improving the performance and sustainability of agriculture. He also sees research helping the poorest and most vulnerable farmers cope with the effects of climate change.

For more information, read http://www.iita.org/cms/details/news_details.aspx?articleid=1766&zoneid=81

▲ DOE and USDA Award \$10 Million for Cellulosic Biofuel Research

DOE and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced last week their plans to award 10 grants, totaling more than \$10 million, to accelerate fundamental research in the development of cellulosic biofuels. The grants will be provided through a joint DOE-USDA grant program that aims to accelerate fundamental research in biomass genomics and to further the use of cellulosic plant material for bioenergy and biofuels. The grant awardees include Colorado State University, the University of Massachusetts, Michigan State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University in Indiana, and the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research in New York, in addition to Oregon State University and the University of Georgia, which are both receiving two grants. DOE's Office of Biological and Environmental Research will provide \$8.8 million of the total funds for these awards, while USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service will provide \$2 million. See the [DOE press release](#).

Most of the awardees will be investigating ways to improve the performance of switchgrass, a fast-growing perennial grass that can be used to produce cellulosic ethanol. They'll be using a number of "model organisms"—simpler plants that can yield insight into the more complex switchgrass genome—including purple false brome (*Brachypodium distachyon*), foxtail millet, maize, and rice. One awardee will study the symbiotic relationship of switchgrass and soybeans to a fungi that boosts production, using model organisms like purple false brome and barrel medic (*Medicago truncatula*), a simple legume. In addition, two awardees will be studying sunflowers and poplar, which can also be converted into biofuels, while one project will develop computation tools for making better use of existing genome data. See the full list of awardees, which includes links to abstracts on the work, on [DOE's Genomics Web site](#).

▲ Excellent Development: Excellent Development, a new member of the PCLG, won both Environment

Charity of the year and Overall Charity of the Year at the recent UK Charity Awards. Excellent Development focuses on 'development through conservation' in semi-arid rural Africa, improving water supply, food production, health and incomes through community-constructed sand dams, terraces and tree planting.

www.excellentdevelopment.com

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▲ **Call for inputs: consultation to the voluntary sustainable agriculture standard**

At the end of July, the Multistakeholder Forum on Ethical Certification and Labeling began the second consultation phase of the Addendum to the voluntary sustainable agriculture standard, which will last until 23 September 2008. The addendum to the sustainable agriculture standard will consist of a set criteria for farms aiming to be certified by Rainforest Alliance. Compliance with the sustainable agriculture standard protects wildlife and agricultural workers. Certification also allows consumers who want to encourage good land stewardship and social practices the ability to choose products that correspond to the issues they consider to be important.

To participate, go to www.eclspace.org, and click "join us," and then join the ECL space. To comment on the documents, login, and click on "guidelines in development."

▲ **The Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program seeks applications to implement sustainable strategy for palm oil**

The Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP), a program of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and managed by Chemonics International Inc., is seeking grant applications from NGOs, private companies, public or private research institutions, or a consortium of any of the above to implement its strategy for the palm oil sector in cooperation with the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

Grants awarded in response to this request for grant applications will fall within one of the four components of BACP and within the broad parameters established in the BACP Market Transformation Strategy for Palm Oil. Only members of RSPO are eligible to apply, and materials are due by **30 September 2008**.

For more information see: www.bacp.net. Email bacppmu@chemonics.com with any questions

▲ **Google Earth Outreach - Grant Program**

http://www.google.com/earth/outreach/program_details.html

Google Earth Outreach supports non-profit organizations that share our mission of community service in areas such as education & culture, environment & science, current affairs, global development, public health and social services. As a non-profit organization you can use Google Earth Free to view and create KML files. You can post those KML files on your site or email them to your partners, donors, volunteers, and beneficiaries. You may not use Google Earth Free in the course of providing a paid service to other companies or organizations. As a part of Google Earth Outreach, we grant Google Earth Pro licenses to qualifying organizations. Google Earth Pro has powerful authoring features which allow for GIS data importation such as .shp and tab files, a movie making module, and a high resolution printing feature.

In the United Kingdom - Organisations must be based in the United Kingdom and registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator or by the Inland Revenue to be considered for a Google Grant.

Other countries/regions - We are currently accepting applications from eligible charitable organizations based in [Brazil](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Spain](#), [Switzerland](#), and the [United States](#). If you belong to any other country than listed here you may also try to contact at http://www.google.com/earth/outreach/program_details.html as I heard recently that they have also opened up for many other countries.

▲ EU Considers Euro 1B Aid to Help Developing Countries

The European Commission has supported a plan to give Euro 1 billion (\$1.6 billion) to help farmers from developing countries cope up with spiraling prices of agricultural inputs. The support, which would operate for two years, would be in addition to existing development funds and would be taken from unused money from the European Union's agricultural budget. According to the commission, the facility would give priority to supply-side measures, improving access to farm inputs such as fertilizers and seed, possibly through credit, and to safety net measures aimed at improving productive capacity in agriculture.

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, said: "The impact of high food prices is particularly severe for the world's poorest populations. It may put at risk our progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and exacerbate tensions in poor countries, namely in Africa. This 1 billion Euro facility aims to generate a strong and rapid agricultural supply response." The Commission hopes that the plans can be approved by November, to allow commitment of funds in 2008 and implementation in early 2009.

The media release is available at

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1186&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

▲ Manthan Award South Asia 2008 (Best e-content for Development)



We are pleased to announce the launch of "Manthan Award South Asia 2008" recognising best ICT & e-Content Practices and Innovations for Development. Nominations are open for 2008 from e-Content innovators, practitioners and creators across South Asian Countries who wish to nominate their products and innovations for this prestigious award.

Nominations are invited in 15 categories: e-business; e-learning; e-culture; e-government; e-health; e-enterprise and livelihood; e-entertainment; e-education; e-environment; e-inclusion; e-localization; e-news; e-youth; m-content; community broadcasting. To file nominations please visit www.manthanaward.org or <http://www.manthanaward.org/NomProduct.asp>

The Manthan Award is an initiative of Digital Empowerment Foundation with strategic support from Department of Information Technology, Government of India, and World Summit Award Austria.

For further details contact:

Ms. Ravi Kanta / Mr. Md. Niyaz

The Manthan Award South Asia 2008 Secretariat, 12/17, Sarvapriya Vihar,
New Delhi – 1100016, INDIA

Tel: 011-26532786 / 26532787 / 46024552 / 46080646; Telefax: 011-26532787

Email: manthanaward@gmail.com

▲ Asian Scientific and Technical Awards of WASWC 2008

We would like to inform you that WASWC Asia is now looking for the candidate for the Asian Scientific and Technical awards of WASWC 2008. The awards of WASWC Asia are conferred to WASWC member in Asia who contributed the development and progress of soil and water conservation. **(Closing date: September 30, 2008)**

Please see a content of "Awards" on the WASWC website: www.waswc.org/

If you have further questions, please contact Institute of Environment Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON), a host institution of WASWC, hq-erecon@nifty.com or waswc@nifty.com.

Hiromu OKAZAWA, Dr., Website operator of WASWC Tokyo

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▲ Alcan Prize for Sustainability News www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com.

2008 Alcan Prize for Sustainability: Call for Entries

The 2008 Prize will be open for entries from Sunday 1st June 2008.

Entry forms and criteria will be available online at www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com

To confirm your organization is eligible to enter, view: www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com/eligibility_en

The closing date is **12th September 2008** at midnight GMT.

Contact Us manager@alcanprizeforsustainability.com.

▲ The [United Nations Foundation](#) is now accepting proposals for small grants to support **UNESCO World Heritage site conservation and sustainable tourism projects**.

Please refer to the attached documents for applicant eligibility, application procedures and requirements, and the timeline for grant review and award.

Qualified community-based initiatives around the Sian Ka'an World Heritage site or the Belize Barrier Reef World Heritage site are encouraged to apply.

If you have further questions, please contact Lulu Zhou at LZhou@unfoundation.org

▲ **Call for Applicants: Fulbright Scholar Awards in Agriculture**

Applications continue to be accepted for Fulbright Scholar awards for lecturing, research or combined lecturing/research awards in agriculture during the 2008-2009 academic year. Faculty in agriculture may apply not only for awards specifically in their field, but also for one of the many "All Discipline" awards open to any field. Visit www.cies.org for descriptions of available awards and new eligibility requirements. Awards are closing daily, so please consult the relevant program officer before applying.

▲ **FORESTRY FUNDING NEWS ALERT** This electronic newsletter is compiled by the FAO Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) team. It is a compilation of news related to forestry funding for fund seekers worldwide. All back issues of the newsletter can be found on the CPF Sourcebook's discussion platform at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/community/main/listthreads?forum=1>.

▲ **Fund from the Global Environment Facility (GEF, www.thegef.org)** is open for you to send proposal for small grants of US\$15,000 each (at least, but can be more). See some more information in the WASWC Newsletter 22(4) on our website. You may contact 'Al' (Alfred Duda) at aduda@thegef.org. Refer to him where you have seen this news. **There is NO deadline.**

▲ **Echoing Green** (a funding resource), www.echoinggreen.org/

Launched in 1987, Echoing Green's mission is to spark social change by identifying, investing and supporting the world's most exceptional emerging leaders and the organizations they launch. Through a two-year fellowship program, we help our network of visionaries develop new solutions to society's most difficult problems. These social entrepreneurs and their organizations work to close deeply-rooted social, economic and political inequities to ensure equal access and to help all individuals reach his/her potential. To date, Echoing Green has invested nearly \$25 million in seed and start up grants to over 400 social entrepreneurs and their innovative organizations.

▲ **USAID** (until **December 5, 2008**) US Agency for International Development

Public-Private Alliances - Modification 2, <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=40156>

▲ **Metcalf Institute Awards \$75,000 Grantham Prize to The New York Times**

From: [University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography](#); Published July 9, 2008 03:35 PM

NARRAGANSETT, RI — David Barboza, Keith Bradsher, Howard French, Joseph Kahn, Chang W. Lee, Jimmy Wang, and Jim Yardley of The New York Times are the 2008 winners of the Grantham Prize for Excellence in Reporting on the Environment. The reporting team will receive the \$75,000 prize for "Choking on Growth," their 10-part series about the environmental degradation that has accompanied China's unprecedented development.

Contact Info: Bud Ward, (703) 307-0150, wardbud@gmail.com

Website: [Grantham Prize](#)

▲ **The Whitley Awards**

A Whitley Award is a top nature conservation prize, designed to provide the winner with:

- International recognition that enhances their credibility

- Worldwide media visibility for their project
- Financial support to pursue their ongoing conservation work
- A supportive international network of other Whitley Award winners and Friends through which to solicit advice and support.

At each Whitley Award Ceremony there are up to nine Whitley Awards of £30,000 each, plus the Whitley Gold Award. The Gold Award is worth £60,000 over two years. It is awarded annually to the Whitley Award winner whose work and objectives most impress the Judging Panel each year. The further funding provided by this Award grants a second year of funding to the Gold Award winner. All of the Whitley Award winners are automatically considered for the Gold Award, so there is no separate application process.

Whitley Awards were developed to recognise conservation leaders from around the world who are applying sustained effort to conserve the natural environment. Our scope of interest has in the past included, but is not limited to: protecting endangered ecosystems and species, promoting sustainability, and influencing environmental policies.

Every applicant and project is considered on their own merits. However, there are a number of premises which guide the Whitley Award Judging Panel, and it is recommended that you read this information carefully before applying. Please see the [Application process](#) section for details. To check your eligibility, we also recommend you read our [FAQs](#) section.

If you know of a conservation leader who you believe should apply for the Whitley Award, please ask him or her to visit the website for all details of how to apply. Successful applicants will receive funding in June 2009, and most will need to submit a final report by July 2010. You might be able to think of a colleague working somewhere in your country, or elsewhere in the developing world whom you think is doing great grassroots conservation work and would be a good Whitley Award candidate.

Alternatively, if you have not won a full Whitley Award before, were a small grant winner who has fully completed and reported on your project, and would like to reapply for the Whitley Award, do please give me an email if you want to discuss this.

A reminder of things we look for:

- Proven, passionate leaders who are ambassadors for conservation
- Value for money
- Evidence of proven success and likelihood of future sustainability
- Genuine community involvement
- Based on sound science – though team leader may not necessarily be a scientist (that expertise may be on the team).
- Projects that would benefit from the publicity associated with the award
- There is a strong bias towards the funding of nationals of countries that are biodiversity rich but resource and capacity poor.

Please remember that WFN currently does not fund undergraduate projects, expeditions, MScs, or pure-research PhD work.

Applicants must be able to communicate in English, and be capable of compiling a written report to describe and quantify the success of their work with appropriate academic references.

The next deadline for the Whitley Awards is Friday 31st October 2008. Please ensure you apply in good time to meet the deadline.

The five easy steps to apply are available at http://www.whitleyaward.org/application_process.php

▲ **WildlifeDirect funds for good field conservation projects**

WildlifeDirect was established by Richard Leakey in response to the chronic under funding of conservation in Africa, particularly for protected areas. We are based in Nairobi, Kenya and registered as a charity in USA and UK. We raise funds through the internet by providing an easy mechanism for a community of concerned people to give donations to specific conservation projects. To advertise and promote the projects we provide the website platform for conservationists to tell their stories through online weblogs, diaries or blogs on our website www.wildlifedirect.org. These voices from the front line are a compelling reason for any visitor to get interested and to support the project.

Individuals interested in supporting a project can donate directly to the cause through the website with the satisfaction of knowing that we do not deduct any overhead charges. This website creates communities – donors and concerned individuals can also interact directly with the person writing the blog. Hence the name, WildlifeDirect.

How to get started

Write an email expressing interest to Paula Kahumbu, Conservation Director, WildlifeDirect, paula@wildlifedirect.org

We will evaluate eligibility of the project. If eligible, further information is requested to set up the blog which takes only a few minutes. The entire process currently takes about 2 weeks depending on how quickly the applicant can provide information.

Visit WildlifeDirect.org to see how it works.

▲ ▲ ▲ OTHER GRANTS-AWARDS from F. X. Browne, Inc. website

Click on a grant for more information) August 2008

Only currently available grants are listed on the grant page

[PennVEST Infrastructure Loans/Grants](#)

[REAP Round 2 Funding](#)

[PA Canoe Access Development Grants](#)

[EPA Water Quality Trading Funding](#)

[ANJEC's 2008 New Jersey Environmental Achievement Awards](#)

[PA Boating Facilities Grant Program](#)

[Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Funding](#)

[PPL Educational Grants Program](#)

NEWS FROM EIJKELKAMP AGRISEARCH EQUIPMENT

Product special

Wet sieving apparatus

To determine the aggregate stability of soil, 8 sieves are filled with a certain amount of soil aggregates. These sieves are placed in a can filled with water, which will move up and downward for a fixed time. Unstable aggregates will fall apart and pass through the sieve and are collected in the water-filled can underneath the sieve. The testing procedure results in an index for aggregate stability.

Benefits:

- Determines susceptibility for (splash) erosion
- Works based on simple disturbed samples
- Pre-programmed grain-wash time

[Read More...](#)

Eijkelpkamp Agrisearch Equipment BV

P.O. Box 4, 6987 ZG GIESBEEK (NL) / Nijverheidsstraat 30, 6987 EM GIESBEEK (NL)

T: 0031 (0)313 880 282

F: 0031 (0)313 880 298

I: www.eijkelpkamp.com



FELLOWSHIPS

▲ The African Climate Change Fellowship Program

La version française de ce message est disponible en bas.

Applications are invited for the inaugural round of African Climate Change Fellowships. The African Climate Change Fellowship Program (ACCFP) aims to support African professionals, researchers and graduate students to undertake activities that will enhance their capacities for advancing and applying knowledge for climate change adaptation in Africa. The program is jointly administered by the global change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (START), the Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA) of the University of Dar es Salaam and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), with financial support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

This Call for Applications is extended to researchers, scientists, and academics working in fields related to climate change and climate change adaptation as well as professionals and practitioners with experience and responsibilities related to policy, planning or management of climate sensitive resources, sectors, systems or livelihoods.

A variety of Fellowship types are offered to support projects, research, and other activities that advance adaptation in Africa. The Fellowships range in duration from 2-18 months, and award amounts range from USD \$5,000 - \$36,000, depending on Fellowship type. Eligibility is limited to citizens of member states of the African Union who are 40 years of age or younger.

A description of each Fellowship type and instructions and guidelines for preparing and submitting an application to be an ACCFP Fellow are provided in the 2008 Call for Applications. The 2008 Call for Applications and other required application materials are available on the Pan-African START Secretariat's website at: <http://accfp.pass-africa.org>.

All application materials must be received no later than **17 September 2008**. Applications that are incomplete or received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

If you have questions about the ACCFP and this Call for Applications or if you have trouble accessing the ACCFP website and application materials, please contact the Pan-African START Secretariat at pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz.

We ask that you please help us spread the word about this exciting opportunity to other colleagues and friends. Forward this email to qualified individuals that might be interested to apply!

Clark Seipt

Cher collègues et amis,

Les candidats sont invités à se manifester dans le cadre de la session d'ouverture des bourses pour la recherche sur le changement climatique en Afrique. Le programme de bourses de recherche sur le changement climatique en Afrique (African Climate Change Fellowship Program - ACCFP) vise à appuyer les professionnels, chercheurs et étudiants en deuxième cycle Africains dans la mise en œuvre d'activités permettant de développer leurs capacités et connaissances sur l'adaptation au changement climatique en Afrique. Le Programme est conjointement géré par le Système d'analyse, de recherche et de formation concernant le changement au niveau mondial (global change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training -START), l'Institut d'évaluation des ressources (Institute of Resource Assessment - IRA) de l'Université de Dar es Salaam et l'Académie Africaine des Sciences (AAS), avec le soutien financier du Centre de Recherche pour le Développement International (CRDI) canadien.

Cet appel à candidatures s'étend aux chercheurs, scientifiques et académiciens travaillant dans des domaines liés au changement climatique et à l'adaptation au changement climatique et aussi aux professionnels et spécialistes qui ont de l'expérience et des responsabilités liés à la politique, la planification ou la gestion des ressources, secteurs, systèmes ou moyens de subsistance vulnérables au climat.

Une variété de types de bourses de recherche est offerte dans le but de soutenir les projets, la recherche et les autres activités qui permettent des avancées sur l'adaptation en Afrique. Les bourses de recherche ont une durée variant de 2 à 18 mois, et le montant accordé varie de 5 000 à 36 000 dollars, selon le type de bourse. L'éligibilité est restreinte aux citoyens des pays membres de l'Union Africain âgés de 40 ans ou moins.

Une description de chaque type de bourse de recherche ainsi que les instructions et directives pour la préparation et le dépôt d'une candidature pour être boursier ACCFP sont disponibles dans l'appel à candidatures 2008. L'appel à candidatures 2008 ainsi que les documents nécessaires au dépôt d'une candidature sont disponibles sur le site Internet du Secrétariat Panafricain START à l'adresse suivante: <http://accfp.pass-africa.org>.

Les documents nécessaires au dépôt d'une candidature doivent être soumis au plus tard le **17 septembre 2008**. Les candidatures incomplètes ou reçues après la date limite ne seront pas étudiées.

Si vous avez des questions à propos d'ACCFP et de cet appel à candidatures, ou si vous avez des problèmes pour accéder au site Internet et aux documents de candidature d'ACCFP, merci de contacter le Secrétariat panafricain START à l'adresse suivante: pass@ira.udsm.ac.tz.

Nous vous remercions de bien vouloir faire suivre ce message à propos de cette opportunité à vos autres collègues et amis, et aux individus qualifiés susceptibles de postuler!

Je vous prie d'agréer, Madame, Monsieur, mes respectueuses salutations,

Clark Seipt cseipt@agu.org, <http://www.start.org>

▲ **TWAS fellowships for post-graduate and post-doctoral training**

Research professors of members of academy of science for developing countries (TWAS) for Least Developed Countries

▲ **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.

Becky J. Roland, Secretary (OA)

Soil and Water Quality Unit, National Soil Tilth Laboratory, 515-294-5014, Becky.Roland@ars.usda.gov

▲ **Opportunity to apply for fellowships to study in Australia towards a doctorate; write to:**

Professor Paul Martin, Director, paul.martin@une.edu.au; Direct phone: 0416015161
or Dr Ian Hannam, ian.hannam@ozemail.com.au, Both of the Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law
Faculty of Economics, Business and Law, University of New England Armidale, 2351 NSW Australia
www.une.edu.au/aglaw

COURSES

▲ Understanding the Clean Water Act: An Online Course

The River Network is proud to announce the resurrection of the online course, Understanding the Clean Water Act. Course content will help users isolate specific water quality problems, identify possible solutions, develop and leverage existing programs and build effective outreach tools. The course is appropriate for staff, interns, volunteers and board members interested in learning more about the force of the Clean Water Act and related tools. <http://www.cleanwateract.org>

▲ [Arab Forum for Environment and Development \(AFED\)](#)

SupercourseA global repository of lectures on public health and prevention

▲ Community-based Mapping Course

This is a 5-week online course being offered by the International Institute for Sustainable Development at Colorado State University. Course runs September 12-October 17, 2008. The deadline to register is September 9, 2008.

Mapping can be a powerful tool for communities to better manage and protect natural and cultural resources. However there are numerous technical, social, and ethical considerations that communities, NGOs, and funding agencies should consider prior to engaging any mapping efforts. This course will be valuable for both novices and mapping professionals.

This course will explore theories, ethics, applications, and methods of community-based mapping and its role in participatory learning and action as well as larger processes of integrated community-based development. This course, while drawing on many of the recent case studies, academic writings, and reports from the field, will be highly interactive and will emphasize the sharing of experiences, ideas, and insights from course participants.

Upon completion of this course participants will be able to:

- * Understand the basic principles, theories, and ethics of Community-based mapping and its role in Community-based development

- * Identify which mapping methods and tools are most appropriate to achieve the desired objectives in your community

- * Understand some of the various political, cultural, and social organizational factors in Community-based mapping projects

- * Collect and map geographic information through local knowledge and participation of community members

- * Locate and utilize existing geographic information data sets, online and elsewhere, for specific project areas

- * Understand the basic features and operation of Geographic Position Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and their applications in Community-based mapping

For more information: <http://www.colostate.edu/Orgs/IISD/courses/Mapping.html>

▲ Introductory Course in Bioinformatics at AGERI Egypt

The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA), in cooperation with Egypt's Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute (AGERI), will organize an introductory training course in bioinformatics. The training will be held at AGERI, Giza, Egypt from **November 23 to December 2, 2008**. Fourteen candidates will be selected from AARINENA member countries and 3 from APAARI. Research assistants, junior researchers, university lecturers, assistant lecturers and bioengineers working in the area of biotechnology are welcome to apply.

Contact Dr. Dina El-Khishin (khishin@ageri.sci.eg) or visit <http://www.ageri.sci.eg/> for more information.

▲ **IWES courses** are supported by the Australian Water Association.

- * New Integrated Water Resources Management Course
- * IWES Gold Coast 2008
- * WaterAid
- * What is IWES? Who Attends IWES? "IWES"; send@m2news.com.au, www.iwes.com.au

▲ 2008

Rodale Institute offers online course on transition to organic agriculture for free

The Rodale Institute's Organic Transition Course is a 15-hour online program designed to help US farm managers understand the national organic standards and use them as a framework for making the transition to organic production. The course is hosted by the Rodale Institute's farm manager, Jeff Moyer, and covers the fundamental principles of organic agriculture, practical details about organic crop and livestock production, marketing opportunities available to organic producers and recordkeeping. The course can be taken anywhere participants have access to a computer connected to the Internet. There are no set course hours, registration fees or tests to take.

The Rodale Institute works with farmers to provide the know-how, tools and techniques they need to succeed in sustainable agriculture; policy-makers the information they need to best support farmers; and consumers with the resources they need to make informed decisions about the food they buy and eat. FREE

For more information on the course see: <http://www.tritrainingcenter.org/course/>.

For more information on the Rodale Institute see: <http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/>.

2008

▲ Several training courses in India by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

<http://www.icar.org.in/miscel/inttrg07.pdf>

October-November 2008

▲ FACILITATING COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Uganda: 20-31 OCTOBER 2008

▲ PARTICIPATORY PLANNING MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Kenya: 17-28 NOVEMBER 2008

To enroll ... Please contact us for the course brochures which provide further details. To register, simply fill in the application form and email it back to us.

In Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya: The two-week course is \$1,500 for international delegates and \$1,300 for residents of the host country.

This amount covers tuition fees, training handouts, field/agency visits, full board accommodation, and airport transfers. Participants are expected to cater for travel, medical and insurance covers as well as out of pocket allowances.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nicola Kiara

Training Assistant, Capacity Development for Poverty Reduction

International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Africa Regional Centre

P.O. Box 66873-00800, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: 254-20-4442610, 4440991; Fax: 254-20-4448148; training@iirr-africa.org

Physical address: Westlands, Brookside Grove off Waiyaki Way, Brookside Close

PHOTO COMPETITIONS

▲ Oikocredit has organised a photo competition entitled “How fair is your world?”. Are you interested in participating? Take a photograph of yourself or someone else to show us what fair financing and being a fair trade consumer means to you or them.

The winner will visit one of Oikocredit's project partners in Asia, Africa or Latin America and will be able to see with his or her own eyes how Oikocredit's fair financing can support people to empower themselves.

Instructions:

- The competition is open to amateur photographers only.
- Entries must be received by **31 October 2008**.
- Pictures must be submitted to photocompetition@oikocredit.org accompanied by:
 - name of the photographer, address and contact phone number.
 - a short description of what or who is depicted in the photograph (name, age, country, job) + you or their words on fair financing
- Ensure that the photograph is high-quality, so it can be used in publications or in other ways at a later date.
- Upon sending the photograph, you should receive a confirmation mail with as sender photocompetition@oikocredit.org. If you do not receive this mail, it may have been rejected by your provider. Resend the message in a lower resolution.
- By entering the competition, the entrant verifies that he/she has read and agrees to the [Rules of Entry](#).

▲ Also don't forget to send your good photos concerning soil, water and other natural resources to sombatpanit@yahoo.com to enter competition in WASWC, with 3 books to the 3 winners in 3 months!

EXHIBITIONS

▲ Eijkelkamp Agrisearch Equipment BV

From the 30th of September to the 3rd of October Eijkelkamp will attend the [Aquatech](#) in Amsterdam. Come and visit **Eijkelkamp Agrisearch Equipment BV** in hall 7 at stand number 302.A

The World of water technology in Amsterdam

Aquatech Amsterdam: September 30 to October 3, 2008

Aquatech Amsterdam is the world's leading trade exhibition on process, drinking and waste water technology. The exhibition programme provides an extensive overview of the latest developments in the fields of:

- Water treatment
- Transport and storage
- Process control and process automation
- Point of use

When

Tuesday 30 September	10.00-18.00 hours
Wednesday 1 October	10.00-18.00 hours
Thursday 2 October	10.00-18.00 hours
Friday 3 October	10.00-17.00 hours

Where

Amsterdam RAI Exhibition Centre
Hall 1 – 7, Europaplein 8, 1078 GZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Go to the [route description](#) for directions on how to get to Amsterdam RAI. Profit from [free public transportation](#) within the Netherlands for all visitors of Aquatech Amsterdam 2008.

▲ June 14-September 14, 2008

[Zaragosa 2008 Conference](#) and Exposition **Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015** [UNESCO]

▲ Soil Exhibition opened 19th July – Smithsonian, Washington, USA

There are more living creatures in a shovel full of rich soil than human beings on the planet. Yet more is known about the dark side of the moon than about soil. These are just a few of the fascinating facts visitors can learn at the National Museum of Natural History's new exhibition, "Dig it! The Secrets of Soil," that opened at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The 460 sq m exhibition reveals the complex world of soil and how this ecosystem underfoot supports nearly every form of life on earth. "Dig It!" includes interactive displays, hands-on models, videos, and 54 soil monoliths. For further information click [here](#).

▲ Don't forget about the **Soils Museum** ideas. Learn more from <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn/soilsmuseums.html> and try to do it in your country/area. The usefulness of it is enormous, I assure you!

▲ Environmental Connection—the world's largest soil and water event

Future Locations and Dates for Environmental Connection

EC09

Reno Convention Center and the Atlantis Casino Hotel, Reno, Nevada, USA
February 9–12, 2009.

[Find out about exhibiting at EC09 »](#); [Make your travel plans »](#)

EC10

Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, USA, February 14–18, 2010

EC11

Coronado Springs Resort
Orlando, Florida, USA
February 21–25, 2011

This is the premier educational event for the erosion and sediment control industry. **Environmental Connection** combines intense, full day training courses with topic-focused technical sessions and the largest expo of its kind.

Over 4 days, **Environmental Connection** provides peer-reviewed education, products and technology which address eight technology sections:

- [Slope Stabilization](#)
- [Stream Restoration](#)
- [Vegetative Establishment](#)
- [Stormwater Management](#)
- [Wetlands Technology](#)
- [Erosion and Sediment Control](#)
- [Beach and Shoreline Stabilization](#)
- New: Wind Erosion Technology



How can you be a part of this event?

To become an exhibitor at the next **Environmental Connection** contact IECA's Director of Events and Sales at events@ieca.org or call 800-455-4322 x 15 (+1 970-879-3010 outside the US)

To find out more about the conference, [join our mailing list](#). More information will be available beginning in June. If you have additional questions, contact IECA at ecinfo@ieca.org or call 880-455-4322 (+1 970-879-3010 outside the US).

NEW INFORMATION SOURCES (Every item is new every time)

BOOKS

▲ **Book on Use of Insect-resistant GM Crops within IPM Programs**

A newly released book, *Integration of Insect-Resistant Genetically Modified Crops within IPM Programs*, provides the first comprehensive synthesis of the role of insect-resistant GM crops in crop protection. The book was edited by Jörg Romeis (Agroscope ART, Switzerland), Anthony Shelton (Cornell University, USA) and George Kennedy (North Carolina State University, USA) with the goal of providing an overview of the role insect-resistant GM plants play in different crop systems worldwide. A total of 42 authors from around the globe have reviewed the latest available information on insect-resistant GM crops, ranging from their biological and ecological activity to their economic and social impact. The editors hope the book will contribute to a more rational debate about the role GM crops can play in IPM for food and fiber production.

The book content and ordering information is available at http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-1-4020-8372-3?sa_campaign=email/NBA

▲ **STATE OF THE WORLD 2008**

Ideas and Opportunities for Sustainable Economies

Worldwatch Institute

▲ **National Geographic – cover story on soils**

The September issue of the National Geographic Magazine has a cover story on soils, entitled: Where food begins. Inside the magazine there is a long article: "Our Good Earth - The future rests on soil. Can we protect it?" with stories from North and South America, Africa and China and as always, with nice pictures. There is also story on soil degradation in Haiti. Both the article and pictures can be viewed online for free at www.nationalgeographic.com. The website contains also a little interactive quiz, click [here](#). The English edition of the National Geographic is read by 40 million readers – but there are editions in many languages and all have the Soil story on the cover!

▲ **World Reference Base for Soil Resources - Now in German**

The World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB) became in 1998 the official soil classification system of the IUSS. In order to improve access of the WRB for German speaking scientists and administrators, it was proposed during the 18th World Congress of Soil Science in 2006 to provide a German edition. The Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) decided to prepare such a German version and the translation was done by Peter Schäd of the TU München. The German WRB edition is available here, and for a paperback, please send an e-mail to Info@bgr.de or Rainer.Baritz@bgr.de.

▲ **THE ISIS AGREEMENT: How Sustainability Can Improve Organizational Performance and Transform the World** Alan AtKisson

'AtKisson's Accelerator tools and ISIS Method are powerful - I've seen them in action. This book is the essential guide, while also being an inspiring and informative read for just about anybody.'

Hunter Lovins, President and founder of the Natural Capitalism Solutions

▲ **UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABILITY ECONOMICS: Towards Pluralism in Economics** Peter Söderbaum

'An erudite articulation of an alternative economic thinking ... I recommend this book to all those who desire to see economics address the human condition.'

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-Habitat, and Under-Secretary-General, United Nations

▲ [THE SUSTAINABILITY HANDBOOK: The Complete Management Guide to Achieving Social, Economic and Environmental Responsibility](#) William R. Blackburn

'The first complete, practical book about sustainability for all types of organizations.'

George P. Nassos, Director, Environmental Management Program and Center for Sustainable Enterprise, Illinois Institute of Technology

▲ [THE BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUSTAINABILITY: Practical Strategies and Tools for Organizations](#) Darcy Hitchcock and Marsha Willard

Winner of Choice Magazine - Outstanding Academic Titles for 2007

'At a time when 'big' business is beginning to mean 'sustainable' business, small businesses can easily get left out. Hitchcock and Willard have filled this vital gap admirably.' *Tim O'Riordan, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, UK*

▲ [ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS: Political Economics for Social and Environmental Development](#) Peter Söderbaum

Ecological Economics seeks to socially construct a political economics that will deal successfully with environmental problems and make the individual more visible in economic analysis.

Several new sections have been added to the IUSS website in recent months

All IUSS bulletins number 1 (1952) to 112 (May 2008) are now as PDF on the web: 1952-1974 (F.A. van Baren), 1974-1978 (R. Dudal), 1978-1990 (W.G. Sombroek), 1990-2002 (W. Blum).

All World Soil Science Congress proceedings have been scanned and are available as PDF. About half of all proceedings are downloadable – each book is a PDF and the files are up to 500 Mb. As all PDFs exceed 25 GB the website is being migrated – eventually it will all be on the IUSS website.

Pictures and historical documents have been scanned and these include the ISSS reconstruction from 1950, old membership lists, historical accounts and over 50 high resolution pictures from 1909 to 1990.

Best Paper in Pedometrics 2007

Nominations have been made for the, "Best Paper in Pedometrics 2007". We urge all members of IUSS to examine these papers, and to vote by email to b.minasny@usyd.edu.au with "Best Paper 2007" in the subject line. List the papers by number (as below) in order of preference, with the paper you regard as the most worthy winner listed first. The vote will end on 30th November 2008. Certificates will be presented at Pedometrics 2009 in Beijing.

1. Kerry, R. & Oliver, M.A. 2007. The analysis of ranked observations of soil structure using indicator geostatistics. *Geoderma*, 140, 397–416.
2. Lark, R.M. 2007. Inference about soil variability from the structure of the best wavelet packet basis. *European Journal of Soil Science*, 58, 822–831.
3. Li, W. 2007. Transiograms for characterizing spatial variability of soil classes. *Soil Science Society of America Journal*, 71, 881–893.
4. Viscarra Rossel, R.A., Taylor, H.J. & McBratney, A.B. 2007. Multivariate calibration of hyperspectral γ -ray energy spectra for proximal soil sensing. *European Journal of Soil Science*, 58, 343–353.
5. Weller, U., Zipprich, M., Sommer, M., Zu Castell, W. & Wehrhan, M. 2007. Mapping clay content across boundaries at the landscape scale with electromagnetic induction. *Soil Science Society of America Journal*, 71, 1740–1747.

The abstracts and PDFs of these papers are available at www.pedometrics.org/best_paper_2007.asp

Some Special Issues

- Ecological indicators at multiple scales, Edited by Giovanni Zurlini and Philippe Girardin *Ecological Indicators*, Volume 8, Issue 6, Pages 781-862 (November 2008)
- Mercury Cycling and Bioaccumulation in the Environment, Edited by Reed Harris, Karen Kidd and Jamie Shanley *Environmental Pollution*, Volume 154, Issue 1, Pages 1-154 (July 2008)
- Radionuclides in soils, 1960 to 2006: A view from the World Congress of Soil Science, Edited by Edward R. Landa and Shigeo Uchida. *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity*, Volume 99, Issue 6, Pages 873-1010 (June 2008)
- Soils and Waste Management: A Challenge to Climate Change, Edited by Claudio Mondini, Miguel A. Sánchez-Monedero, Maria Luz Cayuela and Ed Stentiford *Waste Management*, Volume 28, Issue 4, Pages 671-774 (2008)
- Modelling Pedogenesis, Edited by S. Cornu, A. Samouëlian and J. Phillips. *Geoderma*, Volume 145, Issues 3-4, Pages 177-504 (15 June 2008)
- Antarctic Soils and Soil Forming Processes in a Changing Environment, Edited by James G. Bockheim and Megan Balks. *Geoderma*, Volume 144, Issues 1-2, Pages 1-414 (15 March 2008)
- Fire Effects on Soil Properties, Edited by X. Úbeda and J. Mataix-Solera. *Catena*, Volume 74, Issue 3, Pages 175-334 (15 August 2008)

Free access to scientific literature

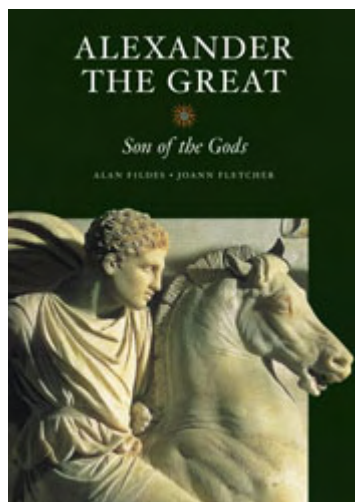
If your library has no subscriptions to your favourite scientific journals then there are various ways to get to the papers:

TEEAL is a project of Cornell University's Albert R. Mann Library in cooperation with over 60 major scientific publishers, societies and index providers. TEEAL contains: 130+ agricultural journals, Full-text articles, 1993-2008 coverage, Index database, Offline tool (no Internet or phone line required). It works on a stand alone PC or network, more info click [here](#).

The AGORA program, set up by FAO together with major publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to a digital library collection in the fields of food, agriculture, environmental science and related social sciences. AGORA provides a collection of 1278 journals to institutions in 107 countries. AGORA is designed to enhance the scholarship of the many thousands of students, faculty and researchers in agriculture and life sciences in the developing world, more info click [here](#).

Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE), an international public-private consortium coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Yale University, and leading science and technology publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of environmental science research. Over 1,300 peer reviewed titles owned and published by over 340 publishing houses and scholarly societies are now available in more than 100 low income countries, more info click [here](#).

INASP's Mission is to enable a sustainable network of stakeholders that owns and drives access, use, dissemination and communication of research information. As part of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) publishers and networks of libraries work together to enable access to scholarly information using ICTs within the developing and emerging countries. This project includes: over 20,000 full text online journals, many of the world's leading citation, bibliographic and reference databases, document delivery from over 20,000 research journals, CD-ROM (or DVD) format can be provided where they are available, more info click [here](#).



▲ *For our armchair historians*

Alexander the Great

Son of the Gods

Alan Fildes and Joann Fletcher

<http://www.getty.edu/bookstore/titles/son.html>

J. Paul Getty Museum

176 pages, 6 7/8 x 10 inches

120 color illustrations

ISBN 978-0-89236-783-2

paper, \$17.95 [Order](#)

2004

"Beautifully presented." *Odyssey: The World of Greece*

Admired for more than two millennia for the feats he accomplished in his short life of thirty-two years, King Alexander III of Macedon is the most celebrated figure of classical antiquity. *Alexander the Great: Son of the Gods* presents an intimate and fascinating portrait of the man who created the greatest empire the world had ever seen.

In a year-by-year chronicle, the book explores Alexander's stormy relationship with his father, King Philip, and the influence of his mother, Queen Olympias; his brilliant leadership, outwitting opponents and inspiring his devoted troops; and his life on the march and off duty. Generously illustrated with ancient art from museums around the world, this is an engrossing, accessible biography of a legendary man.

Alan Fildes is a historian of ancient Greek and Egyptian civilizations. Joann Fletcher is a freelance Egyptologist and the author of *Ancient Egypt: Life, Myth and Art*.

Soft cover price: \$17.95

Editor's note: You may also like to find from www.amazon.com, which has many used copies in good condition to sell at a low price.

PROCEEDINGS

▲ Dear Samran,

Thanks for your offer to circulate this information on your website. Please note your members might be interested in the "previous publications" section of the website www.oecd.org/tad/env/ which contains the Proceedings of 7 Expert Meetings related to Agri-environmental Indicators, many related to soil and water issues. There are also a limited number of paper copies of these reports still available on request although you can download all material directly from the site.

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REPORTS

▲ **Keeping Campfire Going: Political Uncertainty and Natural Resource Management in Zimbabwe, by Mapedza, E., July 2007, Gatekeeper Series No 133, IIED, London**

The increasingly dictatorial nature of Zimbabwe's current government has had a negative impact on formerly vibrant community based natural resource management initiatives. This report uses two case studies of community based management (CAMPFIRE and forest co-management) to examine the impact of the political situation on resource management institutions and the resources on which they depend.

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14554IIED>

▲ **Protected Areas and Human Livelihoods, by Redford, K., Fearn, E., December 2007, Working Paper, No 32, Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, 198 pp.**

This Working Paper reports on the results of a meeting recently held by WCS on "Protected areas and human livelihoods". The meeting examined the ways, positive and negative, that protected areas influence the human communities that once relied or still rely on natural resources within protected areas.

<http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/biblio/B1614.php>

▲ **Forest Partnerships. Enhancing Local Livelihoods and Protecting the Environment in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, by Osbeck, M., Wojciechowska-Shibuya, M., 2007, IUCN, Bangkok, Thailand, 48 pp.**

This publication is an output of the Natureandpoverty* Programme, a joint effort between the IUCN Netherlands Committee, WWF-Netherlands and Friends of the Earth Netherlands. The Natureandpoverty* Programme in Asia has shown the importance of addressing legal ownership, access to ecosystems and exclusion from decision-making processes that affect how forest ecosystems are managed. The contents of this publication reveal how building workable partnerships among the considerable diversity of stakeholders is fundamental in contributing to sustainable development. A limited number of hard copies are available for distribution. If interested, e-mail:

peter.vansluijs@iucn.nl

<http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/biblio/B1615.php>

▲ **Investing in Sustainable Agricultural Intensification: The Role of Conservation Agriculture -- A Framework for Action**

The Framework document is the outcome of a Technical Workshop, held at FAO headquarters in Rome in July 2008, entitled: "Investing in Sustainable Intensification: The Case for Improving Soil Health".

The Framework document together with other information on the Workshop can be found at www.fao.org/ag/ca/

A Workshop report is under preparation and will be posted on the website in due course.

Amir Kassam kassamamir@aol.com

▲ **Report from ABIC conference**

Science needs to meet growing food demand "The science of biotechnology is good for society and the agricultural industry, and we should take confidence from the fact that public health is protected by a very rigorous approval system," says Prof Jimmy Burke from Teagasc.

www.farmersjournal.ie/2008/0830/news/currentedition/newsfeature.shtml

▲ **Environmental Performance of Agriculture in OECD Countries since 1990**

[At a Glance](#) | [Main Report](#) | [Data](#) | [Information by environmental theme](#) | [Information by country](#)
| [Previous Publications](#) | [How to order](#) | [Contact](#)

This 600 page OECD report (published June 2008 and also available in a summary form), provides comparative analysis and data for OECD countries up to 2004 across a range of **environmental issues, including: nutrients, pesticides, energy, soil, water, air, biodiversity and farm management.**

An assessment is also provided of the 30 OECD countries, in English, French and, where relevant, in the national language: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and the European Union.

Kevin Parris,
Kevin.Parris@oecd.org

▲ OECD has just published a major report, with information on the report, supporting documents and access to the database available online at: www.oecd.org/tad/env/indicators.

▲ **New EU publication: Life on the Farm - sustainable agriculture in Europe**

IFE ("The Financial Instrument for the Environment") is a program launched by the European Commission and coordinated by the Environment Directorate-General Complementing the earlier LIFE-Focus publication "LIFE and agri-environment supporting Natura 2000." The latest edition covers a broader range of innovative solutions to help enhance agriculture's influence on the environment.

Featuring 20 project case studies from 11 different countries and co-funded under all three LIFE program strands, this publication offers a wide variety of practical examples on how to deal with present and future environmental challenges in the agricultural sector. In addition to emphasizing the value of knowledge transfer and best practice, the projects also present highly pertinent examples of sustainable agriculture, where natural resources are managed in a holistic manner to ensure that their benefits are also available for future generations.

For more information see

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/agriculture.pdf>

MANUAL

▲ **CWP Post-Construction Stormwater Manual Published**

The Center for Watershed Protection has published a guidance manual for post-construction stormwater management, "Managing Stormwater in Your Community: A Guide for Building an Effective Post-Construction Program." This guide provides practical tips, and also features a series of downloadable tools that are designed to be modified by local programs to assist with program implementation. The guide covers topics ranging from program planning, integrating stormwater with land use planning, developing locally-appropriate stormwater criteria, stormwater inspection and maintenance programs, and program evaluation and tracking. The tools include a program self-assessment; model post-construction stormwater ordinance; plan review, inspection, and maintenance checklists; and more. <http://www.cwp.org/postconstruction>

BULLETIN-NEWSLETTERS

▲ **Subscribe to the F. X. Browne, Inc. newsletter!** An email version of F. X. Browne, Inc.'s Sustainable Environments is now available. To be added to our mailing list, please visit <http://www.fxbrowne.com/subscribe>

▲ **Stakeholder Forum Network 2015 GPA Outreach for World Water Week**

[GPA Outreach August 2008 World Water Week.pdf \(2196KB\)](#)

Please find enclosed the latest issue of GPA Outreach for Oceans and Seas. This issue was for World Water Week and includes:

- Looking Forward: Stockholm World Water Week 2008
- Traversing the Waters of Stakeholder Engagement
- An Integrated Approach to Save Manila Bay and its Watershed Areas
- Protecting European Waters across Sectors Borders
- Freshwater and Coastal Management in El Salvador

▲ **The River Basin Bulletin, August 2008** www.dhigroup.com.

▲ **You may request RSB Newsletter (Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels) from:** "Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels" rsb@epfl.ch

▲ **Water & Food Edition 27, CPWF Newsletter Aug/Sept 2008**

<http://www.waterandfood.org/newsletter/>

Things are progressing at a cracking pace at the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food...

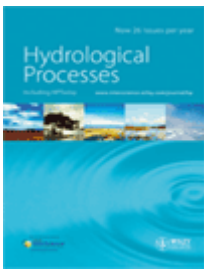
- [Science Director and Impact Director position extensions](#)
- [Survey reveals project influence on stakeholders](#)
- [CPWF: Sharing knowledge across the CGIAR](#)
- [Volta Basin projects aim for goals through alliances](#)
- [Hillside agro-ecosystems alternative transfers across tropics](#)
- [A CPWF 'How To': Using BlueDocs and producing publications](#)
- [Welcome to the CPWF's inaugural Board](#)
- [The Second International Forum on Water and Food](#)
- [Limpopo farmer-irrigators speak up](#)
- [Managing the coastal land-water interface with Delta07](#)
- [New publications from the CPWF](#)
- [New faces and fond farewells](#)
- [A friend's tribute to Dr. Erika Meng](#)
- [Events and happenings in Research for Development](#)

▲ **Water Alternatives posts first e-issue**

The first issue of the tri-annual, open-access, peer-reviewed e-journal *Water Alternatives* presents an array of articles and case studies pertaining to water rights, local water governance, gender and irrigation, water research policy, and river-basin politics.

For more information see www.water-alternatives.org.

▲ SPECIAL ISSUE



Hydrological Processes

Studies on the Mekong River Basin - Modelling of Hydrology and Water Resources

Volume 22, Issue 9

Issue Edited by Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Hiroshi Ishidaira, Haruo Sawada and Takao Masumoto

[Read the full Special Issue NOW](#)

▲ **Conservation Letters' first issue features agriculture and biodiversity conservation**

The first issue of the new conservation journal *Conservation Letters*, an offshoot of the Journal of Conservation Biology, from Blackwell Publishing, features "Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation: Opportunity Knocks," an article by Ken Norris from the Center for Agri-Environmental Research (CAER). Norris acknowledges that agricultural expansion is the primary driver of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and its impacts will continue to grow. The solution is to design effective management strategies for biodiversity and better understand biodiversity retention in agricultural landscapes. The article offers an invaluable insight on how and why conservation and ecosystem sciences should integrate into the field of agriculture.

For more information see: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1755-263X.2008.00007.x>

WEBSITES (mixed subjects – some may be of your interest)

▲ [UAE academy to tackle regional water shortages](#)

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched an Arab Water Academy (AWA) to tackle water shortages in the region that will increase as a result of climate change.

▲ **World's largest solar power plants planned for California**

A California based utility has entered into contracts to generate 800MW of electricity from two large photovoltaic (PV) solar power plants, writes **African Energy News Review**. The two plants will cumulatively deliver 1.65 billion kilowatt-hours of renewable energy annually. This would be equivalent to the amount of energy needed to serve approximately 239 000 American homes each year. The utility, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), is under a state mandate to get 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010. The PG&E contracts are with Topaz Solar Farms, a subsidiary of OptiSolar, and High Plains Ranch II, a subsidiary of SunPower Corporation. The largest of the plants, the 550 MW Topaz Solar Farm project, will utilize relatively low-cost, thin-film PV panels designed and manufactured by OptiSolar. The second plant, SunPower's planned 250 MW solar ranch, will deliver an average of 550 000 megawatt-hours of clean electricity annually. The project is expected to begin power delivery in 2010 and be fully operational in 2012.

[Read the full analysis \(309 words\) and related articles online](#)

▲ [Stone-Age graveyard reveals life in a "green Sahara":](#)

Scientists in Niger report having found the Sahara, Desert's largest known Stone-Age graveyard.

http://www.world-science.net/othernews/080814_sahara

▲ **Free TV from Thailand** (6 channels) <http://www.me.in.th/live/>

▲ Projects Focused on Conservation Supported

[Whitley Fund for Nature: Whitley Awards](#)

The Whitley Awards recognize conservation leaders from around the world who are applying sustained effort to conserve the natural environment. The awards have previously honored efforts to protect endangered ecosystems and species, promote sustainability, and influence environmental policies. The awards are designed to provide the winner with international recognition, financial support, and an international network through which to solicit advice and support. Each year up to nine awards of GBP 30,000 are given, plus the Whitley Gold Award, worth GBP 60,000 over two years. Applications are due October 31, 2008. http://www.whitley-award.org/the_awards.php

▲ Robotic helicopters teach themselves stunts:

The research is a prelude to designing choppers that search for land mines or fight fires, scientists predict. www.world-science.net/othernews/080902_robot-helicopter

▲ Carbon trading set to expand in U.S.

Credits allotted to big companies are for sale; market could hit \$1 trillion by 2020
See the link www.investmentnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080901/REG/309019983#

▲ "Extreme" rain follows global warming:

Heavy rain is coming unexpectedly more often as global warming continues, researchers say.
http://www.world-science.net/exclusives/080807_rainfall

▲ NASA confirms water on Mars:

The agency's robotic Phoenix Lander "touched and tasted" the Red Planet's frozen water, a mission scientist says. http://www.world-science.net/othernews/080731_mars-water

▲ [Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa](#)

▲ Kenyan judge blocks biofuel project

A Kenyan judge has ordered work on a controversial biofuel project in the pristine Tana delta to be temporarily halted after environmental and community groups took the government to court. The \$369m project aimed at growing sugarcane to produce ethanol and generate power was approved last month, despite concern of possible negative impact on the coastal wetlands. The court action is backed by Kenyan Nobel Laureate and environmentalist Wangari Maathai, who warned that the country would regret failing to protect its environment. "We cannot just start messing around with the wetland because we need biofuel and sugar," Maathai told **AFP** news agency.

[Read the analysis and related articles online](#)

▲ Ireland abandons biofuel target

The Irish government has abandoned plans to have biofuels make up 5.75% of all transport fuel by 2010. Minister for Energy Eamon Ryan told the **Irish Times** in an interview that the decision to drop the ambitious biofuels targets - which were set 15 months ago by his predecessor - follows growing doubts about the benefits of biofuels. Ryan said he has urged a moderation of the policy at European ministerial level. "There is no sense in holding to the 5.75% 2010 target. It's a bad policy to ramp up biofuels production to meet that target without putting sustainability criteria in place," he said. "We have to make sure that the development of biofuels does not lead to hunger in other countries." [Read the analysis and related articles online](#)

▲ Expert Consultation on Agri-Biotech for Food Security

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutes (APAARI) expert consultation meeting on agricultural biotechnology this year was hosted by the Malaysian Agricultural Research & Development Institute (MARDI) with the support of Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation and the Malaysian Biotechnology Information Center (MABIC). The meeting was officiated by the Minister for Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Dato'

Mustapa Mohamed who acknowledged modern biotechnology, particularly GM technology, as one of the tools that will help countries to transform their agriculture sector.

This expert meeting saw the convergence of prominent experts in the area of agribiotech from around the world to discuss how agribiotech could play a key role in addressing the global food crisis and security issues. The meeting discussed the recent research advances in agribiotech, status of agribiotech research and applications in the Asia Pacific region as well as the African regions, the adoption of GM crops to ensure food security, and global status on the adoption of GM crops among other topics. Special lectures focused on the use marker aided selection and genomics for crop improvement, and producing disease free planting material and germplasm conservation using biotechnology. The meeting also deliberated on global and regional partnership programmes such as Golden Rice, ABSP II, APCoAB, and AARINENA.

For details of the meeting and for information on biotechnology in Malaysia, contact Mahaletchumy Arujanan at maha@bic.org.my of the Malaysian Biotechnology Information Center.

▲ **Correcting Bias against Drylands Can Help Solve Food Crisis**

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Director General William Dar warned that policy bias against dryland agriculture may contribute to the global food crisis and worsen the situation of poor farmers. In a policy paper, Dr. Dar pointed out that less than 1 percent of public spending goes to agricultural research, "which is vital to the innovation that is the engine for new livelihood opportunities". Of that, only a small proportion is invested in dryland agriculture. Dryland agriculture is also struggling against a headwind of policies that are biased in favor of lands with plenty of water. In addition, policies tend to favor urban populations and the familiar cereal grains that they consume: rice, wheat and maize.

"We suspect that the world may come to regret its under-investment in dryland grain crops as climate change kicks in, increasing the need for more robust, drought-hardy crops and crop traits for plant breeding", Dar said. He also stressed that over-dependence on a few crops creates agro-ecological risks, such as vulnerability to climate change and crop disease epidemics, such as the new Ug99 strain of stem rust currently threatening wheat.

Read the complete article at <http://www.icrisat.org/Media/2008/media17.htm>

▲ **Poland Publishes Draft Law for GM Cultivation**

According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) report, Poland's Environment Ministry has published for public comment a draft law on the cultivation of agricultural biotechnology crops. The law attempts to comply with European Union regulatory authorities that have told Poland it must update its GM law. The law also updates the provisions for conducting experimental research with plants and transgenic modification. The major provisions include:

- Farmers' plantings would be dependent on approval of local authorities who would be allowed to create "GMO free zones". In such zones planting GM crops, even an approved variety would be prohibited, with penalty of US\$9,000 plus US\$1400 per hectare.
- A deposit to cover any potential legal suits in cases of dealing with a list of products classified as, "the most dangerous organisms" must be paid before planting. GM products should be labeled. Products which are meant to be processed and have modified organisms in amount not over 0.9% should not be marked.
- Research institutes should arrange a proposal before planting GM crops, with all information and documents needed at every stage. Any scientific research unit wanting to conduct research planting will be obligated to make the results of their research available to the public.
- Research institutes and farms should inform employees about the content of safety regulations; workers must sign a statement that they have been informed that they are working with GMOs.

The report can be downloaded at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200808/146295592.pdf>

▲ **Biosafety Regulations of Asia-Pacific Countries**

A compilation on "Biosafety Regulations of Asia-Pacific Countries" has been published by the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), a program of Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), with support of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The publication includes chapters on: Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in Asia-Pacific; Biosafety Issues in Agricultural Biotechnology; International Agreements Related to Biosafety; Biosafety Regulations of Asia-Pacific Countries; Overview of Biosafety Regulatory Systems in Asia-Pacific; and Regulatory Management - the Way Ahead. Brief descriptions of biosafety regulatory instruments comprising laws/acts/decrees/regulations/rules existing in 39 countries of the Asia-Pacific region are given. PDF version of the publication is available for downloading at <http://www.apcoab.org>.

▲ **Climate Change Shifts Plant Distribution**

A survey made considering ten dominant plant species in the Deep Canyon region in Southern California's Santa Rosa mountains revealed that in a span of 30 years, the distribution of these plant species have shifted upward by 65 meters. Researchers at the University of California and California State University attribute the shift to changes

in climate including increase in average temperature and variability in rainfall, and reduction of snow precipitation from 1977 to present.

The study was conducted by Anne Kelly and Michael Goulden who resurveyed the Deep Canyon Transect area spanning several plant communities and climates. The transect rises from about 250 meters to 2,500 meters on over 16 km and was the same transect and area where the 1977 survey of another researcher was conducted. They stated that the phenomenon they observed may also be happening elsewhere and cautioned that this rapid shift in the distribution of plants and vegetation are hastened by global climate change.

For the report published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), please visit <http://www.pnas.org/content/105/33/11823.full>

▲ **Advances in the Development of Biotech Papaya Reviewed**

Interest in biotech to address problems in papaya has not dwindled. Numerous researches on developing biotech papayas are occurring worldwide as presented by the group of Evelyn Mae Mendoza in one chapter of Biotechnology Annual Review. Among the objectives of these researches include development of varieties with resistance to pests and diseases including papaya ringspot virus (PRSV), mites and *Phytophthora*. Other groups are also exploring the development of aluminum and herbicide tolerance in papaya, those having fruits with long shelf life, and even the production of vaccines against tuberculosis and cysticercosis, an infectious animal disease. Mendoza and colleagues stated that papaya is the first genetically modified tree and fruit crop and also the first transgenic crop developed by a public institution that has been commercialized. They note that at present about 14 countries are engaged, through collaborative activities or independent efforts, in the development of a biotech PRSV resistant papaya.

The review paper is accessible to journal subscribers at [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1387-2656\(08\)00019-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1387-2656(08)00019-7).

▲ **Study Asks: Would GM Seed Benefit Farmers?**

Tomato, cabbage, and garden egg (African eggplant) are important crops for small-scale farmers and migrants in the rural and peri-urban areas of Ghana. An ex ante study "Insecticide Use on Vegetables in Ghana: Would GM Seed Benefit Farmers?" by Daniela Horna and colleagues from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) uses farm survey data to gauge the potential for adoption of GM varieties, estimate the potential impact of adoption on farm profits, and highlight economic differences among the three crops.

Farmers' expenditures on insecticides are below the economic optimum for all three crops. The estimated function for damage abatement shows that insecticide amounts are significant determinants of cabbage yields only. Nonetheless, yield losses from pests and disease affect insecticide use. Non-insecticide users could accrue higher marginal benefits than current insecticide users. Comparing vegetable crops with distinct economic characteristics provides a wider perspective on the potential impact of GM technology.

Visit <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/ifpridp00785.asp> for additional information or email Christina Lakatos of IFPRI at c.lakatos@cgiar.org.

▲ **Sweet Potato Out-yields Corn in Ethanol Production Study**

In search of alternative biofuel feedstocks, scientists of the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) reported the suitability of sweet potatoes grown in Maryland and tropical cassava in Alabama as biofuel feedstocks. The sweet potato yielded carbohydrate comparable to the lower limit produced by sugarcane, the highest yielding ethanol crop. Sweet potato and cassava also require less fertilizer and pesticide than corn. Once the economical harvesting and processing techniques are developed, the data suggests that these crops have greater potential than corn as ethanol sources.

For details, see press release at: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

▲ **Bioengineered Crops as Tools for International Development: Opportunities**

The development of strategies to commercialize biotech "orphan crops" is the focus of an article published in Experimental Agriculture. The paper with lead author Peter Gregory of Cornell University highlights the orphan crops, regarded as non-profitable by multinational life sciences, can be developed and commercialized in developing countries. The strategies involve the determination of the agricultural product which has the highest propriety need and the assessment of developing and delivering the product. A product development package is then constructed that will include (i) technology development; (ii) intellectual property and other policy-related issues; (iii) public information on benefits, risks and correct management of new products; and (iv) establishment or verification of the existence of marketing and distribution mechanisms.

Case studies reported in the paper are United States Agency for International Development -funded project on Bt eggplant, virus-resistant papaya, virus-resistant tomato, disease and insect-resistant banana, late blight resistant potato, and insect-resistant cabbage and cauliflower. The existence of this South-South East Asia collaboration emphasized the need for strong inter-institutional collaboration whether public/private in national, regional and global levels.

The paper can be downloaded at

http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FEAG%2FEAG44_03%2FS0014479708006352a.pdf&code=d0b131300fae0987cc1b3917051f9ad5

▲ **Brazil's CTNBio Approves Bayer's Herbicide-Tolerant Cotton**

CTNBio, the Brazilian National Biosafety Commission, has approved Bayer's genetically modified cotton for commercial release in Brazil. The transgenic cotton is resistant to the herbicide glufosinate ammonium. CTNBio's approval may be followed by a review from the National Biosafety Council (CNBS) and the Ministry of Agriculture to examine certain social and economic factors. Only after the Agriculture Ministry's approval can the GM cotton be planted by farmers. Within the biosafety commission's decision-making committee, 18 members voted in favor of the GM cotton, three against and two abstained.

Read the press release at <http://www.ctnbio.gov.br/>

▲ **USDA Predicts High Corn and Soybean Yields**

A report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service forecasts a robust corn and soybean harvest despite severe flooding in the Midwest. Corn yields are expected to average 155 bushels per acre, down 6 percent from last year's record, but up 17 percent from 2006. This would be the second highest corn yield on record, behind 2004, if the forecast proves right.

The Crop Production report also predicts that soybean production will be 2.97 billion bushels, up 15 percent from last year but down 7 percent from the 2006 record. Cotton production is down, however, by 28 percent at 13.8 million bales.

View http://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/2008/08_12_2008.asp for the press release.

▲ **Soils Limited in Storing Carbon and Mitigating Global Warming**

The myth about the earth's soil being a limitless natural storehouse of carbon was contradicted by the recent report of researchers lead by Haegeun Chung and Sabrina Gulde of the US University of California Davis' Department of Sciences. The paper published in the Soil Science Society of America Journal describes the experiments conducted in Kentucky fields where corn was grown for 30 years under a broad range of fertilizer application rates and two tillage practices. Another study was conducted in Canada, and colleagues analyzed soils cropped to barley under a wide range of manure application rates.

The data indicated that there was a limit to the amount of carbon that could be stored by soils. Additional carbon added to the soil is not sequestered anymore when the threshold limit is reached. "The Earth's soils have the potential to offset global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel burning by as much as five to 10 percent," Chung said. "Knowing the limits of soils to serve as carbon sinks will allow environmental planners to better predict just how much carbon different soils can sequester."

For details see press release at: http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=8757

▲ **Sorghum's Potential in Alternative Fuel Production Discussed**

The increasing high cost of gasoline has been the cause of the continuing economic hardships worldwide. Development of alternative fuel is thus a critical issue, the focus of the International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuels in Houston, Texas, which was attended by more than 200 international experts from government, academia, the private sector and the agricultural community. Sorghum is grown for its grain, sugar, and high lignocellulose content suitable for biofuel production. Sorghum does not require lots of water for its growth, has short growing season, and has the ability to grow on 80% of the world's land including some marginal areas. Discussions on the development and utilization of sorghum as a biofuel feedstock led to a collaborative agreement for biofuel research between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China. In addition, the agreement encourages the establishment of collaboration among scientists worldwide to contribute to alternative energy research through the development of other alternative feedstocks.

Download the press release for more information at: <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=653>

▲ **USDA Germplasm Center Celebrates 50th Anniversary**

The National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation (NCGRP) of the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) celebrated its 50th anniversary and was recognized by the Colorado Senate as globally renowned for its scientific research, preservation efforts and service. The center maintains the genetic diversity of the world's crops and livestock that is distributed nationally and internationally to improve agricultural productivity, fight hunger, improve nutrition, reduce pesticide use and restore ecosystems.

In its 50 years of operation the center has made major contributions in the development of freezer and cryogenic storage of plant germplasm and in establishing new protocols to capture and preserve genetic diversity of crops and livestock. "These efforts continue to benefit the United States and the world by ensuring that diverse animal and crop germplasm is available to breeders and researchers," said ARS Administrator Edward B. Knipling.

See press release for more information at: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2008/080819.htm>

▲ **Local Philippine Partners Get Updates on Biotech Papaya and Eggplant Projects**

Potential partners for the field trials of biotech papaya resistant to papaya ringspot virus and biotech eggplant resistant to fruit-and-shoot borer (Bt eggplant) participated in a series of familiarization activities aimed to enhance

their knowledge on these crop biotech products. The participants were briefed by the research leaders from the University of the Philippines-Institute of Plant Breeding (UPLB-IPB) on recent developments and activities regarding the two biotech projects. They also visited and saw first-hand the ongoing evaluation of promising biotech papaya under confined trials at Barangay Paciano, Bay, Laguna. A biosafety orientation seminar followed which discussed the biosafety framework and regulations in the Philippines and the food and environmental safety aspects of biotech papaya and eggplant. The 39 participants comprising of local partners, resource persons, and facilitators came from the academe, local government units, government R&D organizations, private sector, and development organizations.

The activities were co-organized by SEARCA Biotechnology Information Center with the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), and the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications.

For information about the activity and on Philippine biotechnology contact Sonny Tababa of SEARCA BIC at spt@agri.searca.org

▲ **Tel Aviv Scientists Target Root System to Sense Water Use**

Tel Aviv University researchers are genetically modifying the plants' root systems to improve their ability to find water for survival. Led by Prof. Amram Eshel, the team are trying to engineer a plant with a gene that controls hydrotropism, a plant's ability to send its roots towards water.

"We are developing plants that are more efficient in sensing water," says research doctoral student Tal Sherman. Increasing a plant's efficiency for water uptake results in higher economic value and significant water-saving costs for farmers. The project is being funded by the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. See the article in <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080730155346.htm>

▲ **Pakistan: Cotton Import May Cost US \$1 Billion in 2009**

Due to the widening demand and supply gap and quality issues, Pakistan may have to import 4.5 million bales cotton this season. Imported cotton will cost the country an estimated one billion US dollars. According to a report by the Business Recorder, the government's production target of 14.2 million bales is difficult to achieve due to less than target sowing of uncertified *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cotton varieties.

To increase their cotton production, growers from the states of Sindh and Punjab cultivated Bt cotton on 80 percent of the growing area this planting season. Despite this, importers expect 3-4 million cotton bales shortfall since the government has fixed cotton production target of 14.2 million bales against the consumption of 16-16.5 million bales. Last year about 1.291 billion dollars were spent on cotton import as compared to 646.568 million dollars during fiscal year 2007, depicting an increased of 644 million dollars.

The article is available at <http://www.pabic.com.pk/6%20August,%202008.html>

▲ **Improved WQX 2.0 Includes Biological and Habitat Data**

The EPA Office of Water has released Water Quality Exchange (WQX) version 2.0, a data transfer system which now allows states, tribes and other organizations to share their biological and habitat monitoring results. This is an improvement over WQX version 1.0, which provides a way for states, tribes, and other organizations to share physical, chemical and fish tissue water monitoring data. All data shared using the WQX framework can be accessed on-line in the STORET Data Warehouse, EPA's repository for water quality data.

<http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx.html>

▲ **Food and Agriculture Organization launches ecosystem services website**

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launches the Payment for Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes (PESAL) website. PESAL improves incentives and shares designs for sustainable natural resource management in agriculture, including guidelines for using PES systems to potentially reduce rural poverty. For more information see <http://www.fao.org/es/esa/PESAL/index.html> or www.fao.org.

Call for inputs: consultation to the voluntary sustainable agriculture standard

At the end of July, the Multistakeholder Forum on Ethical Certification and Labeling began the second consultation phase of the Addendum to the voluntary sustainable agriculture standard, which will last until 23 September 2008. The addendum to the sustainable agriculture standard will consist of a set criteria for farms aiming to be certified by Rainforest Alliance. Compliance with the sustainable agriculture standard protects wildlife and agricultural workers. Certification also allows consumers who want to encourage good land stewardship and social practices the ability to choose products that correspond to the issues they consider to be important.

To participate, go to www.eclspace.org, and click "join us," and then join the ECL space. To comment on the documents, login, and click on "guidelines in development."

▲ The Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program seeks applications to implement sustainable strategy for palm oil

The Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP), a program of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and managed by Chemonics International Inc., is seeking grant applications from NGOs, private companies, public or private research institutions, or a consortium of any of the above to implement its strategy for the palm oil sector in cooperation with the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

Grants awarded in response to this request for grant applications will fall within one of the four components of BACP and within the broad parameters established in the BACP Market Transformation Strategy for Palm Oil. Only members of RSPO are eligible to apply, and materials are due by **30 September 2008**.

For more information see: www.bacp.net. Email bacppmu@chemonics.com with any questions

▲ Community Watershed Projects to Conquer Drought

Drought is already a thing of the past for some semi-arid regions of India. Through watershed technologies introduced by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), water can already be accessed for drinking and irrigating crops in the community watersheds such as in Kothapally village in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh. With the continuous water supply, the people of Kothapally were able to utilize new technologies including the introduction of improved varieties and hybrid crops, integrated pest management, and the restoration of wastelands. This resulted to significantly higher yields and greater income for the poor. Current assessment by an ICRISAT-led consortium shows that community watershed is a growth engine for the development of dryland areas recording an average benefit cost ratio of 2 with an internal ratio of 27%. This technology has also been replicated in India, China, Thailand, East and Central Africa. Dr. SP Wani, ICRISAT's principal scientist on watersheds, said, "Once we found solutions for immediate problems, the farmers became our ambassadors for implementing these interventions."

For details see the press release at the ICRISAT website: <http://www.icrisat.org/Media/2008/media15.htm>

▲ Agric Investments Can Help Mitigate Climate Change, Decrease Rural Poverty

Investing in agricultural development can help mitigate climate change while decreasing rural poverty and vulnerability in Africa, wrote Chris Funk and colleagues in their paper published by the Proc. National Academy of Sciences (USA). The group composed of researchers from the University of Massachusetts, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and US Geological Survey analyzed the effects of increasing water temperatures in the Indian Ocean to African agriculture. They reported that results from their study indicate that the increases in ocean temperature translated to about 15% decline in continental rainfall.

This decline affects most eastern and southern Africa regions specially those areas dependent on rain-fed agriculture. The researchers contend that the trend might create drought and social disruption in the region, considered to have some of the world's most fragile food economies. Funk and colleagues reported that their results support those of previous studies indicating that semi-arid Africa may experience large-scale water stress and yield reductions and may result to 50% increase in undernourished people in less than 30 years time. They reviewed that only 4% of African public spending goes to agriculture.

The research paper is freely available at <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2008/08/05/0708196105.full.pdf+html>

▲ The Greening of the Olympic Games

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been working closely with the Beijing Olympic Committee for the past three years to make the Summer Olympic Games environmentally-friendly. The Chinese government has spent billions of dollars to launch a large-scale green drive ahead of the games including a series of long-term environmental improvements for the city. Among these are the introduction of tougher standards for vehicle emissions, expanded public transport network with three new subway lines, and the introduction of the natural gas buses. In addition, the Olympic venues use 20% energy from clean wind sources, 2,000 square meters of solar power facilities, with the Bird's Nest stadium having an advanced rainwater recycling system. The UNEP Director Achim Steiner will visit the Beijing Olympic Games as well as see these facilities first hand. In the second half of 2008, UNEP will produce a Post-Games Environmental Report to assess the successes and challenges of the environmental measures taken by Beijing for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For details, see press release at:

<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=540&ArticleID=5885&l=en>

▲ Thailand Prepares National Biosafety Framework

According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) report, Thailand is in the process of developing a National Biosafety Framework. The Thai Cabinet approved a draft National Biosafety Act in principle in January 2008. The draft law was then forwarded to the Office of the Council of State for legal review in April 2008. The review is expected to conclude in early 2009.

Thailand revoked the ban on biotech field trials in December 2007. However, the report says that government and private stakeholders still consider the new requirements too restrictive.

Download the report at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200807/146295161.pdf>

▲ Biofuel Development in Vietnam - A Possibility

The government approval in November 2007 of the biofuel development project sets the country to produce around 250,000 tonnes of ethanol and vegetable oil to meet the demand for 1% biofuel mix in 2015. Speaking at the seminar on biofuel development, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development Director Nguyen Kim Son reiterated the country's challenge to produce renewable energies in the face of high crude oil prices and the exhaustion of its sources, and the short supply of traditional energy such as electricity, water, coal and nuclear energies.

Vietnam boasts huge potential for bio-fuel development as it has many material plants such as sugarcane, cassava, jatropha, castor-oil trees seaweed, and by-products such as rubber seed, fish fat, used oil and lubricants. However, many participants voiced concern about Vietnam's food security problems, dwindling agricultural lands and importation of other food crops such as corn. It is thus imperative that a strategy be worked out to develop biofuel with low costs and without negative impacts on the food supply and the environment. A large subsidy from the government is also needed to boost biofuel development in the country.

For details of the seminar see press release at: <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/tech/2008/07/795810/>. Contact Hien Le of the Vietnam Biotechnology Information Center for biotechnology updates in Vietnam at: hientttm@yahoo.com.

▲ New Vietnamese Website for Farmers

A website on "Vietnam Rice Knowledge Bank" has been established to cater to the needs of Vietnamese rice farmers. The website accessible at <http://www.caylua.vn> boasts of major themes such as rice production, rice biology, farming techniques, irrigation, nutrition management, epidemics control, harvest and post-harvest technology, seedling nursery technology and rice products.

The new website was developed with technical help from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). This is part of IRRI's agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to transfer farming technology, provide expertise and train farmers. Funds for the website were obtained from the Japanese Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The website was prepared in simple language and format, enabling farmers to learn about rice farming directly from the site. "The new website is expected to provide broader and deeper knowledge for farmers," said the Ministry of Agriculture Research and Development Minister Dao Xuan Hoc.

For more information, visit: <http://www.vnanet.vn/Home/EN/tabid/119/itemid/261750/Default.aspx>. Contact Hien Le of the Vietnam Biotechnology Information Center for more updates on biotechnology in Vietnam at hientttm@yahoo.com

▲ PetroVietnam Sets up Biofuel Affiliate Company

Four subsidiaries of the Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group (PetroVietnam) have decided to establish a company to produce and distribute biofuels. Located in Binh Son district of central Quang Ngai province, the PetroVietnam Biofuel Joint Stock Company has a charter capital of 45 billion VND (roughly 2.7 million USD). The company will produce ethanol from cassava, which is mixed with gasoline to help the country reduce dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate environmental pollution. The PetroVietnam General Services Joint Stock Corporation (Petrosetco) will contribute the largest part of the capital at 51 percent, while the PetroVietnam Oil Corporation will hold 29 percent; the Binh Son Refining and Petrochemical Co. Ltd., 15 percent; and the PetroVietnam Finance Joint Stock Corporation (PVFC), 5 percent.

For more information, access: <http://www.vnanet.vn/Home/EN/tabid/119/itemid/261658/Default.aspx>. Contact Hien Le of the Vietnam Biotechnology Information Center for more updates on biotechnology in Vietnam at hientttm@yahoo.com

▲ Seed Association for Central Asia

A Regional Seed Association, covering the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) region of Central Asia, has just been formed to provide improved seeds and plant genetic resources suited to farmers' local needs. In addition, the association promotes technology transfer, serves as a forum for regular consultations on seeds and plant genetic resources, and contributes to seed trade regulation.

The ECO member countries are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Association, to be based in Ankara, Turkey, is an effort of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas.

View <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000904/index.html> for the full report.

▲ Climate Change Causes Aphid Population Boom

Aphid populations are exploding because of warmer winters, according to scientists from Rothamsted Research. The scientists have been monitoring the flying form of all aphid species in the United Kingdom for 42 years. This year, the first aphid was caught almost four weeks ahead of the 42-year average. The peach-potato aphid (*Myzus persicae*), one of UK's most damaging aphids, has been found to be flying two weeks earlier for every 1°C rise in the average temperature.

Richard Harrington and his colleagues at Rothamsted Insect Survey said that one of the most noticeable consequences of climate change in the UK is the frequency of mild winters. As a result, aphids seeking new sources of food are appearing significantly earlier in the year and in significantly higher numbers. This is bad news for farmers, since crops are particularly more vulnerable to damage in spring and early summer. For more information, visit http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/media/releases/2008/080806_aphids_climate_change.html

▲ Environment Atlas from UNEP

Obtain a free CD on "Africa - Atlas of Our Changing Environment", available in both English and French. The publication developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) highlights stories of environmental change at 104 locations across Africa. It contains satellite images, ground photographs and maps along with information graphs and charts. A copy may be obtained from UNEP's Arshia Chander at achander@usgs.gov. It can also be downloaded from <http://www.na.unep.net/AfricaAtlas>. Other recently released atlases in the series include: One Planet, Many People: Atlas of Our Changing Environment, and Africa's Lakes: Atlas of Our Changing Environment.

ORGANIZATIONS

Members are welcome to send short descriptions of your organizations (university, research institute, implementing-extension agency, etc.) to share with other members in this column.

A CALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION (sometime for help)

▲ I am Pussella from Sri Lanka, who is studying for a PhD in Geo-informatics at Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Please let me to know, if you know about a Research Internship or a Fellowship on Cartography. I love to work under an expert for couple of years in such a research.

Best Regards,

Indika Pussella from Sri Lanka indikapussella@yahoo.com

▲ Deadline next IUSS Bulletin – end September

The next IUSS Bulletin will appear in October – please send your contributions before the end of September. We welcome short articles (up to 1,000 words) on new research, announcements for meetings and awards, polemics, book reviews, reports of meetings, and send all brilliant and unusual ideas to the editor. The IUSS Bulletin has been professionally restyled and we work on an increased distribution. The complete minutes of the intercongress meeting in Brisbane (30 June, 3 and 4 July 2008) are now online, click [here](#) for the PDF.

▲ iPodsol casts

The US National Academies has an entertaining series of podcasts that puts the spotlight on high-impact work and focuses on a range of critical issues in science, engineering and medicine. A ten minutes podcast on soil highlights the importance and use of soils and includes an interview with Sally Brown. Regrettably the d**t and soil are tabled again; no other scientific discipline would use such word for its object of study and passion. Anyway, for the podcast click [here](#). There are also several podcasts on of the Soil Association, click [here](#). There are also several podcasts on of the Soil Association, click [here](#). For some other podcasts on soil click [here](#) and [here](#). And if you like the speediest lecture in physics go [here](#) and listen to Michael van Drempt in "A fundamental misunderstanding". Keep listening folks.

Our friends at Care2.com need you help today to **stop BLM's plan to kill wild horses**.

A decision on the Mustang's fate will be made in a couple of weeks so please **sign now to save our wild horses**.

Thank you for caring,
Lawrence Norton,
CEO of ENN.com

Our government seems to think protecting wild horses isn't worth the money. **Please oppose the outrageous plan to kill wild horses today»**

The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** claims it can no longer afford to round up wild horses and confine them until it finds people to adopt them, and the agency wants to euthanize these majestic wild beauties or sell them to the highest bidder "without limitation" - even if the bidder also plans to kill these horses.

Officials are scheduled to meet in just a couple of weeks to make a decision on the mustangs' fate.

Stand up for our wild horses and send a comment to BLM today opposing their plan to kill wild horses.

There are less than 30,000 wild horses on the range versus at least 3 million grazing cows. So rather than address the environmental damage caused by cattle overgrazing and expanding oil and gas exploration on our public lands, the BLM would rather placate corporate cattle ranchers who view mustangs as competition for forage, and **drive wild horses--our country's symbol of freedom and independent spirit--to extinction.**

Don't let the ranching industry lobby and BLM get away with their plan to kill our wild horses. Speak out now.



Thank you for helping protect America's wild horses.

Rebecca Young,
Care2 and ThePetitionSite Team

Tell BLM: Don't Kill Our Wild Horses!



Take Action!

Wild horses should not be used as scapegoats for destruction caused by the millions of cattle ranchers place in public lands.

[Forward to a friend >>](#)

[Read the petition >>](#)

▲ Linnaeus at 300 BioNET Funding Campaign 2007-2011

23 May 2007 was the 300th anniversary of the birth in Sweden of Carl Linnaeus, the "father of modern taxonomy". For all who value taxonomy, it was a day to celebrate the work and legacy of a remarkable man and the myriad of ways in which taxonomy contributes to science and society. As someone interested in BioNET, I'm sure you share our goal that the benefits of taxonomy must be made accessible to all.

To continue our work, we need your help. We invite new partners to join us in our work. We hope that you will find a way for your organisation or government ministry to support us. **Please read on and consider how you can assist us...**

- [Linnaeus at 300](#)
- [Our plans](#)
- [Our costs](#)
- [How you can help](#)

I look forward to hearing from you,
Richard Smith
Director

▲ มีรถเข็นแจกสำหรับคนพิการ (Wheelchair for the disabled, available for free, perhaps only in Thailand)

From คุณแพกพิง (Ms Pakping Chalad Bruns pakpingchalad@yahoo.com)

สำหรับคนพิการ ช่วยกันกระจายข่าวนะคะ สาธุ! ได้บุญกับทุกคนนะ

รถวีลแชร์และรถสามล้อใจกมมีเพียงพอสำหรับทุกท่านที่ติดต่อเข้ามา

สมาคมคนพิการแห่งประเทศไทย (ศพท.) ร่วมกับสมาคมคนพิการทางการเคลื่อนไหว (ศ.พ.ค.)

ไม่เสียค่าใช้จ่ายใดๆ ทั้งสิ้นเพียงส่งเอกสาร

1. สำเนาทะเบียนบ้าน พร้อมเซ็นรับรองสำเนา
2. สำเนาบัตรประจำตัวประชาชน พร้อมเซ็นรับรองสำเนา
3. สำเนาสมุดประจำตัวคนพิการ พร้อมเซ็นรับรองสำเนา
4. รูปถ่ายเต็มตัวเห็นสภาพความพิการชัดเจน 1 รูป
5. ใ้ระบุที่อยู่ติดต่อได้สะดวก พร้อมเบอร์โทรศัพท์ (ถ้ามี)



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Issue 5

INSIGHT ON ULTRA-LOW SEDIMENT FLOW PROVIDED BY ARGONAUT-ADV®

LOUISIANA, USA.

Louisiana's coastal wetlands provide vital wildlife habitat and a strong buffer against storms. But they are threatened by subsidence and cut off from the historic floods that built the Mississippi River Delta. Using SonTek Argonaut-ADV®, a Louisiana State University team captured continuous streams of data on shallow, slow-moving currents (down to 1 mm/s) that are notoriously difficult to measure. Their findings are teaching stakeholders how releases of sediment-rich pulses of water through a diversion structure near New Orleans may be managed to help rebuild marshes while minimizing impacts on local fisheries.

> www.sontek.com/news/UltraLowFlow.pdf



ACOUSTIC DOPPLER TECHNOLOGY ENABLES FAST ASSESSMENT OF POST-QUAKE HYDRAULIC CONDITIONS



SICHUAN PROVINCE, China.

A 7.9 magnitude earthquake in China left millions homeless and susceptible to thirst and water-borne disease as it ravaged the country's hydrology monitoring stations. SonTek/YSI immediately responded with assistance and hydroacoustic equipment — allowing hydrologists to gauge the speed and strength of water flow, as well as monitor drinking water distribution. The advanced RiverSurveyor®



provided fast assessment of flood conditions and did in minutes what had taken hours for a field crew with conventional instruments.

> www.sontek.com/news/ChinaQuake.pdf

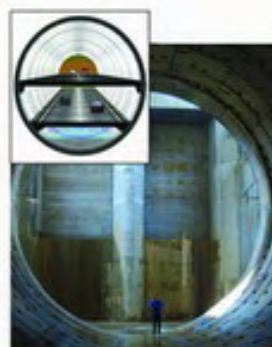
For FREE technical notes, access to web-based training and product information, visit www.sontek.com.
Questions? E-mail: inquiry@sontek.com. Or call: +1.858.546.8327.

A SMART WAY TO HANDLE FLOODS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia.

Devastating floods are common in crowded Kuala Lumpur, necessitating the massive Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) project. Because accurate and timely information on discharge and velocity are vital for success, 16 SonTek Argonaut-SL and Argonaut-SW current meters were required. Says Bruce Sproule, Greenspan Technology's International Manager, "SonTek equipment...was the easiest and most accurate to incorporate into this project. The support is good and the equipment reliable."

> www.sontek.com/news/SmartTunnel.pdf



The most common and widespread of the world's natural hazards is the flood.

According to UNESCO, these disasters strike about 150 times, impact 500 million lives, and create at least \$60 billion in damages — each year. Providing fast and reliable flow data under unpredictable conditions is serious business at SonTek. And making a difference anywhere in the world means our instruments have to be accurate, reliable, and capable under extreme conditions.

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Conference organizers may ask for a 'Conference Package' from WASWC, where among several benefits all the participants may obtain free Guest membership in WASWC for one year. This is our service to society.

IMPORTANT

We can publicize your stuff sent to us in Word. If you send to us in pdf, we will be able to put only a few words in our WASWC Newsletter or HOT NEWS.

[**NOTE:** Another place to promote your event is by sending your stuff to publish in the EARTHSCAN E-alert. Please contact dan.harding@earthscan.co.uk]

MEETINGS 2008

Note: For the following events, please kindly refer to the WASWC HOT NEWS for January 2008 at <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn/hotnews.html>.

- 3rd Global workshop, September 30-October 3, 2008
- Rainforests and Agroforestry, October 5-9, 2008

September 4-5, 2008

11th International Specialised Conference on Watershed & River Basin Management. 4-5 September 2008. Budapest, Hungary. [Website](#)

September 4-5, 2008

Journées francophones Mycorrhizes (Dijon, France, September 4-5, 2008)

September 8-12, 2008

6th European Conference on Ecological Restoration – Towards a Sustainable Future for European Ecosystems, Ghent, Belgium

September 8-10, 2008

2008 Conference of the International Biochar Initiative, Newcastle, UK

<http://www.biochar-international.org/ibi2008conference.html>

September 9-10, 2008

[Biofuels Markets Americas](#), Buenos Aires , Argentina

September 9-10, 2008

EPA Water Quality Modeling Workshop

EPA will convene a water quality modeling workshop, "Water Quality Modeling to Support Management Actions," on September 9 - 10, at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. The meeting is being coordinated with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) conference scheduled for September 11. Attendees of the workshop will obtain an understanding of EPA-supported models that can be used to address regulatory and water quality planning objectives.

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/ftp/basins/training/training-200809.html>

September 11, 2008

[SDRN Annual Conference](#)- Sustainable Development: New Issues, New Challenges, RSA, London

September 11, 2008

TMDL Development and Implementation Seminar

The Water Environment Federation, in cooperation with the USEPA, will be holding TMDL Development and Implementation: Current Progress and Future Direction, on **September 11** in Baltimore, Maryland. This seminar will examine how recently issued policies and guidance are being interpreted and implemented across the country, discuss examples of successful approaches to TMDL development, and share innovations that have led to improvements in TMDL implementation.

<http://www.wef.org/ConferencesTraining/Seminars/TMDLDevelopment>

September 11-15, 2008

International Hybrid Rice Symposium

The 5th International Hybrid Rice Symposium will be held in Changsha, China, on 11-15 September 2008. The event is expected to bring together leading researchers from various disciplines to review current knowledge on hybrid rice development, seed production, molecular application, and economics, and to discuss future research strategies. The program will include a combination of paper presentation sessions and field visits.

More information at <http://www.5thishr.cn/>.

September 14-18, 2008

International Banana Symposium in China

ProMusa, in collaboration with the Guang Dong Academy for Agricultural Sciences, the International Society for Horticultural Science, and Bioversity's Banana and Plantain Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific (BAPNET), announce the International Banana Symposium: Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges to be held in Guang Dong, China, on September 14-18, 2009.

For more information go to the symposium website at

http://www.promusa.org/symposium_2009/home.html

September 14-18, 2008

National Nonpoint Source (NPS) Monitoring Workshop

The 16th Annual Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop will be held on **September 14-18** in Columbus, OH. The workshop will focus on innovative solutions to NPS issues, effective monitoring techniques, demonstrations of new technologies, application of Best Management Practices (BMPs), and lessons learned from Section 319 National Monitoring Program projects and other watershed projects from throughout the United States. Technical workshops will include topics such as monitoring Low Impact Development (LID) projects, stream morphology analysis tools, and bio-assessment tools. Tours will include Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) monitoring sites, stream restoration sites, alternative urban and agricultural BMPs, and much more. <http://streams.osu.edu/conf.php>

September 15-19, 2008

Wetlands 2008 National Conference

Wetlands 2008: Wetlands and Global Climate Change will be held on **September 15-19** in Portland, OR. The overall goal of this conference is to help wetland professionals in the public and private sectors 1) gain a better understanding of the challenges created by climate change and 2) identify discrete activities and actions to take to reduce and mitigate impacts on wetlands and water resources as well as communities. The conference will also address ongoing changes and challenges in wetlands and water resources management. <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/index.htm>

September 15-19, 2008

PA Noxious, Invasive Weed Management Course

The first Northeastern Weed Science Society Noxious & Invasive Vegetation Management Short Course will be held in Pennsylvania on **September 15-18**. The course will stress ecologically-based plant management and include monitoring and assessment, prevention, cultural, mechanical and chemical plant management. Classroom, laboratory and field exercises will be utilized and the program will be designed to encourage interaction between instructors and students. <http://www.newss.net/newssnivm.php>

September 16-17, 2008

2008 Katoomba Meeting XIII Tanzania: Taking Stock and Charting a Way Forward for PES in Africa

White Sands Hotel and Resort, Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania www.katoombagroup.org/event_details.php?id=1

Contact: tanzania@katoombagroup.org

September 16-17, 2008

[Carbon Markets USA](#), Washington DC , USA

September 16-18, 2008

WaterTech Central Asia: Central Asian International Water Technology Exhibition & Conference Location: Almaty, Kazakhstan

September 17-18, 2008

[Biofuels Markets East Africa](#), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

September 17-19, 2008

EuroBioForum, Strasbourg, France

The EuroBioForum conference will be held from 17 to 19 September in Strasbourg, France. Six workshops will be dedicated to a range of life sciences topics: molecular biology of survival; generating tools for human proteome analysis; DNA barcoding for biodiversity; the human metagenome; human genome profiles in disease; and using bacteria for renewable energy production. The event is organized by the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the European Commission and is an official event of the French Presidency of the European Union.

For further information, visit:

<http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=4606> or http://cordis.europa.eu/fetchCALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=29776

September 17-19, 2008

Growdiesel International Summit, New Delhi, India

Growdiesel Climate Care Council is pleased to invite you to the inaugural International Summit on Algae Biofuels to be held on 17th, 18th & 19th September 2008 at New Delhi, India. The Summit is focused on next generation of Biofuels using Algae as main feedstock. You may also visit Summit website at www.astaxanthin.in

Ms. Tripti Sharma, Program Coordinator, Growdiesel Consortium, India growdiesel@gmail.com

September 17-23, 2008

5th International Conference on Land Degradation, Bari, Italy

We have updated the web page of the 5th International Conference on Land Degradation (www.iamb.it/5ICLD). You could find updated information at the List of Participants on the left side of the screen related to those who have registered as of 20 January 2008. I would like to thank all of them who have sent us their abstracts and in

the same time to request this for those that intend to participate. The deadline is **30 April 2008**. Please distribute this information to other colleagues that may have interest in the topic but are not aware of such event. We'll keep you posted on further news and developments!

Dr. Pandi Zdruli, Senior Research Scientist, Land and Water Department, CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Via Ceglie 9, 70010 Valenzano (BA), Italy. Tel: +39 080 4606 253; Fax: +39 080 4606 274

E-mail: pandi@iamb.it; www.iamb.it; www.iamb.it/5ICLD

September 22-23, 2008

Corporate Climate Response, Chicago, USA

September 22-23, 2008

Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction – Taking an Economic Perspective: This workshop, which will take place on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, on **22-23 September 2008**, is the third in a series of events organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation on linking nature conservation and poverty reduction. Numerous recent initiatives have highlighted the key role economics can play in raising awareness over conservation issues, and in linking biodiversity with sustainable development and poverty reduction (e.g. Sukhdev Study). By bringing together expertise from a number of initiatives, this workshop aims to promote exchange of information, stimulate learning, identify knowledge gaps and needs for action. For further information and registration please contact: Dr. Susanne Lehmann, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany (susanne.lehmann@bfn.de). Limited funding for travel and living expenses is available.

September 22-28, 2008

All Africa Congress on Biotechnology

The first All Africa Congress on Biotechnology will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on September 22-28, 2008. The theme of the Congress will be 'Harnessing the Potential of Agricultural Biotechnology for Food Security and Socio-Economic Development in Africa'. During the event, participants will have an opportunity to listen to experiences of other countries about modern agricultural biotechnology and its applications in their economic transformation processes. Among the topics that will be discussed include: biotechnology concepts, applications in plants and animals, intellectual property rights and biosafety risk assessment. The deadline for submission of papers is on June 30, 2008. For more information and to register: <http://abneta.org/congress/>

September 23-26, 2008

International Scientific Conference Celebrating the 50th Jubilee of the Lithuanian Soil Science Society, Kaunas, Lithuania

Conference Secretariat: Department of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, Lithuanian University of Agriculture Studentų g. 11, Akademija Kaunas, LT-53361 Lithuania.

Tel: 00 370 752 239; 752 279; 752 212; Fax.: 00 370 752 239 rimantas.vaisvalavicius@lzuu.lt

FYI: Conference Fee: €100; Cost of 2-day Field Excursion: €70 (transport, board, accommodation and excursion guidebook)

September 29-30, 2008

Carbon Markets India, Mumbai, India

September 29-October 1, 2008

Universidad Internacional de Andalucía ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS 2008
“MID-HOLOCENE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION” Baeza, Spain Contact: Dr. Lourdes Soria (baeza@unia.es)

DEADLINE: For application* 12th September *2008*

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.unia.es/environmentworkshops>

September 29-October 3, 2008

The international **Free and Open Source for GeoSpatial (FOSS4G) conference** is taking place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 29 Sept to 3 Oct, the theme being "Open Source, an option for developing nations". This is a collaboration between OSGeo <http://www.osgeo.org/> and GISSA – the South African GIS society

For more information please visit <http://www.foss4g2008.org/> or you can contact me directly on carrin.avri@iceeafrica.co.za

September 30-October 1, 2008

[Sustainable Cities and Communities](#), Geneva, Switzerland

October 1-2, 2008

Regional Workshop on Dryland Farming Practices in Emergency and Post-Emergency Contexts, 1-2 October 2008, Nairobi, Kenya

The Regional Workshop on Dryland Farming Practices in Emergency and Post-emergency Contexts will be held on 1 and 2 October 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop is organized by FAO and will focus on reviewing existing methods and trends in dryland agriculture in emergency situations in the Eastern African region. It will present, review and document success stories and challenges from practitioners of seven participating countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Practitioners are invited to submit specific interventions and work methods that they think can be of interest to others in emergency contexts i.e. agriculture in limited rainfall, arid and semi arid, and drought prone areas. Please fill the relevant case, processes and approaches and resource materials forms found

at www.ecoagriculture.org/documents/index.php?pubID=95 and send the filled forms to publications@iirr-africa.org or paul@iirr-africa.org by **Monday 18 August 2008**.

October 1-3, 2008

Please find enclosed information about an International Seminar on Salinity, to be held in Valencia (Spain) 1-3 October 2008. **SEMINARIO UIMP VALENCIA (SPAIN) 2008**

Director: Jorge Batlle Sales. Secretary of the Working Group of Salt-Affected Soils. International Union of Soil Sciences. Jorge.Batlle@uv.es

Salinidad y disponibilidad del agua dentro del escenario del cambio climático

Valencia (Spain), del 1 al 3 de octubre de 2008

October 5-9, 2008



www.banana2008.com

REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION

The aim is to maintain an affordable rate of 340 USD for registration and 102 USD per night for full-board accommodation. Registration and more information is available on the conference website:

www.banana2008.com

For further information, please contact: Dr. Thomas Dubois, Tel: +256 752787808; t.dubois@cgiar.org and/or Jeffrey T. Oliver Tel: +234 2 241 2626 (ext 2773), Email: o.jeffrey@cgiar.org, URL: www.iita.org

October 5-9, 2008

International scientific conference: Tropical Rainforests and Agroforests under Global Change, Bali, Indonesia, 5-9 October 2008

Tropical rainforests are disappearing at an alarming rate, causing unprecedented losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Despite an increased recognition of the value of these goods at national and international levels, rainforests continue to be seriously threatened by human-induced global change

such as agricultural intensification and climate change. Understanding these processes needs an integrated scientific approach linking ecological, economic and social approaches at different scales, from the household and village level to landscapes and regions.

Contact Wolfram Lorenz at lorenz@gwdg.de; info@globalchange-2008.org; www.globalchange-2008.org

October 5-14, 2008

We are happy to invite you to contribute to the **World Conservation Congress**, the premier environmental event of 2008 that will take place in Barcelona, Spain from 5-14 October 2008. The first half of the Congress will be the World Conservation Forum, from 6-9 October. This will be the place to debate pressing environmental issues and solutions for sustainable development. The Forum seeks to reach agreements, share solutions and create new partnerships for a diverse and sustainable world.

If you would like to be part of this exciting event and organize one or more event(s) at the Forum, please visit www.iucn.org/congress to find out more. You will be able to submit proposals under this website as of June 1. If you have further questions, please send them to: congressforum@iucn.org

October 6-7, 2008 (and October 8-9, 2008 for the field trip)

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION
COMMISSION ON LAND USE & LAND COVER CHANGE
COMMISSION ON BIOGEOGRAPHY & BIODIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL
MONITORING SOCIETY

International Conference on LAND USE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ORGANISED AND HOSTED BY Departments of Tourism – Botany – Physics

NESAMONY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY, TIRUNELVELI)
MARTHANDAM, KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU – 629 165, INDIA
Ph: 0091-4651272059 Mobile: 0091-9443370257, 0091-9443170648
nesamonymcc@yahoo.co.in

About the Conference

To address the issue of land use change and climate change in Kanyakumari and its adjacent areas of Tamil Nadu, it is imperative to have a common platform where members of all disciplines come together and discuss its impact on earth. To provide a forum we propose to organize an International Conference on “Land Use Change, Biodiversity and Climate Change” from 6th to 7th October 2008 at Marthandam in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. This seminar will focus on global change due to land use change, biodiversity and climate change with special emphasis on South India. It will also study the human response to various ecological changes. It will further concentrate on all aspects of sustainability. Land use change builds bridges among all sciences. It is hoped that the conference will break new ground and foster research among scientists in land use change, biodiversity and climate change. **See details of this conference in one of our previous issues of HOT NEWS.**

Contact: Prof. H.G. Deva Kumar Samuel, HoD, Department Physics, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam – 629 165, Tamil Nadu, India. Mobile : 09443417121, (R) 0091-4651-270346 E-mail: hgdksskk@gmail.com or Dr. R.B.Singh, NAGI Secretary General, rbsgeol@yahoo.com

October 7- 9, 2008

The Role of Libraries in Freedom of Expression, Tolerance, and Access to Information
Location: Alexandria, Egypt.

October 7-10, 2008

The Urban and Regional Information Systems (URISA) annual conference has a PPGIS track and there is also a one-day workshop on PPGIS immediately preceding the conference.

Conference dates are: October 7-10, New Orleans <http://www.urisa.org/conferences/aboutannual>

October 9-11, 2008

Universidad Internacional de Andalucía ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS 2008

“PLANT BIOMASS FOR FOOD AND ENERGY: FUTURE AND REALITY”

Baeza, Spain Contact: Dr. Lourdes Soria (baeza@unia.es)

NEW: Deadline of application has been extended to September 12, 2008.

See <http://www.unia.es/environmentworkshops>

October 12-14, 2008

11th General Conference of for the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa, Location: Damascus-Syria

October 14-15, 2008

Regional workshop, “Arab World Policy for Post-2012 Climate Negotiations

Location: Beirut, Lebanon

Registration: Arabic | English

Invitation: [Arabic](#) | [English](#)

October 15-16, 17-19, 2008

2008 International Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Workshops and Conference, Beijing, China ([2008 SWAT Conference English Web site](#))

Dates

October 15-16, 2008 SWAT workshops (beginners or advanced)

October 17-19, 2008 SWAT conference

Theme

Development and Application of SWAT Model

Conference Venue

Yingdong Academic Halls, Beijing Normal University

[2008 SWAT Conference English Web site](#)

- [Background](#)
- [Organizing Committee](#)
- [Scientific Committee](#)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- [Registration & Lodging](#)
- [Application](#)
- [Contacts](#)

Contact: Dr. R. Srinivasan, Texas A&M University, USA. r-srinivasan@tamu.edu

Drs. Fanghua HAO or Yun ZHOU, School of Environment, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, P.R. China. Tel.: 8610-58807937(O) fanghua@bnu.edu.cn; zhouyun@craes.org.cn

October 15-18, 2008

IV International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, Thessaloniki, Greece

Organised by UNESCO Chair INWEB in cooperation with UNESCO IHP, IGRAC, SAHRA and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Aims of the symposium: Assess the state of the art and recent progress made in the sustainable management of transboundary waters by different disciplines such as law, socio-economics and water science.

Review current major international programmes concerned with the assessment and management of

transboundary water resources.

Promote interdisciplinary approaches for integrated transboundary water resources management.

Read more: http://www.inweb.gr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=241&Itemid=146

September 17-19, 2008

PURÉ Conference 2008

International Conference on Impacts of Pollution in a Changing Urban Environment

The University of Manchester, UK <http://www.pureconference.org.uk>

October 20-22, 2008



A Special Conference
hosted by the
Soil & Water
Conservation Society



Farming with Grass

Achieving Sustainable Mixed Agricultural Landscapes in Grasslands Environments

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will convene a conference to address the factors driving change in mixed agricultural systems. Specific objectives include:

- Engage participants across diverse disciplines and institutions in identifying research, technology, and policy needs to maintain competitive and environmentally sound agricultural systems under dynamic natural, social, economic, and policy drivers.
- Provide professional development and networking opportunities
- Identify key knowledge gaps and technology limitations that impede the ability of individuals and communities to evaluate options to meet multiple objectives
- Identify policy alternatives to promote sustainable agricultural systems

Program/Agenda

The keynote speaker for the opening plenary session will be Dr. Frederick L. Kirschenmann, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Speaking at the closing session will be Jean Steiner, Director, USDA-ARS Grazinglands Research Lab. Additional information is available online at www.swcs.org/fwg

The three-day conference will consist of invited keynote speakers, submitted posters, and facilitated roundtable discussions organized around the following topic areas:

1. Status and trends in types of agricultural systems, inputs, productivity, profitability, environmental indicators, and rural demographics and economics. John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri
2. Environmental, social, and economic benefits of mixed grassland landscapes to include farm level, rural community, and broad social perspectives. Deborah E. Popper, Associate Professor of Geography, College of Staten Island, City University of New York and Frank J. Popper, Professor, Planning and Public Policy Program, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University
3. Factors driving change in grassland environments (e.g., resource availability, demographics,

social dynamics, economics, climate change, farm, environmental and energy policy, and local zoning/farmland preservation) Vivien Gore Allen, Thornton Distinguished Chair, Department of Plant & Soil Science, Texas Tech University

4. Assessment tools for monitoring and predicting changes and to support scenario analyses of alternatives and tradeoffs. Dennis Ojima, Senior Scholar, The H John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment

5. Science and policy needed to sustain agriculture in mixed grassland environments, including role of marketbased tools, state and local water laws and policies, and environmental trades (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, water allocation, effluent releases). George Boody, Executive Director, Land Stewardship Project

SWCS will develop the conference proceedings and will disseminate the findings and recommendations to key scientific, policy maker, and agricultural audiences, including all attendees.

The early registration deadline is Wednesday, September 10, 2008.

WHEN

Monday, October 20, 2008 2:00 PM -
Wednesday, October 22, 2008 2:00 PM
Central Time Zone

WHERE

Sheraton Oklahoma City Hotel
One North Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
USA

More details in www.swcs.org

October 20-23, 2008

The 10th Asian Regional Maize Workshop

Makassar, Indonesia, 20 - 23 October 2008

The Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) are pleased to announce the **10th Asian Regional Maize Workshop** to be held in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, 20-23 October 2008.

Venue: Sahid Jaya Hotel, Jalan Dr. Sam Ratulangi 33, **Makassar 90132, South Sulawesi, Indonesia**

Theme: Maize for Asia: Emerging Trends and Technologies

Workshop secretariat:

ICERI-MAROS, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Telephone: +62-411-371-529

Address:

Indonesian Cereals Research Institute, (ICERI),
Jalan Dr. Ratulangi 274, Maros 90514, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Attn: Dr. Muhammad Azrai

Facsimile: +62-411-371 961

e-mail: armw_x@yahoo.co.id

October 20, 2008

WOCAT Symposium 2008



(World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies)

is very pleased to announce the Symposium on:

**'Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and its Local and Global Impacts',
Monday 20 October 2008 in Berne, Switzerland**

The aim of this symposium is to reflect on SLM achievements and to align current and future efforts for enhancing and promoting the positive local and global impacts of SLM. The symposium will bring together various partners and donors interested in SLM and natural resource management. As the symposium will take place on the first day of the 13th WOCAT annual Workshop and Steering Meeting (WWSM13), many WOCAT partners will be present, thus offering an exceptional chance to meet and exchange experiences and visions (NB: WWSM13 participants do not have to register separately for the symposium!).

Attached you can find the detailed announcement with the programme and further information.

For further details and registration, please visit our website at <http://www.wocat.org/symp.asp>. We would appreciate it if you distribute this announcement among your partners and the research community. We apologize for any cross-posting.

We are looking forward to your participation.

Christine Hauert, WOCAT secretariat
Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)
Institute of Geography, University of Berne
Hallerstrasse 10, CH-3012 Berne
SWITZERLAND
Phone: +41 31 6315459 (8845); Fax: +41 31 631 8544
<http://www.cde.unibe.ch>; <http://www.wocat.net>

October 20-25, 2008

13 th WOCAT Annual Workshop and Steering Meeting (WWSM)

20-25 October 2008, Berne and Gwatt, Switzerland

The 13 th WWSM will be held in Switzerland. The first day of the WWSM will be an open symposium for the main WOCAT partners and all participants of the WWSM. The symposium will take place in Berne (Hotel Bern) whereas the following days of the WWSM will be spent in Gwatt.

October 28-30, 2008

FAO/CTIC Conservation Agriculture Carbon Offset Consultation, 28-30 October 2008, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Conservation Technology Information Center are hosting an international discussion about the potential of conservation agriculture systems and sequestering carbon in contributing significantly to the mitigation of climate change. Experts from around the world will meet in the United States in August 2008 to present data about the potential for carbon sequestration through good agricultural practices, such as no-tillage cropping systems, the methods and models for assessment of agriculture-based carbon credit trading, and techniques and practices for verification. Included will be the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat on carbon finance and how it can assist in enabling GHG agricultural mitigation and carbon sink actions and measures, with particular reference to the Clean Development Mechanism (financial mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol).

The outcome of this meeting will be a clear direction about the steps necessary to assess the potential in existing global carbon offset market and how these can enable agriculture in using no-till and/or conservation agriculture through carbon finance.

To that end, participants will outline what carbon markets already exist, their environmental integrity and what information or capacity building is still required for further participation in these markets by potential participants.

Experts in conservation agriculture, carbon sequestration and carbon offset markets are invited to submit an abstract for consideration. More information at:

http://www.conservationinformation.org/?action=events_events_carbonoffsetmtg or write to Theodor Friedrich at Theodor.Friedrich@fao.org

October 28-29, 2008

Carbon Capture & Storage, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

November 1-6, 2008

6th International Hani-Akha Culture Conference, Luchun County, Yunnan Province, China, near the border area with Northern Vietnam and Lao P.D.R. Mr Bai Bibo welcomes you to the conference organized in his hometown. Trust our members will be interested in presenting academic papers regarding Alkha-Hani Land and Water Conservation in the Mekong River Basin. Contact Bai Bibo, baibibo@hotmail.com

November 2-3, 2008.

North Africa and Middle East Science Centers Network (NAMES) First General Assembly Meeting "The Role of Science Centers in Establishing Knowledge-Based Societies in the Region".

Location: Alexandria, Egypt

November 4-8, 2008

International Conference for Peanut Genomics and Biotechnology

In collaboration with the American Peanut Council, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is organizing the third international meeting of the Peanut Genomics Initiative on Advances in *Arachis* through Genomics and Biotechnology (AAGB-2008). AAGB-2008 will be held from 4 to 8 November 2008 at ICRISAT Headquarters, Hyderabad, India. The conference will deal with the following themes: Genetic Resources, Allelic Diversity, Germplasm Enhancement, Genomic Resources, Comparative Genomics, Gene Discovery, Biotic and Abiotic Stresses, and Product Quality and Safety.

For further details, visit <http://www.icrisat.org/aagb-2008> / <http://www.peanutbioscience.com/> or contact Rajeev Varshney (r.k.varshney@cgiar.org)

November 5-7, 2008

5th International Scientific Conference on Sustainable Farming Systems "ECOMIT" in Piestany, Slovakia on November 5-7, 2008. We kindly ask you to register as soon as possible because the number of the participants is limited. Registration fee is Euro 180 after June 2008.

Outstanding key note speakers from all over the world (<http://www.ecomit.vurv.sk/about-the-meeting/committee/>) will present their vision and state of the art in the field of conservation agriculture, organic agriculture in relation to plants and soil, climate change, water efficiency and water management, mechanical soil management, soil health and soil biodiversity, energy production and energy use.

Zuzana Lehocka
Chairperson of ECOMIT Organizing Committee
Slovak Agricultural Research Centre
Research Institute of Plant Production Piestany
Head of Department of Alternative Plant Production
122 Bratislavská cesta, 921 68 Piestany
SLOVAKIA
Phone: ++421 33 77 22 311; E-mail: lehocka@vurv.sk

November 5-9, 2008

Society of American Foresters Annual Convention - Forestry in a Climate of Change, Reno, Nevada, USA

November 7-10, 2008

On behalf of the [GCC Network for Drylands Research & Development \(NDRD\)](#) I would like to inform you about two upcoming drylands events that may be of interest to you as well as WASWC members.

Ninth International Conference on Development of Drylands

Sustainable Development in Drylands – Meeting the Challenge of Global Climate Change

Organizer: The International Dryland Development Commission (IDDC)

Sponsored by: ALRC (Tottori University), ARC-Egypt, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, CAS, DRI, FAO (tbc), ICARDA, ICRIAT, JICA, JIRCAS, UNCCD (tbc), UNESCO (tbc) & UNU

7-10 November 2008, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt

Further information can be found on either NDRD or ICARDA websites

<http://www.ndrd.org/html/conferences.html>

http://www.icarda.cgiar.org/Announcement/2008/9th-IDDC/9th-IDDC_FirstAnn.htm

If you require further information please contact:

Prof. Dr. Mohan C. Saxena

Assistant Director General, ICARDA, Arid Land Research Center

Tottori University, Japan M.SAXENA@CGIAR.ORG

November 8, 2008

Development Studies Association Annual Conference, Westminster, London

November 9-17, 2008

Soil Classification - Chile

This conference will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 9 to 17 November 2008. The aim of the meeting is to bring together scientists and researchers in the field of soil classification to discuss recent progress in the World Reference Base for Soil Resources and other classification schemes. The conference is jointly organized by the IUSS, the Chilean Society of Soil Science, the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture, the Universities of Chile, Concepcion and La Serena, and the Centre of Advanced Studies in Arid Zones. Please check the website www.scc2008.uchile.cl

November 10-14, 2008

Second International Forum on Water and Food

The Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) is hosting the Second International Forum on Water and Food, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from November 10-14, 2008. The Forum comes at an exciting time as the CPWF picks up pace and refines itself to best meet Program goals.

One of the major objectives of the Forum is to highlight the new knowledge generated during the first phase of the CPWF by our community of practice.

In addition to Keynotes from high profile scientists and policymakers, the Forum program will include presentations from selected CPWF projects and concurrent sessions on Science and Impact. Attendees can also expect a packed agenda of presentations in parallel sessions on CPWF project results from our nine benchmark basins.

Specific sessions that explore the impact of our research on livelihoods will add some powerful commentary to the severe water and food challenges confronting our world today.

More info: <http://www.waterandfood.org/> and further contact: CPWF-Secretariat@cgiar.org

November 12-13, 2008

Conference on the Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture

The Association of Applied Plant Biologists will be conducting a conference "Effects of Climate Change on Plants: Implications for Agriculture" on 12-13 November 2008 at the Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, United Kingdom. The aim of this conference is to provide a forum to discuss how global environmental change is likely to affect the many facets of crop production and protection.

For further details visit <http://www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=69&basket=wwsshowconfdets>

November 12-14, 2008



**Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, DC**

Carbon Market Insights Americas 2008 will take place in the heart of political decision making, the week following the U.S. presidential election.

The [early registration deadline](#) of September 5 is fast approaching, and those interested in attending this event are encouraged to visit the conference website to learn about the admission discounts before it's too late.

The event will involve leading decision makers in the forthcoming U.S. Administration and Congress and provide participants with a fresh analysis on climate policy and carbon markets in North America. It will offer key insights into how federal policy changes are likely to affect regional cap-and-trade schemes in North America, the global carbon market, and emissions trading around the world. [Click here](#) to register and to get more information about the conference.

November 15-17, 2008

The 2nd International Student Conference of Biotechnology

Location: Tehran, Iran

November 16-19, 2008

The 3rd International Conference on Water Resources and Arid Environments 2008 and the First Arab Water Forum

from 16 to 19 November 2008 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Further information can be downloaded:

<http://www.ndrd.org/1stCallFinalEnglish.pdf>

If you have any further questions please contact me: andy@ndrd.org

Andy, Founder President of GCC Network for Drylands Research and Development (NDRD)

www.ndrd.org

November 16-21, 2008

International Symposium on the Biosafety of GMOs

The 10th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) will be held in Wellington, New Zealand on 16-21 November 2008. The workshops and lectures will focus on recent developments in the science supporting biosafety research and the state of the art of risk assessment. Among the specific topics include those pertaining to impacts of GMOs in relation to their fitness and invasiveness and due to pest, impacts of GMOs on complex soil ecosystems, biosafety issues associated with GM domestic animals, fish and insects, methods for restricting gene flow from GM crops, and methods of pre and post market environmental monitoring of GMOs.

For more information and to register please visit <http://www.isbgmo.info/>.

November 17-20, 2008

The 2nd announcement of the **FORTROP II International Conference**, 17-20 November 2008, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, for your information.

Contact: Shingo Shibata, Chief Technical Adviser
GCP/RAS/218/JPN (RAFFTA)

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel: +66-2-697-4108; Fax: +66-2-697-4445

Shingo.Shibata@fao.org, Apirada.Sirigaya@fao.org

November 20-22, 2008

World Biodiversity Congress

Recognizing the importance of biological diversity, the first World Biodiversity Congress will be held on November 20-22, 2008 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The 4-day event organized by the Century Foundation (India) will provide a forum for formulating and reviewing policies and programs that will result to more productive and sustainable biodiversity utilization and conservation.

Among the topics in the technical sessions include: environmental biotechnology, biodiversity information management, management of land resources, and combating desertification. More information is available at

<http://www.upm.edu.my/WCB2008Thailand.pdf>

November 26-30 2008

International Symposium GEOTUNIS: Natural resource management and Impact of climate change: Bringing the technology of Geographic Information.

Axe 1: geomatics technologies are appropriate in the exploration and management of natural resources?

- Remote GIS: A useful synergy.
- GPS and GIS for mobile mapping precision.
- Applicability of geographic information technology
 - Agriculture.
 - Fisheries Management (trawling and impact on the fishery resources), and aquaculture.
 - Livestock and grazing.
 - Exploration of mines.

Principle 2: The water resources sustainability and / or carried on operations.

- Collection, storage and management of rainwater and tributaries.
- Optimization of implantation sites for construction of dams.
- Process hydrological modeling and spatial
- Sustainability of water resources in arid environments?

Principle 3: The arid between vulnerability and risk of desertification.

- Sensitivity of arid climate change.
- Preventing and combating desertification.
- Bio Diversity and balance of the ecosystems in arid environments.

Principle 4: The Physical Planning and Geographic Information Technologies: a necessary complementarity.

- Geographic information and spatial / Regional.
- Planning tourism.
- Urban Planning.
- Planning Attorneys.

www.geotunis.org atigeo_num@yahoo.fr

Tel/Fax : 00 216 71 341 814

Gestion des ressources naturelles et Impact des changements climatiques: Apport des Technologies de l'Information Géographique.

Axe 1: Les technologies géomatiques sont elles appropriées en exploration et gestion des ressources naturelles?

- Télédétection SIG: Une synergie utile.
- GPS et SIG mobiles pour une cartographie de précision.
- Applicabilité des technologies de l'information géographique en :
 - Agriculture.
 - Gestion des pêches (La pêche au chalut et impact sur les ressources halieutique) et aquaculture.
 - Elevage et paturage.
 - Exploration des mines.

Axe 2: Les ressources hydrauliques durabilité et/ ou mise en sur exploitation.

- collecte, stockage et gestion des eaux de pluies et des affluents.
- optimisation d'implantation des sites de construction des barrages.
- Processus hydrologiques et modélisation spatialisée
- Durabilité des ressources hydriques en milieux arides?

Axe 3: Les milieux arides entre vulnérabilité et risque de désertification.

- Sensibilité des milieux arides aux changements climatiques.
- Prévention et lutte contre la désertification.
- Bio diversité et équilibre des écosystèmes en milieux arides.

Axe 4: L'aménagement du territoire et les Technologies de l'information géographique: une nécessaire complémentarité.

- Information géographique et aménagement territorial / régional.
- Planification touristique.
- Planification urbaine.
- Planification Industrielle.

www.geotunis.org

atigeo_num@yahoo.fr

Tel/Fax : 00 216 71 341 814

إدارة الموارد الطبيعية و دراسة اثر التغيرات المناخية باستخدام نظم المعلومات الجغرافية و علوم و تكنولوجيا الفضاء

محاور المؤتمر :

المحور الأول: التقنيات الرقمية واستخداماتها في مجال دراسة الموارد الطبيعية:

1. - نظم وتقنيات الاستشعار عن بعد (Remote Sensing).

المحور الثاني: الموارد المائية:

1. - استخدام التقنيات الرقمية في حصد وتخزين مياه الأمطار والسيول.

1. - تلوث البيئة الصحراوية.

المحور الرابع: دور التقنيات الرقمية في دراسة التصحر ومقاومته:

1. - الأساليب الحديثة في الحد من التصحر.

المحور الخامس: استخدام التقنيات الحديثة في مجال التخطيط.

December 1-5, 2008**International EcoHealth Forum 2008: 2nd Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology & Health, Merida, Mexico**

Hosted by the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) of México, this conference will focus on renewing and establishing networks to further the capacity of participants to promote healthy ecosystems and, in turn, healthy people. Conference participants – researchers, policy-makers and practitioners – will learn how project outcomes have been used by other policy-makers, stakeholders and community representatives to effect improvements in ecosystem management, disease prevention and environmental protection. Experiences with research and practice, including methodological gaps as well as opportunities for intervention and policy development will be presented. Conference delegates are invited to plan now to contribute with paper, video, other media, and oral presentations to the development of new approaches and ideas in EcoHealth by being active participants in IEF 2008.

For more information see <http://www.insp.mx/ecohealth2008/index.php>.

December 1-12, 2008

United Nations Climate Change Conference, Poznan, Poland

December 2-4, 2008

International symposium on regulatory and safety issues in the commercialization of biotechnology research in the developing world. Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

December 3-4, 2008

Corporate Water Footprinting, San Francisco, USA

December 4-6, 2008

The New Water Culture Foundation (FNCA) will have its general conference in Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain): CONGRESSO IBÉRICO SOBRE GESTÃO E PLANEAMENTO DA ÁGUA - LOS NUEVOS PLANES DE GESTIÓN DE CUENCA. UNA OPORTUNIDAD PARA LA RECUPERACIÓN DE LOS CICLOS DEL AGUA

Location: Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain; Languages: Spanish and Portuguese

Please check: <http://www.unizar.es/fnca/agenda/081204vitoria.pdf>

João Pedroso de Lima plima@dec.uc.pt

December 10-12, 2008

International conference on environmental management and technologies

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

December 11-12, 2008

This is information of **II International Meeting in Soil Enzymology “Recycling Organic Wastes in Environmental Restoration and Climatic Change”** that the Spanish Group of Soil Enzymology are organizing in Burgos (Spain) next 11-12 December 2008. More information about the event could be obtained from our web page: http://www.ubucomp.com/actividad/congreso/index_i.htm

We will be pleased if you inform to the members of WASWC about it.

Carlos Rad (congreso_sgse08@ubucomp.com)

Edaphology and Agricultural Sciences

University of Burgos, Faculty of Sciences

Misael Bañuelos Sq, E 09001 Burgos (Spain)

Tf.: +34-947-258811; Fax: +34-947-258831

December 9-12, 2008

Second International Symposium on Papaya

The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is organizing the Second International Symposium on Papaya to be held at Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India on 9-12 December, 2008. The theme of the symposium 'Papayas for Nutritional Security' addresses the need for cultivating papaya from traditional small holdings to commercial orchards to alleviate the problem of malnutrition especially Vitamin A deficiency in many developing countries.

For further information, contact Dr.N.Kumar at kumarhort@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.ishs-papaya2008.com/Home%20page.html>

December 9-12, 2008

Global Potato Conference 2008

Potato is the fourth most important food crop after rice, wheat and maize. Realizing the potential of potato as the future food crop to feed the burgeoning global population, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) designated 2008 as "International Year of Potato (IYP)". To celebrate the event, "Global Potato Conference 2008" will be held at NASC Complex, New Delhi, India from December 9-12, 2008. The theme of the Conference is "Opportunities and Challenges in the New Millennium". This Conference is jointly organized by the Indian Potato Association (IPA), Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. Obtain more information about the GPC 2008 at <http://www.gpc2008.in>. For registration inquiries, contact Dr JS Minhas at minhasjs@excite.com

December 10-12, 2008

GEO-CHIANGMAI Thailand, focusing on New Developments in

Soil & Rock Engineering

Engineering Geology &

Environmental Geotechnique

Secretariat Address: CI-Premier Ptd Ltd, 150 Orchard Road #07-14, Orchard Plaza, Singapore 238841. Republic of Singapore

(Tel: 065-6733-2922, Fax: 065- 6235-3530, email: cipremie@singnet.com.sg)

Contact: Er John S Y Tan, CI-Premier Pte Ltd, Website: www.cipremier.com

December 10-14, 2008

International Soybean Conference in India

The International Soybean Processing and Utilization Conference will be held at the Soybean Processing and Utilization Centre, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) at Bhopal, India on December 10-14, 2008. Bhopal is regarded as the Soybean State of India. The conference will focus on the emerging technologies in soybean processing and utilization as food for nutritional enhancement and health promotion.

For additional details email Dr. S.D. Kulkarni of CIAE at sdk@ciae.res.in or ispuc.v@gmail.com.

December 14-17, 2008

The second international conference at the **Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Sede Boqer Campus on

Drylands, Deserts and Desertification

December 14-17, 2008

An international conference Co-sponsored by UNESCO, and Israel's Ministry for Foreign Affairs. See <http://cmsprod.bgu.ac.il/Eng/Units/bidr/desertification2008/default.htm> details:

Please send the filled registration form to: desertification@bg.ac.il

Themes

A. Soil and Vegetation

- Climate change and soil fertility
- Monitoring and indicators of soil states
- Political ecology and indirect drivers of soil erosion
- Agricultural practices and soil degradation
- Water management and soil health
- Soil biodiversity in drylands
- Case studies in soil restoration
- Vegetation and sustainable grazing in drylands
- Drought and salt-resistant crops in dryland agriculture

- Management of vegetative systems in drylands
- Dryland afforestation
- Agroforestry in dryland systems
- Case studies involving restoration of degraded vegetative systems
- Monitoring of vegetation states
- Monitoring soil and vegetation degradation by remote sensing
- Global change and vegetative-system diversity and productivity
- Political ecology and indirect drivers of vegetation degradation
- Biodiversity and conservation in the drylands

B. Partnerships and Models for Sustainable Dryland Development

- Using traditional land management practices to address desertification
- Strategies for adaptation to climatic change in the drylands
- Urbanization's role in a sustainable dryland development strategy
- Strengthening community-driven development—the role of appropriate science and technology
- Lessons learned about international aid's role in promoting national and local dryland development policies
- Escaping “poverty traps”—programs which have helped individuals and households extract themselves through economic development in the drylands
- Livelihood diversification—models and examples for expanding the economic robustness of dryland communities
- Contingency planning for food security in drylands
- Culturing desertification: integrating environmental conservation and gender in non-western countries

C. Planning and Architecture as Tools for Sustainable Development

- Urbanization's role in sustainable dryland development strategies
- Urban microclimate in arid environments: conditions and design strategies
- Sustainable architectural design and low-energy communities in desert locations
- Building materials in arid regions: environmental and economic life-cycle analysis
- Indoor environmental quality in dust-rich environments—public health and physical planning
- Legislation, standards and policies for implementing sustainable planning and design in arid environments
- Public open spaces in dryland cities—existing standards and future needs, density issues, appropriate planning, water usage

Submission Instructions

Outlines of papers (1 page long) should be submitted to: papers@bgu.ac.il

The review process will be ongoing. Final date for submissions is September 1, 2008.

Authors who have submitted paper proposals by September 1 will be notified of decisions regarding the acceptance of their papers by **October 1, 2008**.

Events:

(Click on an event for more information) **August 2008**

[EPA Watershed Webcasts](#)

[EPA Stormwater Webcasts](#)

[PA Dirt and Gravel Road ESM Workshops](#)

[Pennsylvania River Sojourns](#)

[Villanova “Day of Stormwater” Seminar](#)

[PA Geosynthetic BMPs for Stormwater Management Workshop](#)

[NJ Clearwater Festival](#)

[NJ Wetlands Manual Training Workshop](#)

[GreenFest Philly](#)

[PADEP Hearings on Water Resources Plan](#)

[EPA Water Quality Modeling Workshop](#)
[TMDL Development and Implementation Seminar](#)
[National Nonpoint Source \(NPS\) Monitoring Workshop](#)
[Wetlands 2008 National Conference](#)
[PA Noxious, Invasive Weed Management Course](#)
[PA Westmoreland Conservation District Events](#)
[York County Watershed Weekend](#)
[WEFTEC.08 Conference](#)
[APA Regional Conference](#)
[NALMS 2008](#)

MEETINGS 2009++

January-November 2009

Darwin 200 Symposia

The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and UNESCO announce the 'Darwin 200' programme to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth in 2009. Darwin 200 will comprise a series of scientific symposia and satellite meetings on five continents. [More...](#)

January 5-7, 2009

Thailand 2009 - Call for Papers Deadline Approaching

Thailand 2009: An International Perspective on Environmental and Water Resources

Conference Co-Organizers

AIT & EWRI

REMINDER: Thailand 2009 - Call for Abstracts

[Download Call for Papers Brochure](#)

[SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT NOW!](#)

CONFERENCE TOPICS:

CLIMATE AND NATURAL HAZARDS

WATER RESOURCES AND WATER SUPPLY

ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

...AND OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS

For more information about the Thailand 2009 Conference, visit the conference website at:

<http://content.asce.org/conferences/thailand09>.

January 5-8, 2009

SWAT-SEA Conference, Chiang Mai, Thailand



During January 5-8, 2009, make plans to attend the Soil and Water Assessment Tool-Southeast Asia (SWAT-SEA) Workshop and Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand

The first SWAT conference in the Southeast Asia (SEA) region, with Northern Thailand hospitality. Experiencing the friendly and special events, featured speakers, and exciting displays regarding SWAT principles and applications. SWAT is a leading water quality watershed model being used worldwide; see <http://ww.brc.tamus.edu/swat> for more details.

SWAT-SEA is expected to bring together 300+ people from SEA region and around the world representing academia, government, non-governmental organizations, and private industry, including a large contingent of undergraduate and graduate students. Additional information about the conference is available at <http://www2.mcc.cmu.ac.th/swat/>. The deadline for submitting abstracts is July 15.

See <http://www2.mcc.cmu.ac.th/swat/> for more information regarding the submission of abstracts and/or contact Prof. Dr. Hiroaki Somura at swat2009@life.shimane-u.ac.jp for more information.

Please also contact any of the following SWAT-SEA Committee members for additional information:

- Dr. Attachai Jintrawet, Conference Co-Chair, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand
(email: attachaij@gmail.com)
- Dr. Manuel Reyes, Conference Co-Chair, North Carolina A&T State University, USA
(email: mannyreyes@nc.rr.com)
- Dr. Manoj Jha, CARD, Iowa State Univ., USA (and graduate of AIT, Bangkok)
(email: manoj@iastate.edu)
- Dr. Philip W. Gassman, Conference Paper Chairman, CARD, Iowa State Univ., USA
(email: pwgassma@iastate.edu)

Background

The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) is a public domain model jointly developed by USDA Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at the Temple, Texas, USA. SWAT is a river basin scale model to simulate the quality and quantity of surface and ground water and predict the environmental impact of land management practices on different soil patterns and land use patterns. It is developed for assessing the impact of management and climate on water supplies, sediment, and agricultural chemical yields in watersheds and larger river basins.

SWAT is widely used in soil erosion prevention and control, non point pollution control and regional environmental management in watersheds. The major components of SWAT include hydrology, weather, erosion, plant growth, nutrients, pesticides, land management, and stream routing.

SWAT is applied in various fields worldwide. In order to promote the development and application of SWAT in China and international communications, Beijing Normal University (BNU) successfully held the First International SWAT Workshop in China on November 5-7, 2006. Authorized by USDA-ARS, the 5th SWAT International Conference will be organized by School of Environment, Beijing Normal University on October 15-19, 2008.

February 4-7, 2009

IV World Congress on Conservation Agriculture

I hope you are aware that the 4th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture will be held in New Delhi, India from 4 to 7 February 2009. The Congress is being organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The sponsors of the Congress are FAO, IFAD, ICARDA, RWC, Indian Society of Soil Science and Indian Society of Agricultural Economics.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is my pleasure to invite you for your active participation in the Congress. The details of the congress are available in the website:
www.icar.org.in/wccagri/index.html or www.wccagri.ernet.in

I shall be grateful if you please help us in making wide publicity of the Congress to those who are engaged in conservation agriculture.

Please contact me for more information.

PK Joshi
Organizing Secretary
4th Congress on Conservation Agriculture
National Academy of Agricultural Sciences
Pusa, New Delhi 110 012 India
Tel: +91-11-2584 3036
Fax: +91-11-2584 2684
E-mail: pkjoshi@ncap.res.in

February 9-12, 2009

Conference of the International Erosion Control Association: Environmental Connection 09, Reno-Sparks Convention Center in Reno, Nevada, USA.
Abstract deadline: June 6, 2008
Acceptance for poster presentation: June 30, 2008
Contact: Kate at kate@ieca.org. For more hotel and travel information visit our web site www.ieca.org.

February 9-12, 2009

International Congress: Global Warming, Biodiversity of Insects: Management and Conservation, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, India. **Contact:** Dr K. Murugan, **t:** 91 422 2422 222 Ext: 483, **f:** 91 422 2422 387, **e:** kmvbk@yahoo.com | [More...](#)

February 16-18, 2009

The First International Conference on Biotechnology "Towards Knowledge Based Society"
Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

February 18-21, 2009

African Science Communication Conference, 2009

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancements (SAASTA) is organizing the 2nd African Science Communication Conference. The conference, which will highlight science communication's contribution to science, technology and innovation and the development of democracy in the continent, will be held in Gauteng, South Africa from 18-21 February 2009.

For more information, download the first announcement at
http://www.saasta.ac.za/2ndascc/pdf/ascc_first_announcement.pdf

February 20-22, 2009

Spatial Knowledge and Information Canada 2009: Call for Abstracts, Fernie, BC, Canada

Following on last year's successful conference, we invite you and your students to submit abstracts and attend the second Conference of Spatial Knowledge and Information Canada. Spatial Knowledge and Information Canada brings together researchers of geo-spatial information who live and work in Canada. Those of you who attended last year know that we had strong representation of participatory GIS research and practice (not surprising, considering the committee's long involvement in participatory GIS and critical GIS) and we hope to do so once again.

Become part of a community that shares our research and exposes our students to new ways of thinking spatially and using geographic information. Our goals include:

- * Having our student present in front of a Canadian GIS/Geomatics/geoweb research audience (last year, 2/3 of presenters were students!).
- * Share the ongoing and emerging GIS/Geomatics/geoweb research in our community.
- * Build cohesion and synergy among GIS/Geomatics/geoweb researchers.
- * Discuss issues of importance to the Canadian GIS/Geomatics/geoweb community.
- * Provide mentorship opportunities for students and junior scholars.

Deadline for submitting abstracts and registering for the conference: October 3, 2008

More information, abstract submission, and registration can be found at <http://rose.geog.mcgill.ca/ski>.

February 23, 2009

International Conference on Implementing Environmental Water Allocations Port Elizabeth South Africa

March 8-14, 2009

CONFERENCE ON LAND DEGRADATION IN DRY ENVIRONMENTS, 8-14 March 2009

SPECIAL: There is NO registration fee for this conference; the Kuwait University takes care of it. All participants are, however, responsible for international travel and accommodation costs.

"Dr Jasem M A Al-Awadhi" jawadhi@kuc01.kuniv.edu.kw

Message contains attachments

[conference -2.jpg \(1423KB\)](#), [conference -1.jpg \(2081KB\)](#)

Kuwait University is pleased to invite you to attend the **Conference on Land Degradation in Dry Environments** to be held in Kuwait.

The **theme** of the Conference is **"Land Conservation, Climate Change and Environmental Practices"**.
For more information kindly see our website: cldde.kuniv.edu

Tentative program:

March 8-10, 2009: Conference

March 11, 2009: Field trip to Sabah Al-Ahmed Natural Reserve

March 12-14, 2009: Post-conference field trip to United Arab Emirates (with a fee, to be announced)

Deadline for receiving abstracts: February 15, 2009

Abstracts should be limited to one A/4 pages, written in Times New Roman (TNR) 12, 1.5 spacing with margins of 2.5 cm. Please not include tables, figures and photos in the abstract! The heading to be adjusted left as follows:

- Title in TNR 14, bold; Blank line;
 - Author(s) name(s) in TNR 12, Normal, including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail of the first author;
 - Two blank lines before text.
- After the text of the abstract leave one blank line
- Suggest a conference topic for your abstract

Those participants, whose abstract is accepted will be invited to submit a paper or extended abstract limited to ten A/4 pages.

Abstracts/ papers should be sent to the following e-mail address: cldde2009@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please email Mrs Meena at: cldde@gmail.com

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Kuwait.

Dr. Jasem Al-Awadhi (jawadhi@kuc01.kuniv.edu.kw)

March 16-22, 2009

5th World Water Forum. 15-22 March 2009. Istanbul, Turkey. [Website](#)

March 22-25, 2009

World Potato Congress 2009

The 7th World Potato Congress will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand on 22 - 25 March 2009, and will be hosted by the Potato Product Group of Horticulture New Zealand. The theme of the Congress is "Nourishing Our Future" with the tagline "Potatoes: sustainable, nutritious, delicious." WPC 2009 will bring together representatives of the potato industry from around the world to share information, research and knowledge on all aspects of the potato industry.

For complete details and to register for the Congress and Partners Program, visit <http://www.wpcnz.org.nz/>

June 1, 2009

[Rendez-vous international sur la gestion integree de l'eau/](#), Sherbrooke, Canada

June 15-19, 2009

18th Triennial ISTRO Conference, see details in an earlier issue of HOT NEWS or click www.istro2009.ege.edu.tr.

June 22-26, 2009

The 10th international meeting on soil with Mediterranean type of climate
Location: Beirut, Lebanon

June 25, 2008

European Water Resources Association (EWRA) 7th International Conference, Limassol, Cyprus

July 12-19, 2009

INVITATION TO A CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN 2009

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SYMPOSIUM OF CARBON DIOXIDE UTILIZATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN UGANDA AND AFRICA 12-19 JULY 2009” [ICCCUA]

We extend an invitation letter to you and your colleagues to join this vital conference which shall be held in Uganda by 2009, July 12-19th. The conference will take place at Munyonyo Hotel. From the 12-19 July 2009.

Contact conference secretariat on 0772-909831, 0752-354252

Email: bepauganda_2004@yahoo.com / conferencesecretariat39@gmail.com secretariat@icccu2009.org

David Tenywa Kasiiba, Chief Coordinator

See details in a previous issue of HOT NEWS or contact the organizers.

November 2009

16th ISCO Conference, Santiago, Chile. **Contact:** Claudio Perez Castillo (cperez@inia.cl) and German Ruiz Cardenas (german.ruiz@sag.gob.cl)

November 12-14, 2009

The 2009 International Conference in Morocco

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French Version 



**Faculty of Law of
Agadir**



NRCS



EST-Agadir



**Ibn Zohr University of
Agadir**

Call for Proposals
The 2009 International Conference on:

"The Integration of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Context of Climate Change, the Energy Crisis and Food Insecurity"

November 12-14, 2009 Agadir (Morocco)

The Conference is organized jointly by the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences of Agadir and the North-South Center for Social Sciences (NRCS), in partnership with the High School of Technology of Agadir, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir (Morocco)

Or contact Rachid Mrabet at rachidmrabet@yahoo.co.uk

August 1-6, 2010

AN INVITATION TO THE 19TH WORLD CONGRESS OF SOIL SCIENCE <http://www.ccm.com.au/soil/>

On behalf of Officers of the International Union of Soil Science, we are delighted to extend our personal invitation to you to join us in Brisbane, Australia for the 19th World Congress of Soil Science to be held 1-6 August 2010 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The conference theme "Soil Solutions for a Changing World" provides a tremendous opportunity for a broad range of presentations – we urge you to share your research, experiences and knowledge with members in Brisbane.

We are very proud to be associated with an outstanding group of professionals who have gathered to form the steering committee for the 19th World Congress, led jointly by Professor Steve Raine and Mr Mike Grundy.

Won't you join us and colleagues from throughout the world in what promises to be an outstanding gathering of the Soil Science community.



Roger Swift
President
International Union of Soil Sciences



Neal Menzies
Vice-President
International Union of Soil Sciences



It is our privilege and pleasure, on behalf of the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc., to introduce the 19th World Congress of Soil Science to be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 to 6 August 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*.

While you are here we would encourage you and your family to take the time to experience the best of what Queensland has to offer. Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, is a modern, sophisticated city of more than 1.6 million people. Queenslanders enjoy a safe and friendly lifestyle and you will appreciate the reasons why our state is a great place to live, a great place to do business and a great place to visit.

Our Conference Committee is a totally committed group of professionals who are hard at work to present an outstanding conference. We look forward to welcoming you in 2010 to what we are confident will be the best ever World Congress of Soil Science.



Steve Raine
Co-Chair
19th World Congress of Soil Science



Mike Grundy
Co-Chair, 19th World Congress of Soil Science

**You may ask sombatpanit@yahoo.com about your membership status, i.e. up to which year you have paid.
Then you may send your membership fee to either Bill or me in the following list:**

a. Dr. William (Bill) C. Moldenhauer, Vice President (Assist. Treasurer), 2400 Sunrise Ridge Circle #107 Brookings SD 57006, USA. Phone: +1-605-6976470, Fax: +1-605-6279123 Attn: W.C. Moldenhauer, moldwc@itctel.com. He can receive money from US and Canadian members through Personal Check, Money Order, or Bank Draft (**payable to WASWC**), and can receive VISA and MasterCard credit cards and Bank Draft (**payable to WASWC**) from all over the world. *****For sending money through a bank, please give the following information to your bank:** United Bankers Bank, St. Paul, MN, USA; Routing Number (ABA Number) 091 001 322; **SWIFT Code: UBBKUS41**, For Benefit of First National Bank of Volga SD, Account No. 250-2334; Further Credit World Soil, Account No. 703-488.

Note: 1. Do not deduct the bank fee from your side from the amount of money to send.

2. For sending money by bank transfer, please add US\$X per transaction to compensate for the charge(s) at the receiving bank in South Dakota. Ask moldwc@itctel.com how much 'X' means in your case. This additional charge is NOT applicable for the payment of membership fee(s) of US\$50 or more.

3. Sending money by credit card does not require any additional charge.

b. Dr. Samran Sombatpanit, WASWC Immediate Past President, 67/141 Amonphant 9, Soi Sena 1, Bangkok 10230, Thailand. Phone/Fax: +66-25703641, sombatpanit@yahoo.com. He accepts Bank Draft from every country. **Mark the draft "payable to Dr. Samran Sombatpanit"**. He receives SWIFT through the Bangkok Bank, Bangkok Branch, 2124 Phaholyothin Road, Jatujak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand. Phone: +66-25614091/ 25791146-8, Fax: +66-25791149. SWIFT CODE: BKKBTBHK, A/C No. 161-0-210864, which you should also indicate **"payable to Dr. Samran Sombatpanit"**.

Note: 1. Do not deduct the bank fee from your side from the amount of money to send.

2. For sending money by bank transfer please add US\$8 per transaction to compensate for the charge(s) at the receiving bank in Bangkok. This additional charge is NOT applicable for the payment of membership fee(s) of US\$50 or more.

Ask sombatpanit@yahoo.com for addresses in other countries that you may pay in local currency.

Note: For the convenience of all parties you are advised to sign up as a Life member or to pay for several years (e.g 4 years and get 5 years) in one time. Contact sombatpanit@yahoo.com if you have any problem.

1. Individual membership: US\$5/yr for developing countries; US\$10/yr for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide. As an incentive, payment for 4 years will make the membership valid for 5 years.

2. Life membership: US\$80 for developing countries; US\$160 for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide

3-1. Organization membership (OM): For universities, research and implemental institutions, government agencies, NGOs, societies, associations and international organizations, etc. Persons belonging to an Organization member will receive the same online products and services as the other two above categories: \$100/yr for an organization with up to 150 persons; \$150/yr for an organization with up to 300 persons; \$200/yr for an organization with up to 500 persons; and \$10/yr for an additional 100 persons or part thereof. Local organizations in developing countries can request to pay at a lower rate.

3-2. Organization subscription (OS): is the same as the **Organization membership** but the organization wants to limit its involvement only as a **subscriber**.

3-3. Organization cooperation (OC): is the same as the **Organization membership** but the organization wants to limit its involvement only as a **cooperator**, without paying a fee. Any organization can be a cooperator for 1-2 years before deciding to join as OM or OS if desired.

4. Gift membership: US\$5/yr worldwide, to be purchased by anyone to give to colleagues, friends, students, etc.

The multi-language membership application form is available from <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn/appli-form.html>.



PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE YOU PRINT THIS HOT NEWS