WORLD ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION (WASWC)

NEWSLETTER

Reporting global SWC news quarterly since 1983

In English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Portuguese, Bahasa, Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic, Thai

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 2 (APRIL – JUNE 2009)

Conserving Soil and Water Worldwide – Join WASWC

WASWC Vision: A world in which all soil and water resources are used in a productive, sustainable & ecologically sound manner.
WASWC Mission: To promote worldwide the application of wise soil and water management practices that will improve and safeguard the quality of land and water resources so that they continue to meet the needs of agriculture, society and nature.

WASWC Secretariat: Monitoring Center for Soil and Water Conservation, Ministry of Water Resources, Beijing, PR China, sglu@mwr.gov.cn, http://www.cnscm.org

Photo websites: http://community.webshots.com/user/waswc and http://community.webshots.com/user/waswc1

WASWC Japan: www.waswc.org (for J&P of WASWC)

WASWC China: http://waswc.soil.gd.cn (for Newsletter)

Publishing Partner: Science Publisher, Inc., P.O. 699 Enfield, NH 03748, USA. info@scipub.net, www.scipub.net

Newsletter Composing, Layout and Sending: Punjab Agricultural University, India, WASWC Thailand and NRM Program, AIT, Bangkok, Thailand. **Advisors:** William C. Moldenhauer, David W. Sanders and Samran Sombatpanit

In this issue

The WASWC Newsletter seeks to keep conservationists worldwide informed of new developments in the field of soil and water conservation and land management issues. Please send editorial contributions to the editor at sskukal@rediffmail.com, aroraspau@yahoo.co.in and rmfowler@iafrica.com

President's Message

Dear friends and colleagues,

It's the pleasure to write this message after the organization of six LANDCOND meetings in this year, particularly following the guidelines proposed by WASWC. But I believe that we still can make a lot of improvement in these LANDCON meetings by monitoring their performance. As the organizer of the LANDCON 0905a Conference at Tara Mountain/Serbia, I have this opportunity to express before you the organizational matters that we used, and also some suggestions in organizing next LANDCON meetings.

The purpose of a meeting is to promote the exchange of knowledge, innovations and experiences and to use the results from such deliberations for future use. The LANDCON 0905a consisted of 8 topics in different working groups including the plenary session where the keynote speakers presented recommendations of their topics, which were accepted after thorough deliberations. Special attention was paid on topic 7 (implementing projects in practice) and topic 8 (the work of young scholars). It was very interesting to learn about project implementation in practice done by governmental as well as non-governmental organizations and the farmers. The "young's energy" was quite visible when they presented their diploma, masters' and PhD work. The social benefit gained from this meeting could prove to be useful in terms of encouraging future cooperation. It was discussed to continue project ideas about legal and institutional issues of SWC in Balkan countries, as well as project initiative about sediment research through International Sediment Initiative (ISI) of UNESCO.

There were about 50 sponsored participants (2 with full support and rest with partial support). In negative economic circumstances, this financial support was possible due to the involvement of a number of international and domestic donors (UNESCO, UNU, Eijkelkamp – Holland's firm for research equipment, Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Serbia, Directorate of Waters of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Water Management Institute "Jaroslav Cerni" from Belgrade, Water Management Enterprise "Erozija" from Nis/South Serbia…). Though the donations were mainly in low amounts, but good number of them made the organization of the conference possible.

Meeting program included opportunity for the participants to learn about nature and culture of the National Park Tara, the venue of the conference. Walking tours were organized every evening after the working sessions through the interesting landscape of Tara. A film of torrential flood of Kamniska River, which is situated in the centre of National Park was shown to the participants.

Keynote speakers were selected from a wide spectrum of professionals worldwide and they led their groups of topics in preparations for recommendations. The inaugural session witnessed the keynote lectures by renowned speakers for the global LANDCON opening (*Miodrag Zlatic, Hans Hurni, Martin Haigh and Surinder Kukal*). Apart from this the keynote speakers for each topic presented their papers viz. topic 1: *Winfried Blum* and *Galina Motuzova*; topic 2: *Ildefonso Pla*

Sentis and *Slobodan Petkovic*; topic 3: *Des Walling* and *Valentin Golosov*; topic 4: *Johanes Huebl* and *Stanimir Kostadinov*; topic 5: *Jose Rubio*; topis 6: *Ben Boer* and *Miodrag Zlatic*; topic 7: *Alastair Leake*, *Nada Dragovic* and *Miodrag Zlatic*; topic 8: *Martin Haigh* and *Csila Hudek*.

A field trip was organized in Tara surroundings. The delegates visited cultural and professional objects in the field of SWC and torrent control. We visited Perucac Dam on Drina River and technical and biological works on erosion and torrent control in Kamisna River. From the cultural point of view the delegates visited some nice landscape sites of Tara Mt as well as "Wooden City" established by famous Serbian film director Emir Kusturica. It was two hours traveling by "*Shargan 8*" – old train, which was itself a touristic attraction. A welcome dinner was organized in the evening. The conference proceedings were published in printed form for abstracts and as CD for keynote papers before the start of the conference and distributed to the participants. Report, recommendations and summary of the Conference are the supplement of this issue of newsletter and will also be posted on the web site of Faculty of Forestry of Belgrade University in the near future (www.sfb.rs).

Friends, the aim of this message is to emphasize the importance of the quality of the LANDCON meetings established under WASWC. The proposed guidelines followed in this conference has set an example of the LANDCON meetings. We are sure that you will be on the high level of organizing such meetings in the professional, cultural and friendship level.

Miodrag Zlatic
Prof. Miodrag Zlatic, D.Sc., President of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation
Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade University, Kneza Viseslava 1, 11090 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: +381 11 3553 122, Fax: +381 11 2545 485, miodrag.zla@sbb.rs, mizlatic@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Colleagues and friends,

This is now the 2nd issue of our newsletter during 2009. In the words of Dr Samran Sombatpanit, this flagship publication of WASWC needs to be in the hands of all our members. Friends, during my visit to Serbia to attend LANDCON conference, I discussed the lukewarm response of newsletter from our members with some of the stalwarts like Hans Hurni, Martin Haigh and others. These people gave me some suggestions regarding the composition of the newsletter, which I may incorporate with time. But there was a strong feeling among these people that the newsletter should be shorter in length and crisp. They were of the view that we should discuss some important issues related with Land and Water in the newsletter and have a debate on it.

Friends, as said in previous issues, I again request all the members to come out with some issues and let us have a discussion among ourselves so as to gain each others'

experiences in dealing with the problems in our regions. I also take this opportunity to appeal to the members to send me their views about the contents of the newsletter and other matters in writing so that the same are incorporated in the newsletter. This will be a good step to come closer to each other.

Friends, we had a very successful LANDCON conference in Serbia during May 2009. I got this opportunity to attend this conference. I must admit that the most beautiful part of the conference was the active involvement of students and young scholars not only in behind the scene arrangements but also in the technical sessions. The young scholars were very enthusiastic to share their findings in a separate session devoted for this purpose only. I must also appreciate all the delegates who kept patience to listen to these budding scientists. Friends, I personally feel that this should be an important aspect of every conference and it becomes our moral duty to give full support to these young people and prepare them mentally to come forward to discuss the things with the stalwarts. And I assure you that **interacting with young people always makes you feel younger**. I must congratulate Dr Miodrag Zlatic for making efforts in involving the budding scientists in the conference and I appeal to all the organizers of the conferences to follow this trend. This way we shall be in a better position to pass on the mantle to our next generation successfully.
Have a nice reading!

SURINDER S KUKAL
Professor of Soil Conservation, Department of Soils
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India
Phone: 91-98727-77626; E-mail: sskukal@rediffmail.com

AWARDS

Conservation Agriculture pioneer awarded

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (left) presents pioneer and internationally recognised 'father' of no-till and conservation agriculture, Brazilian farmer Herbert Bartz with the prestigious Apolônio Salles award and medal at the launch of the Brazilian 2009/2010 National Agricultural and Livestock plan on 22 June 2009.

Gates Foundation Receives Indira Gandhi Prize

Lauding the exemplary philanthropy for global health, agriculture and development, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil presented the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2007 to Mr. Bill Gates of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The President of India said "It is fitting that the foundation bearing the name of Bill Gates is being presented an award named after Indira Gandhi who had a firm belief that science was at the very core of human advancement." In addition to the President, Vice President of India Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, President, Indian National Congress Party graced the occasion.

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development was set up over two decades ago in memory of one of the most charismatic leaders of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. She had a scientific temper which led her to steer the Green Revolution in India. The country surged ahead to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains with the advances of technology - improved seeds, fertilizers and controlled irrigation. She also constantly strove to provide to the scientific community, an enabling environment for research and innovation. "As a tribute to her memory, the exceptional work of the organization is recognized whose contributions around the world have been an inspiration to others," said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation seeks to contribute to the global fight to overcome poverty, hunger and disease, to promote research and education, to work for agricultural development and to provide financial services to the poor. Mr. Bill Gates is the first business leader among 23 recipients in the last two decades to receive this prestigious award. Related links http://presidentofindia.nic.in/sp250709.html, http://www.pmindia.nic.in/lspeech.asp?id=802, http://www.gatesfoundation.org/

LIFETIME AWARD FOR DR M. SOLH

Dr Mahmoud Solh, Director General ICARDA, has won the Lifetime Achievement Award, instituted by the Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development to honor scientists and research managers who have made outstanding contributions in pulses research, development and promotion.

The award was presented on 14 February, at the International Conference on Grain Legumes, held in Kanpur, India. Dr Solh received the special crest from Dr Abdul Kalam, former President of India. Accepting the award, Dr Solh paid tribute to Dr Kalam for his visionary leadership in combating illiteracy, hunger and poverty in India; and to Dr Masood Ali, Director of the Indian Institute for Pulses Research, for his outstanding role in pulses research and development in India and beyond.

JANE GOODALL NAMED 2009 YEAR OF THE GORILLA PATRON

Arlington, Virginia— Renowned primatologist Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE, will serve as the official patron of the 2009 Year of the Gorilla (YoG), a 12-month campaign aimed at improving conservation of humankind's closest relatives and their habitats by bettering the livelihoods and incomes of local people. His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco launched the YoG initiative December 1 at the opening of a United Nations wildlife conference in Rome, Italy.

The YoG campaign also seeks to improve the management of national and cross-border primate populations, as well as those living in national parks, by strengthening cooperation between range states and providing improved support for rangers and other key personnel.

YoG is a joint initiative of the United Nations Environment Program's Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP-CMS); the UNEP-United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP); and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

Contact Info: Claire Gwatkin Jones, 703-682-9220, clairejones@janegoodall.org, Jane Goodall Institute

PEOPLE

¤ Hari Eswaran

National Leader for World Soil Resources USDA/NRCS, Washington, D.C., USA

Hari Eswaran has traveled to more than 100 countries to study soils. He works with world leaders and scientists to manage the world's soils more effectively.

His favorite soils: My favorite soils are called Oxisols. They are tropical, nutrient-poor soils. Some people used to believe that the communities living on these soils didn't produce big crops because they were lazy or antitechnology. But now we understand that oxisols are the most problematic soils in the world. Scientists have been working to help these communities manage their soils more effectively. http://forces.si.edu/soils/03_00_11.html

Why is it important to study soils of other countries?

Many of the products that people use every day—the food we eat or the textiles we wear—come from other countries. We need to know the conditions under which the raw materials were grown to ensure the quality of the products. (Information from the website, with thanks.)

IECA (International Erosion Control Association) Faculty Profile

IECA Faculty is an elite corps of erosion and sediment control professionals with years of classroom experience sharing their knowledge and expertise with others in the industry.

International Erosion Control Association

¤ **Randall Shuey**

Credentials: CPSS, CPESC, CESSWI
Years as IECA Member: 11
Company: New England Environmental Inc.
Title: Senior Scientist
View Randall's complete profile and information on how to contact him here.
For more on IECA's Faculty program and to see if you meet minimum qualifications to apply, click here.

Randall J. Shuey, CPSS, CPESC, CESSWI

Randall Shuey is an environmental scientist with over 23 years of experience working on projects throughout New England. Mr. Shuey is currently the manager of New England Environmental, Inc.'s Concord, New Hampshire office and provides project management, environmental design and permitting on projects. Randall has found value in team approaches to projects where multi-disciplinary ideas mesh to make a better product.

These projects have ranged from residential properties to large commercial developments and road projects.

Randall's training and experience has provided the expertise to develop innovative designs for stormwater, wetland mitigation and site stabilization. He is certified both nationally and in several states as a soil scientist and wetland scientist.

Randall has been active in the International Erosion Control Association since joining the Northeast Chapter in the late 1990s and was elected to the Chapter Board of Directors soon afterward. Randall served as President of the Chapter for over 8 years and still represents New Hampshire on the Board of Directors. He has also served
as Administrative Vice Chair of the CPESC Council and has been active in other state and regional organizations.
Randall has presented seminars and course and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan writing, best management practices evaluation and contractor compliance. These course have been offered throughout New England.

Randall has been organizing and presenting training sessions and workshops for many years. He is an approved trainer for both the CPESC and CESSWI review courses. Randall provides customized training to construction companies in maintaining and complying with stormwater regulations. In addition he has presented workshops on planning for construction – designing workable phasing and sequencing plans and evaluation of best management practices. Randall may be contacted via e-mail at rshuey@neeinc.com

ASSOCIATION NEWS

New WASWC Officers

Jorge Batlle-Sales, WASWC Vice President for Spain Jorge.Batlle@uv.es

Jorge Batlle-Sales was born in Murcia (Spain) in 1952. He studied at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, and his background is on Geochemistry (Licenciatura, 1969-1974) and on Soil Genesis & Chemistry (Doctorate, 1979). He is Professor of the University of Valencia (Spain), teaching Pedology, Soil Chemistry, Hydrogeology, Environmental Cartography, and Natural Resources Management and Conservation, at Graduate and Postgraduate level. He is professor of the International Course on Pedology (UNAM, Mexico) since 1985 and Founder-Professor of the Doctorate Program on Environmental Sciences of the Universidad de Puebla, Mexico, since 1995. He has delivered lectures, seminars and courses in many countries worldwide and is very active in international cooperation. He has participated in 21 research projects, most being international.

Professor Batlle-Sales was Head of the International Relations Office of the Universidad de Valencia during 1994-2000. He has been the Secretary of the Working Group of Salt-Affected Soils of the International Union of Soil Sciences since 1994 and has been the Spanish Representative of the FAO's Global Network on Salt Affected Habitats (SPUSH) since 1995.
Dr. Batlle-Sales has organized three international symposia (ISSALE-95, SPUSH 2001 and WCSS 2002-Workshop 33) and many courses and conferences mainly dealing with salinity problems caused to soil and

water. He is Associate Editor of two International Journals. His hobbies are hiking, climbing and kanooing, as well as photography and chess playing.

Contact details:
Prof. Dr. Jorge Batlle-Sales
Departamento de Biologia Vegetal
Universidad de Valencia, Avda. Vicente Andres Estelles s/n. 46100 Burjasot (VALENCIA), SPAIN.
Phone +34-963544289, (m) +34-653411584 http://www.uv.es/jorba/Index

Janette Arriola-Morales, WASWC Vice President for Mexico Janette.Arriola@icbuap.buap.mx, aloirra@hotmail.com

Janette Arriola-Morales was born in Puebla, Mexico, 1981. She studied Environmental Engineering at the Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla (BUAP), and graduated with mention of Best Student of the First Promotion of the Faculty of Environmental Engineering. Afterwards she entered the Doctorate Program of Environmental Sciences of the BUAP, obtaining a CONACYT fellowship for her doctorate studies, under the direction of a supervisor from the Universidad de Valencia, Spain (UVEG). Her thesis work on Soil Quality was performed on Mexican soils.
Since 2005, she has been working in the College of Environmental Engineering as professor-researcher, delivering courses on Soils, Environmental Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes, and Introduction to Research at the Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla. She has participated as lecturer in two editions of the International Course on Pedology (UNAM), delivered courses of Geostatistics, Soil Salinity Survey at the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, and Reactive Transport at the Universidad de Tlaxcala.

She is Member of the Mexican Soil Science Society and of the Sociedad Iberoamericana de Física y Química Ambiental. Her research interests are in Environmental Studies, Hydropedology, Soil and Water Conservation, as well as in Environmental Engineering Consulting. Hobbies: running, cycling, and reading.

Contact details:
Dr. Janette Arriola-Morales
Environmental Engineering at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering, Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla; Av. San Claudio esq 18 sur, Col San Manuel,
C.P.72570, Puebla Puebla, Mexico. Phone: (m) +52 2221 167343

RETIREMENT

ABBAS FARSHAD

It comes a time in the life that one starts asking him/ herself about what have been his/her valued contributions to society. What a difficult question is this? It may be easier to think of it than listing the contributions down on paper. When I came to the point to ask myself the question, after some thinking I discovered that this is not a difficult question to put to a teacher, what I have been for the last thirty years. Being a teacher, and a very fortunate one, to have worked in an international academic institution – the ITC (Enschede, The Netherlands: http://www.itc.nl/), I have got a great chance to contribute to training hundreds of students coming from various corners of the world. Yes, indeed, I feel very proud when I think that I have contributed to whatsoever these people (experts) have done for their countries after they have gone back to their countries, in Africa, Asia, Latin America, etc. As honest as I am, I also thought of what I myself have learnt from these experts. This plus my over 10 years of field experience in various parts of the large country of Iran, before starting my work at ITC, has formed my expertise that I have conveyed to the others, not forgetting my own development. A BSc holder in geology, after having worked with farmers as an extension officer, steps in the field of soil science, wherein I did my MSc, and finally move to the holistic field of agricultural sustainability, in which I succeeded to do my PhD research. Teaching and research helped me to publish tens of papers and scientific publications, which are hopefully counted as a part of my valued contribution to society. *Abbas Farshad*

Dr. A. Farshad
Department of Earth Systems Analysis (ESA)
International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)
Hengelosestraat 99
PO Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede, The Netherlands
Phone: +31-(0)53 4874 318
Fax: +31-(0)53 4874 336
mailto: Farshad@itc.nl, Or to:abbasfarshad@gmail.com
Internet: http://www.itc.nl

Following is Dr Farshad's personal message to Samran Sombatpanit

Dear Samran,
I am writing to inform you about the date I'll be officially retired from ITC, after almost 30 years of service. It is customary that ITC (Person-in-charge: Herman Baltink) organizes a small good-bye party where my colleagues and friends in the Netherlands can attend to see me off. September 4th is the date, and I would like to tell you (in this e-mail) that I'll be certainly thinking of you and all the members of the 'World Association of Soil and Water Conservation'. Let me also add here that you as an association do a great job and that I always have admired you in person as the very active person after retiring, whom I would hope to copy in the coming years (inshallah). I am sure and sincerely hope that we will stay in contact.

Regards,
Abbas

OBITUARY

Hans van Baren (1936-2009), Deputy Secretary General IUSS 1990 – 2002 and Book Review Editor ISSS/IUSS 1970 – 1908

Drs J.H.V. (Hans) van Baren passed away on 26th January 2009. Hans van Baren has been a long-term officer and first class leader in the ISSS and IUSS, has made major contributions to the Soil Map of the World and has been instrumental in the establishment and development of the unique **World Soil Museum** (ISRIC) in Wageningen.

Hans was born in The Hague, but his formative years were spent in Utrecht. Hans studied geology at the University of Utrecht and followed courses in Wageningen under the guidance of Professor C.H. Edelman. After his graduation, he took the initiative to establish contact with UNESCO, which at that time had a system whereby young scientists were recruited to work in UNESCO projects around the world. With the support of his uncle, Prof. F.A. van Baren, Hans went to Paris where he was offered employment. Based in Rome he assisted with the major task to compile the FAO-Unesco Soil Map of the World. This was a key challenge and its completion in the mid 1970s is by many regarded as an important milestone in soil science.

After three years working in the FAO-UNESCO Soil Resources Office, Hans went for FAO to East Pakistan (Bangladesh) where he conducted soil surveys. This posting lasted for two years after which he was sent to Kenya to assist with the development of the national soil survey institute. With his Dutch colleagues, the first soil reconnaissance of the whole country was made, followed by detailed mapping of areas of high agricultural potential.

With the experience gained in Rome, Bangladesh and Kenya, Hans was offered a post in the International Soil Museum (ISM, now ISRIC - World Soil Information), which at that time had only recently been set up by the ISSS. Together with his colleagues, he set about collecting and preparing soil monoliths of different soils according to the classification of the FAO-UNESCO Soil Map of the World. These monoliths

were the foundation of the unique ISRIC collection of today. He was acting director of the ISM from 1975 to 1978 and deputy director from 1978 to his retirement of ISRIC in 1996.

The transfer of the International Soil Museum from Utrecht to Wageningen took place in 1978. A sectional building, specially designed for ISM, was constructed containing a lecture room, an exhibition hall (World Soil Museum), offices for staff and laboratories for soil monolith preparation and soil analysis. Under the guidance of Hans the Museum expanded and fulfilled an important role in the exhibition of soils of the world, and the world of the soils. He was much involved in the collection and classification of the soil monoliths.

He started the book review section of the ISSS Bulletin in 1970. Each year the number of reviews grew and in the 1990s Hans reviewed 100 to 150 books annually for the Bulletin. Many readers of the Bulletins have indicated that they found the book review section the most useful and informative part of the Bulletin. In 1990, he was elected Deputy Secretary General of the ISSS and became heavily involved in the day-to-day management of the society including its transformation to a union (IUSS). He has been supportive for national soil science societies, particularly in developing countries and maintained a wide global network of soil scientists. In 2002, he officially retired from his Deputy Secretary General post of the IUSS but he continued to review books for the IUSS Bulletin until 2008.

Hans was also active in museums and social projects in Wageningen and was knighted (Ridder in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau) for all his activities in November 2008. By that time a brain tumor had already been found and he was to start chemo- and radiation therapy. Two months after his knighthood, he passed away. Hans was a modest man, with great humour, insight, work ethics, networking abilities and interests in the world around him. He was a friend of the soil but most of all a caring and dedicated friend for those who knew him. *A friend forever has died.*

- Alfred Hartemink, IUSS Deputy Secretary General alfred.hartemink@wur.nl

MEMBERS' FORUM

What members say about LANDCON 0905!

¤ Dear Miodrag,

Having returned safely to Exeter yesterday, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate you and your colleagues for organizing an EXCELLENT symposium at Tara Mountain. As indicated by the comments at the closing ceremony, the venue was excellent, the hospitality was outstanding, the field trip was very enjoyable and informative, and the scientific content and scope of the symposium were outstanding. There was a really good atmosphere at the symposium and I think that it demonstrated that IASWC should follow up the LANDCON theme and approach in organizing future meetings. Do not destroy the group! LANDCON has a very important role to play in the international scene.

I must also thank you most sincerely for the invitation to participate and for the generous support that was provided. I hope that you will now have an opportunity to take a short rest!

Des Walling (D.E.Walling@exeter.ac.uk) UK

¤ Dear Professor Zlatic

Hello! Here, I am writing this short message to just thank you and your colleagues in arranging such joyful and fruitful gathering in the nice place of Tara Mountain. It was my great pleasure for being there, present two papers, chair a session and contribute some other related assignments as well. Please do pass my best and warm regards and wishes to all people who directly and indirectly facilitated the materialization of the conference. I look forward meeting you in future gatherings.

Dr. S.H.R. Sadeghi (sadeghi@modares.ac.ir) Mazandaran Province, Iran

¤ Dear Friends,

On behalf of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, and its Specialist Group on Sustainable Soils and Desertification, let me congratulate the organisers of this conference for its great success, both on a professional and on a personal basis. In particular, let me thank once again Professor Miodrag Zlatic, all of his enthusiastic colleagues, and his most impressive students, in bringing us all together, and in particular for having the foresight to include a legal and ethical section in this event.

The ethical and legal aspects of land and soil conservation and sustainable use are and should always be an inherent part of the scientific debate.

So, do not forget the lawyers; we can stand by you and assist in ensuring that all of your important work can be implemented through institutional development, policy development and adequate legal frameworks at an international regional, national and local level. The law of nature and the law of human society must be harmonised. This can only be done by working together.

Ben Boer b.boer@usyd.edu.au

Pham Quang Ha's new office

¤ Dear Prof Miodrag Zlatic,

I'm working as Professor, President of the Science Committee and Vice Director of the Institute for Agricultural Environment (Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) since August 2008. You and other WASWC officers are welcome to visit Vietnam when it is convenient to you.

Pham Quang Ha (WASWC Vice President for Vietnam)
Institute for Agricultural Environment (IAE/VAAS), Phu Do, Tu Liem, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel. 84-4-37893270; 091 3342479 haphamquang@fpt.vn, pqha-nisf@hn.vnn.vn

Project: EARTH'S HOPE Presentations http://earthshope.updatelog.com/P18352281

¤ Dear Friends:

I've just finished presenting in Nairobi (Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African University), then traveled to the United States and presented at Vassar, Columbia University, the Asia Society and George Mason University and now I am in Athens at the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD).

The Lessons of the Loess Plateau is being seen in Broadcast (Africa, Asia, South America) and in DVD for educational distribution and on the web viewable at: www.earthshope.org. The presentations (see attached list) are mature and completely relevant.

I think it is important to realize that the world will decide in 2009 the global policy on Climate Change. As the discussion looks right now it is doubtful that this will include improving the large degraded ecosystems and the hundreds of millions of poor people who live at subsistence or below subsistence at the edges of these degraded lands.

"Earth's Hope" has one of the strongest arguments to ensure that these places and people are included in the post-Kyoto policy decisions.

Please consider whether you can help to organize broadcasting of "The Lessons of the Loess Plateau" or can arrange for "Earth's Hope" presentations to Educational, Public or Policy audiences or can help to raise funds to support these efforts.

From now until December 2009 is a time when "Earth's Hope" can make the most impact. If we work really hard we can help shape the world's decision on this crucial issue.

If you can help with these efforts please let us know.

John D. Liu
Director, Environmental Education Media Project (EEMP)
Rothamsted International Fellow for the Communication of Science
PhD Candidate (Research), Soil Sciences Department
School of Human and Environmental Studies, University of Reading (UK)
Ci Yun Si # 11, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100025
Mobile Tel: 86-13911565016, Studio Tel: 86-10-8551-1054
johnliu@eemp.org, john.liu@bbsrc.ac.uk, www.eempc.org, www.earthshope.org

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

¤ **Contribution from Soil and Water Conservation Bureau, Taiwan**

Switchgrass

¤ Dear Fellows and Friends,

Switchgrass is important for Nigeria. Switchgrass is drought tolerant and can build a root system that adds organic matter for other plants to benefit in the future. Our project can benefit those in the present with income to the poor and business opportunities that create jobs and tax revenues. *Sid.* (Abdallahi) *Clouston,* CloustonEnergy@aol.com

¤ **MESSAGE FROM A 'SOIL' ENGINEER** (pls roll down to read English translation below)

¤ Bonjour

L'effort que nous faisons n'est pas à la & meme ampleur des phénomènes de dégradation que subit le milieu physique, par des actions passives et actives. L'industrie polluante, l'agriculture épuisante et l'urbanisme sauvage, sans oublier le comportement égoiste de la population mondiale font que le milieu dans lequel et surtout par lequel nous vivons se retrécit et se fragilise au point de ne pouvoir porter des fourmis. C'est pour toutes ces raisons; en fin de compte il n'y'a qu'une seule raison "notre existance" il est impératif de doter les organismes de protection du milieu physique (sol, eau, par conséquent climat) de pouvoir conséquent vis à vis les transgressions commises par les acteurs et les utilisateurs de l'eau et du sol. L'éducation est un moyen non moins négligeable dans la préservation de l'environnement. Lutter contre les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, revient à planter des végétaux pour fixer le gaz carbonique!
Pour une meilleure participation envoyez moi le programme de l'organisation.

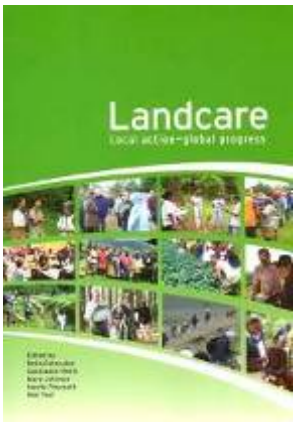
Benyahia Hassen, Ingénieur agronome "pédologue" (With translation to English below by Murielle Ghestam)

¤ Hello,

The effort that we make is not at the same scale as the degradation processes that the physical environment is subjected to, either through active or passive actions. Polluting industries, intensive agriculture, huge urbanization, not to forget the selfish behaviour of the human population, lead to a reduction of the environment *where* and - above all - *by which* we live. This environment is so weakened that it cannot even bear ants any more. Therefore, for all these reasons, there is only one reason for our 'existence': it is now imperative to provide enough power to organisms acting for the protection of the physical environment (soil, water and thus climate), so that they can fight against the destructive behaviour of water and soil users. Education is also a valuable means for environmental protection. Fighting against greenhouse gas emissions equals planting species to fix CO_2! For a better participation, send me the organisation programme. *Benyahia Hassen,* Agronomy and "soil" engineer

¤

Australian Landcare International, Inc.



Australian Landcare International, Inc. (ALI) announces a new book that charts the development of the Landcare approach from its beginnings in Australia more than 20 years ago to its presence in more than 10 countries in Asia, Europe, North America and the Pacific.

Landcare: Local action – global progress is the work of many local authors to document the origins, development and practical operation of Landcare programs in countries as diverse as Iceland and the Philippines, South Africa and Germany.

Landcare has made a significant contribution to the wise use of natural resources in Australia. Landcare groups have had a huge impact, through practical programs and projects, on the protection of biodiversity and broadscale natural landscape. In rural areas, Landcare groups have been influential in improving agricultural productivity through sustainable agricultural practices. The heart of Landcare is the cooperative approach taken by local Landcare members, supported by government, corporate and private partners. This partnership approach is being developed in other countries in ways that reflect their historical, political and cultural backgrounds.

Landcare: Local action – global progress looks at how Landcare has developed in different countries through the eyes of local authors who are most involved. They clearly outline the basis and progress of Landcare in their country, and the likely future development and impact.

Landcare has been keenly promoted by Landcare International, an NGO developed under the auspices of the World Agroforestry Centre. Dr Dennis Garrity, Director of the Centre, based in Kenya, provides a concluding chapter in which he looks at the future of Landcare to operate as a relevant, effective approach to sustainable land and water management. He says *…"Landcare is being recognised as the global norm for effective natural resource management… throughout history and throughout the world, local communities have always been, and should continue to be the primary social unit for implementing landcare practices".*

The publication and distribution of this book has been supported by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and by Computershare. ***Landcare: Local action – global progress*** can be obtained from ALI for $25 (postage paid) per copy. Pls contact Harry Poussard at poussard@thereef.com.au.

F. X. Browne, Inc.
Engineers • Planners • Scientists

Low Impact Development
Stormwater Management
BMP Design
Infiltration Testing
Wastewater Management
Wetlands
Water Quality

F. X. Browne, Inc.

Site Design: From Planning to Construction

800-220-2022 www.fxbrowne.com

Contact: Barbara A. Baier, Office Manager/Executive Assistant, F. X. Browne, Inc. , 1101 South Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446, Phone: 215-362-3878; Fax:215-362-2016 bbaier@fxbrowne.com, www.fxbrowne.com

Celebrating 30 years of Excellence and Innovation in Environmental Design, Planning, and Engineering.

SUBSCRIBE to our free monthly newsletter: "Sustainable Environments" at www.fxbrowne.com/subscribe

NEWS FROM EIJKELKAMP AGRISEARCH EQUIPMENT

Download the Eijkelkamp Water Management Catalogue here
(http://www.eijkelkamp.com/Portals/2/Eijkelkamp/Files/P055e%20Water%20Management%20Catalogue.pdf)

Eijkelkamp 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.eijkelkamp.com

---

FEATURES

C Highlight

FAO Calls for More Sustainable and Productive Farming Systems to Reduce Agriculture's Carbon Footprint

4 February 2009: Speaking at the fourth World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (CA), held from 4-7 February 2009, in New Delhi, India, Shivaji Pandey, Director of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Plant Production and Protection Division, called on the world's farmers to adopt CA practices to ensure sustainable yield growth and reduce agriculture's carbon footprint.

Pandey explained that global trends in yield growth are declining because current practices of agricultural intensification often affect soil, water, biodiversity and other ecosystem services needed for agricultural production. CA farming seeks to avoid these effects by reducing tillage and promoting permanent soil cover and diversified crop rotations to ensure optimal soil health and productivity. At the same time, CA reduces carbon emissions from agriculture and improves carbon sequestration in the soil. He stressed that sustainable intensification of agriculture is imperative to achieve progress in the fight against hunger and poverty while ensuring environmental sustainability, and urged governments, donors and other stakeholders to provide policy and financial support to promote CA, such as training, participatory

research, building strong farmers' organizations, and making available and encouraging local manufacturing of newly-developed CA equipment.

The fourth World Congress on Conservation Agriculture is hosted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and sponsored, among others, by FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). [FAO Press Release] [FAO Website on CA] [Congress Website]

NO-TILL HIGHLIGHT

Ed: The following article is the sole writing of the author and has not been edited. Readers are welcome to have interaction with Carlos concerning his prolific thoughts.

Lesser known benefits in no till farming

Carlos Crovetto
No Tillage Development Centre, Concepcion, Chile
crovetto@entelchile.net

"There is nothing new to learn – only to better understand."

No tillage is promoting a large change in the old paradigms, away from ancentral plowing, tilling the soil, burning straw and overgrazing. Today, the world has had many bad experiences with poor soil management in conventional agriculture. However, innovative no till farmers around the world, learning from their own experiences and working better with Mother Nature, have stopped degrading the soil system by imitating how Mother Nature creates an organic, fertile and productive soil.

What is no till farming? No till farming is a complex management system that integrates natural processes and implements three key management strategies:

I. Minimum soil disturbance
II. Continues crop residue cover
III. Diverse crop rotations, and/or cover crops.

No till farming encourages any issue focused on maintaining soil productivity and quality and its biodiversity in the context of sustainable agriculture.

Thus, a combination of the economic benefits of enhanced soil management through reduced labor requirement, time savings, reduced machinery and fuel savings with direct seeding, combined with the numerous environmental benefits has universal appeal. Indirect measures of social benefits as society enjoys a higher quality of life from environmental quality enhancement are difficult to quantify. No till farming is a specific form of Conservation Agriculture (CA), working in harmony with nature using direct seeding techniques that increase soil carbon, can be of benefit to society and can be viewed as both "feeding and greening the world" for global sustainability.

I believe that the first lesson that these innovative farmers learned was to respect the soil, understanding that the soil is alive because it supports microorganisms and mesofauna vital to produce an organic soil with a good soil structure that improves all natural parameters for more crop production with less cost, and most importantly, without soil erosion.

Many farmers today are beginning to understand many benefits provided by no tillage, however, there are a lot of unknown benefits that can improve the soil and make more farmers happy.

Some of these natural benefits of no till are described below.

1. Increases the microbial and mesofauna population in the soil that stimulates the life of microorganisms like nitrogen-fixing Rhizobium bacterium in leguminous plants by symbiosis, by greater amount of adenosin triphosphate (ATP energy and soluble phosphate), provided by straw after decomposition on soil surface.
2. Stimulates microorganisms like azotobacter, azospirillium, green algae and other free living microorganisms, capable of fixing nitrogen in the soil.
3. Stimulates fungal life and important microorganisms in soil organic matter decomposition converting sugars into alcohol, which is perfect food for microorganisms that fix nitrogen for soil benefits.
4. Increases proliferation of endotrophic mycorrhizae fungi hyphae. This symbiotic network extends the plant root system, enabling the plant to obtain greater amounts of phosphorus, zinc and water.
5. Minimizes phosphate fixation in the soil, thereby increasing the activity of vital enzymes like phosphatase. On Chequen farm in Chile over 30 years without any kind of tillage, we have a six-fold increase in phosphate available for plant use (from 7 ppm to 38 ppm) by returning an average of 5 t/acre/year of crop residues.
6. Increases activity of earthworms, insects and arthropods, in addition to producing organic compounds that enhance soil aeration and increases plant available water. These organic compounds should be considered irreplaceable because they act like a soil amendment and catalyser of vital physiological principles for plant life on the planet.
7. Increases in organic matter (soil carbon) improves the soil cation exchange capacity (CEC) especially those soils with inherently low CEC, e.g. soil with kaolinite clay minerals like Chequen farm.
8. Enhances soil carbon sequestration from the atmosphere through plant photosynthesis, carbon dioxide (CO_2) is captured to form plant biomass and grain. After grain harvest the straw is left on the soil surface with the roots in the soil as part of the natural carbon cycle.
9. Improves current global soil management because intensive tillage has been partially responsible for the increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere. The rapid oxidation of the carbon in straw by tillage and residue burning are important contributing factors to the greenhouse effect affecting the planet's climate.

Summary

In order to receive these benefits, farmers should avoid any type of tillage or soil inversion on his property, and leave crop residues uniformly distributed over the soil surface. Diverse crop rotation (for at least three years) in the third key to a successful no tillage system.

The present-day curricula of Agronomy departments in universities involving agricultural tillage systems are obsolete. To the majority of students, no tillage or soil improvement are not taught as a comprehensive system and in the best of cases the students are taught minimum tillage, conservation tillage or conservation farming, which are of limited benefit because these tillage methods do not increase soil organic matter.

No one should doubt that the traditional farming and burning of crop residues, are still very common around the world, and have left soils degraded. In many countries there is widespread hunger because degraded soils no longer can produce enough food.

Today, productive soils must receive sufficient chemical fertilizers; however, this inorganic fertilizer does not guarantee the natural physical, chemical and biological integrity of the soil. ***"The grain in for the man; the straw is for the soil,"*** returning the straw is the cost to use the soil. We must feed the soil as well as we feed ourselves, the cows or hens or any other living systems. Since the soil is a living system, we must speak about ***soil nutrition***. The food for the soil is the straw (carbon and fertilizer nutrients). ***Life on our planet depends on soil management.*** Our life and food security depend on improved soil management with no tillage through less intensive tillage, continuous soil residue cover and diverse crop rotations and/or cover crops.

It is essential that these lesser known benefits of no till are made available to private producers, agricultural technicians, young agronomists, agronomic research centres, universities, faculties of agronomy, and global institutions (FAO, World Bank, private organizations, etc.) responsible for feeding the world. We should radically change the way soil and agronomic sciences are taught to both farmers and policymakers.

Governments and politicians of all countries must unite to release new laws and policies to protect soil, water, air and all renewable resources for our food security. These resources are vital for life on our planet. To ensure that we have the proper knowledge to utilize and protect these resources effectively, we must continue to educate at all levels (basic, high school, universities and political levels) the importance of resource management, especially soil, water and air in food production. No tillage is a vital part of the paradigm shift to protect our natural resources and our quality of life. January 2009

PRODUCTIVITY HIGHLIGHT

Lessons Learned from the Spread of SRI in Cambodia

By Rick Burnette, Director, ECHO Asia Regional Office, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

In a 2001 *ECHO Development Notes* article, "SRI, the System of Rice Intensification: Less can be more," ECHO first reported on SRI's radical rice production steps including:

- Transplanting rice seedlings when the first two leaves have emerged, usually sometime between 8-15 days old.
- Transplanting seedlings singly rather than in clumps.
- Wide spacing of seedlings, usually no less than 25 cm x 25 cm.
- Maintenance of moist but unflooded conditions in the paddy.
- Weeding by hand or with a mechanical rotary hoe.
- Using organic inputs such as compost, green manures and other biomass.

Since 2001, a combination of farmer groups, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies across Asia have evaluated and promoted the rice production system. Now, 8 years later, country-wide reports from across Southeast Asia and adjoining regions are showing varied levels of adoption by rice producers.

A Bird's Eye View of Regional SRI

For a bird's eye view of the status of SRI in Southeast and East Asia, a website called the "SRI Homepage/System of Rice Intensification" (http://ciifad.cornell.edu/sri/index.html), a collaborative effort of Association Tefy Saina, Antanarivo, Madagascar and the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD),provides a country by country report on global SRI activity. For example, the website shares that between 2007 and 2008, SRI cultivation in China's Sichuan Province jumped from 116,667 ha to 204,000 ha (http://ciifad.cornell.edu/sri/countries/china/index.html).

While the website offers little SRI 2008 production data for Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Laos, there is information about approximately 11,000 ha under SRI cultivation in parts of Indonesia (http://ciifad.cornell.edu/sri/countries/indonesia/index.html). In addition, 50,000 farmers in the Kachin and Shan States of Myanmar were reported to be using some combination of SRI (http://ciifad.cornell.edu/sri/countries/myanmar/index.html) with 95,000 farmers in Vietnam's Ha Tay province using similar methods (http://ciifad.cornell.edu/sri/countries/vietnam/index.html).
Among Southeast Asian countries, Cambodia stands out in terms of SRI adoption. According to the website's country report (http://ciifad.cornell.edu/sri/countries/cambodia/index.html), using data from the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, by the end of 2008 there were 104,750 households in 4,200 villages on 58,290 ha (2.7 percent of the country's total rice area) using SRI methods.

You may like to write to request your copy of *ECHO Development Notes* from ECHO Asia Regional Office, echoasia@echonet.org.

Agroforestry Highlight

Ecoagriculture Partners participates in World Agroforestry Congress, Nairobi, Kenya

Sara J. Scherr, Louise Buck, Seth Shames and Jeff Milder of Ecoagriculture Partners participated in the recently concluded World Congress of Agroforestry in Nairobi, Kenya, at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters, from 24-27 August 2009.

Ecoagriculture Partners' President and CEO, Dr. Scherr gave a keynote address on the Congress *Theme 3: Key policy issues for agroforestry*, on the opening day. On 27 August, Ecoagriculture Partners facilitated a side event titled, *Ecoagriculture Landscapes: Mobilizing Action Together*. Nearly 30 participants joined the event for an update on the activities of Ecoagriculture Partners, and to share experiences from their own ecoagriculture initiatives in different parts of the world.

Dr. Louise Buck, Coordinator of the Landscape Measures Initiative, presented on agroforestry in landscape-scale conservation strategies on 26 August 2009 at the Technical Session. Jeff Milder, Ecoagriculture Partners Research Associate, presented his paper titled "Quantifying ecoagriculture: methods and proxies for tracking conservation outcomes in complex agricultural landscapes" on the same date.

For power point presentations and more details see:
http://www.ecoagriculture.org/announcements.php?id=351.

World Agroforestry Congress, Nairobi, Kenya

The second World Agroforestry Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 23-28 August 2009. The overall theme was "Agroforestry - The Future of Global Land Use," with plenary, symposia, concurrent sessions, and poster sessions organized around the following topics:

- Food Security and Livelihoods
- Conservation and Rehabilitation of Natural resources
- Policies and Institutions

Coverage of many of the presentations and issues raised are available on the Congress blog at http://www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/blog.

Planned publications include a summary document, a book of abstracts, refereed journal articles, journal special issues, and books on the key topics covered in the symposia and technical sessions. A declaration that embodies the substance of Congress deliberations will be developed as a tool for discussions with policy makers and donor agencies to advance the cause of agroforestry worldwide. Please keep checking the website at http://www.worldagroforestry.org/WCA2009/ for updates!

Vetiver Highlights

Konkan Railway, India. Importance of Vetiver System

This 11 year old railroad located in the mountainous "Western Ghats" of India runs according to schedule, even through the monsoons - rainfall as high as 4,000 mm, due very much to its use of vetiver grass to protect the railroad cut and fills.

Here is an extract from the latest Press release on Jan 22, 2009

"Konkan Railway (www.konkanrailway.com/) will be completing 11 years of the commencement of its through line train operations on 26th Jan 2009. It was on this day in 1998 that the trains directly connected Mumbai with Mangalore in shortest possible time, reducing the travel between these places from 36 to 16 hours. In the 11 years, it is the first time that Konkan Railway has not reported any consequential accident on its route in 2008. Konkan Railway has achieved this feat by taking extra efforts to increase safety on its route by executing massive earthworks, widening the slopes, planting lakhs (1 lakh = 100,000) of Vetiver grass as soil erosion control measure, and various other geo-tech works to arrest boulder falls and soil slippage during the monsoon. The efforts have borne fruit. There has not been any major traffic disruption on the route in the past 3 years since the time these massive safety works were executed and a special Monsoon Time Table implemented on the route."

The railroad has planted at least 10 million vetiver slips. Practically every press release from the Railroad highlights the vetiver success story. D*ick Grimshaw* r.grimshaw@comcast.net

WOCAT Highlight

WOCAT on-line database

The WOCAT address database is ready to use and accessible on-line (requires login). The idea of the new WOCAT online address database is to allow users to self-manage their contact information. It also allows easy registration for events like the WWSM: the registration form for such events automatically retrieves contact information form the address database. Please check in the 'user-list' whether you are already registered. If this is the case, you can login with the password provided to you. If not, you can register for an account. Please do *only register for a new account if you are not yet included* in the database. If you have forgotten your password, you can easily retrieve it again on the same page. For problems with registration or accessing the database you can contact the secretariat by accessing www.wocat.net.

The address database is the first pillar of the ongoing efforts in developing new on-line databases and tools. The Approaches questionnaire (QA) inter-face is now also ready! Login is also currently required, also for just viewing existing data (use "Approach Search" in the menu).

Development of the QT interface will start a.s.a.p.

The beta version of the QM Online data management system has been completed and is now being further tested by the 16 DESIRE partners for input of their Study Site mapping data. The development of a map viewer is planned for September which will enable the display of the data in various map output formats. An off-line version of the system is also under development so that users without Internet connection can also view and edit data. Newly added or edited data can than later be submitted to the on-line database when and where an Internet connection is available.

SUMMARY REPORTS

Note: There was a symposium in Washington D.C. in July last year, with interesting contents and panel members. We are copying the report to our newsletter, thinking it is a good read and gives valued information especially for our members that are not familiar with soil scientific movement in USA. Rattan Lal is our former WASWC President since 20 years ago. The exhibition **"Dig It! The Secrets of Soil"** took place on the next day at the Smithsonian Institution. Contents of this article were taken from the website http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/biso/SS/PGA_048226, for which we sincerely thank the website owner/ operator.

Soil: Sustaining Life on Planet Earth

On July 18, 2008, the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science sponsored a symposium entitled "Soil: Sustaining Life on Planet Earth", held in conjunction with the opening of the soils exhibit ("Dig It! The Secrets of Soil") at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Soil Science Society of America and the International Union of Soil Science. The symposium also represented an activity celebrating the United Nations-designated International Year of the Planet Earth.

Symposium speakers Rattan Lal, Diana Wall, Daniel Richter, and David Montgomery with USNC chair Paul Bertsch (center).

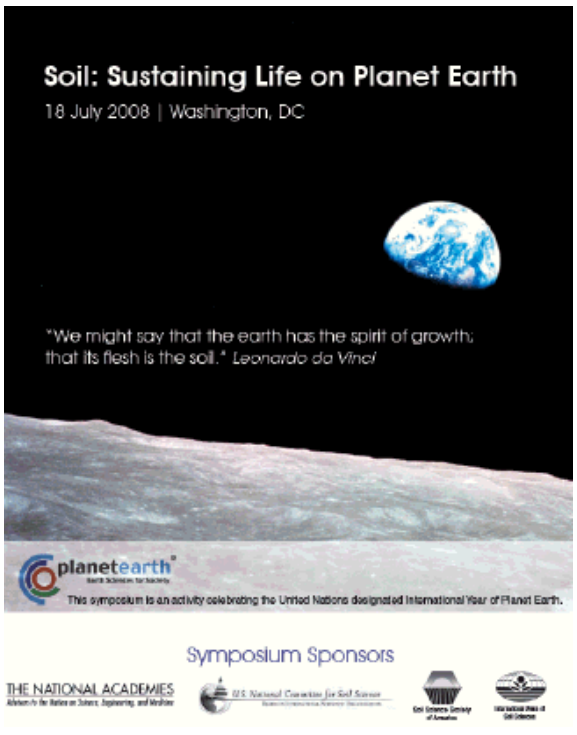
The symposium included talks on the role of soil in the rise and fall of civilizations, anthropogenic influences on the global soil resource, the importance of soils for ecosystem function and critical ecosystem services (in both natural and agro-ecosystems) and in sustaining life on Earth.

David Montgomery (left), University of Washington, *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations*

Daniel Richter (right), Duke University, *Humanity's transformation of Earth's soil*

Diana Wall (left), Colorado State University, *The hidden world beneath our feet: What it does for us*

Rattan Lal (right), The Ohio State University, *Sustaining soil quality on a warming planet*



Symposium Sponsors

International Union of Soil Sciences & Soil Science Society of America

Agenda

8:30–8:40 am
Welcome and Introductions
8:40–9:20 am
Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations, *David Montgomery, University of Washington*
9:20–10:00 am
Humanity's Transformation of Earth's Soil, *Daniel Richter, Duke University*
10:00–10:40 am
The Hidden World Beneath Our Feet: What it Does For Us, *Diana Wall, Colorado State University*
10:40–11:20 am
Sustaining Soil Quality on a Warming Planet, *Rattan Lal, The Ohio State University*

11:20–11:50 am Panel discussion
11:50–12 noon Closing remarks

"Dig It! The Secrets of Soil"
Opens July 19, 2008 Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History
"Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," opens at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History on July 19, 2008. The exhibition reveals the complex world of soil and how this hidden ecosystem supports nearly every form of life on Earth.
"*Dig It!"* includes interactive displays, hands-on models, videos, and soil samples. Visitors can explore soil found in their own backyard and in obscure locations, with 54 soil samples representing each U.S. state and territory, as well as soil maps and touchable soil models from around the world. In doing so, visitors will discover a world teeming with life.
The exhibition is sponsored by the Soil Science Society of America and the Nutrients for Life Foundation, which is underwritten by The Fertilizer Institute.
Following its showing at the National Museum of Natural History, "Dig It!" will travel to museums across the country through 2013 through the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.
Additional information about "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" is available at:
http://forces.si.edu/soils; www.sites.si.edu/soils; www.soils.org/smithsonian

Symposium Speakers
Diana H. Wall - *Professor of Biology and Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, Colorado State University*
Rattan Lal - *Professor of Soil Physics, School of Natural Resources and Director, Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, FAES/OARDC,The Ohio State University*
Daniel D. Richter - *Professor of Soils and Ecology and Director of Graduate Studies of the University Program in Ecology, Duke University*
David Montgomery- *University of Washington*

The National Academies www.nationalacademies.org
U.S. National Committee for Soil Science www.nationalacademies.org/usnc-ss
Soil Science Society of America www.soils.org
International Union of Soil Sciences www.iuss.org

The International Conference "Banana in Africa: Harnessing international partnerships to increase research impact", Mombasa, Kenya, 5-9 October 2008 (www.banana2008.com).

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in collaboration with Bioversity International, the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) organized the conference" "Banana in Africa: Harnessing international partnerships to increase research impact" in Mombasa, Kenya, 5-9 October 2008.

The organizers wanted to develop a 10-year, knowledge-based research-and-development strategy for banana in Africa that will mobilize the banana sector and lift people out of poverty, by better linking researchers with farmers and other stakeholders, farmers with markets, and researchers and farmers with private and public sector actors.

Sub-Saharan Africa produces 30 million tons of bananas annually, providing food security and income for millions of smallholder farmers. Its vast potential as a value-added commercial crop is not realized, decreasing farmers' chances to generate income. Currently, only 4% of internationally traded bananas originate from Africa, illustrating a huge gap but also a potential for Africa to increase commercial trade in bananas.

By inviting all stakeholders across the banana value chain and by using a unique agenda, this conference was not "business as usual", as scientific conferences go. Linkages, and in particular the importance of public-private sector partnerships, were a high priority, and reflected in the vast spectrum of stakeholders attending, often from non-

scientific backgrounds. Besides a program of over 100 invigorating talks, the conference boosted a parallel 900 m^2 exhibition area, with more than 45 exhibition booths from 14 countries, including from the commercial sector, farmers, international organizations, national programs, NGOs, governmental organizations and donors. The 4-day program was organized in order that each day represented a clear theme: a) markets and trade, b) production, and c) innovation systems. More importantly, the conference culminated in a final "strategy day", which built on the input provided by participants from each of the themes. Overall attendance numbered 400 participants from all sectors of the banana value chain and from across the globe. A total of 21 organizations, companies and donors contributed to this event, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA), and the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGDC, Belgium).

The Organizers wish to sincerely thank WASWC for their support. The program, as well as numerous photos, can be viewed or downloaded at www.banana2008.com

- Dr. Thomas Dubois, Chair of Organizing Committee (t.dubois@cgiar.org)

UN Desertification Conference ends in Istanbul, Turkey, 14 November 2008

"Without proper action, both in developing and developed countries, some 50 million people could be displaced by desertification and land degradation within the next ten years," warns the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

A major United Nations conference ended today with significant steps taken to combat desertification and land degradation as well as to mitigate the effects of drought, known as DLDD. Delegates from the 193 countries who are the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) took significant actions to resolve difficult scientific problems within the Convention process. By drawing in the scientific and technological community more intensively to create indicators that can be used at national levels and beyond, the Convention will win more confidence of the stakeholders. In addition, the reporting process from the Parties is to be mainstreamed so that both affected countries and development partners can see where the Convention reaps large benefits and retain them, while eliminating less effective ones.

"The delegates here in Istanbul took a big stride to guide the next year's ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) [the decision making body of the Convention]. We are all on the same page. But it has to be remembered that without proper action by stakeholders, both in developing and developed countries, some 50 million people could be displaced by desertification and land degradation within the next ten years," said Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

The Seventh Session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7) and the first special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST-S1) were held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 November.

At the first special session of the Committee for Science and Technology (CST-S1), the scientific advisory body of the Convention, delegates confirmed that promoting the participation of the national science and technology correspondents (STC) in the activities of the committee would enhance its work. The Committee, in consultation with STCs, is now moving forward to select a minimum set of indicators to measure the impact of the implementation of the Convention. Mr. Gnacadja said that these indicators would be applicable to all countries so that a common standard can make analysis at the national, sub-regional, regional, and the global level feasible. It will also increase the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention. The set of indicators will be finalized during regional scientific meetings next year towards the submission to COP9.

The ninth session of the CST (CST9) scientific conference will be held next year to ensure peer scientific review with which a Scientific Policy Dialogue is planned.

At the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7), which followed the CST-S1, the delegates agreed on reporting principles which measures the Convention's implementation progress. Through the reporting process, affected countries and development partners would understand "what works, what doesn't" in implementing the Convention. Assessment of national capacity to implement the Convention will be conducted in all regions in order to design a comprehensive capacity building approach.

The new reporting format will provide opportunities for affected country Parties to address their success and constraints in implementing the Convention in its 10-year strategic plan. For developed country Parties, future reporting should focus on providing information about how the Convention has been mainstreamed into their development cooperation strategies.

Another significant step was the concrete proposal to strengthen the involvement of integration civil society organizations in the review process.

"Recommendations made at the conference have several significant implications. First, the reporting guidelines will increase credibility of the Convention. Secondly, by Parties agreeing to the establishment of

the work programme, taking a result-based management approach, the Convention will increase accountability. Further, the cooperation among the Convention institutions will increase efficiency of the implementation process of the Convention." commented Mr. Gnacadja. "This is a certain step-forward for making the Convention a systemic and worldwide response to global environmental issues affecting land and its ecosystems."

The 10-year strategic plan, adopted at the eighth Conference of the Parties (COP8) in Madrid last year, is the response of the member Parties to change in the Convention's environment. In response to the change, there is a need to restructure the UNCCD institutions for their institutional coherence; to strengthen the Committee on Science and Technology (CST); and to improve the review process of the implementation of the Convention with new and standardized reporting guidelines. Mr. Gnacadja hopes that, by taking these actions, Parties could agree and monitor qualitative and quantitative targets to be achieved towards the goals set out in the 10-year strategic plan. "Setting, achieving and monitoring targets on land improvement with incentive mechanisms could redefine the concept and the content of international development cooperation," Mr. Gnacadja said, "that could be achieved from strong partnerships of all the stakeholders involved."

The new recommendations would entail a wider use of the information generated by countries and would achieve a higher level of accountability as desired by the Parties, according to the UNCCD Executive Secretary. These will be addressed at the next Conference of the Parties in autumn 2009.

"The pieces have fallen together here in Istanbul to fight DLDD. Now is the time to act," concluded Mr. Gnacadja.

- Julian Dumanski, jdumanski@rogers.com

The UNESCO-UC Irvine-USGS International Conference on Water Scarcity, Global Changes, and Groundwater Management Responses, December 1-5, 2008

Attended by more than 300 participants from 53 countries, the Conference has presented a unique opportunity of debates and exchanges on two of the major issues of our world at present, the lack of water resources and the significance of groundwater. It was held at the University of California, Irvine.


Three major ideas have guided the conception and design of the conference:
1- **The strong interconnection and interdependency between ground, surface and atmospheric waters:** Groundwater, surface water and atmospheric water are part of an interconnected and interdependent system such that forces and actions affecting any part can ultimately affect the other parts.
2- **The necessary strengthening of governance, institutions and management organization**: Water scarcity is not always the result of a lack of water but can result from inadequate institutional and managerial organization, while scientific and technical knowledge and know-how do exist.
3- **The necessary role of communication**, communication for adequate information of the public, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, communication between policy-makers and scientists and technicians.

The conclusions of the conference have been summarized in the Irvine Action Framework, whose objective is to provide a set of recommendations for action addressed to International Institutions, such as UNESCO and other UN Agencies, National Governments, Professional Associations and NGOs, and individual practitioners.

- Dr Jean Fried jfried@uci.edu School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine, Senior Consultant UNESCO; Dr Jan Scherfig, Urban Water Research Center, University of California, Irvine

International Conference on Water, Environment, Energy and Society, New Delhi, India, 12-16 January 2009

Water is vital to all forms of life and fundamental for environmental health and management. The health and economic effects of the shortage of freshwater are matters too serious to ignore. These issues need to be deliberated and discussed in technical gatherings. As an attempt in this direction, the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, organized an International Conference on '**Water, Environment, Energy and Society**' **(WEES-2009)** under the auspices of the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. The Union Minister for Water Resources, Prof. Saifuddin Soz, inaugurated the conference on Jan 12, in which the Minister of State for Water Resources, Mr J.P. Yadav, Mr U.N. Panjiar, Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Water Resources, Mr A.K. Bajaj, Chairman, CWC, and Mr R.D. Singh, Director, NIH were present.

Issues related to surface and ground water, contamination, pollution, ecosystems, water resources planning and management, river linking etc. were deliberated in the conference through more than 250 technical papers. Solutions of the water-related problems were discussed with consideration of challenges and direction for the 21st century to reduce water and environment-related problems. Besides the usual technical benefits, the Conference is one of the India's contributions to the IHP VII program (2008-2013) of UNESCO.

About 56 delegates from countries like Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Iran, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, U.S.A. and U.K. besides more than 200 Indian delegates attended the Conference.

The technical program of the conference was spread over 30 technical sessions conducted in three parallel sessions. A panel discussion on **'Future directions and challenges in hydrology and water resources management'** was also organized on the last day of the conference.

- Dr. Sharad Jain, NIH, Roorkee, India (jainsfwt@iitr.ernet.in, s_k_jain@yahoo.com)

LANDCON CONFERENCE in Serbia, May 25-30, 2009

Land conservation and erosion control require a site specific approach, the setting up of a persistent institutional activity in the affected river basins - an activity that must be legally based to be effective. In this sense, each region subject to land erosion needs to develop competent teams of experts able to deal with the site-specific problems, and to ensure institutional and legal support for this activity. An important aspect is the multidisciplinary character of the activity. It is essential to organize periodical exchange of information about the experiences of such teams operating in different regions. For the continuity of the ongoing efforts it is essential to educate and train young professionals to take part in the activity. The LANDCON offered an excellent opportunity in these regards and it can be recommended to continue the organization of similar meetings in the future, in different parts of the globe.

Public information and education are most important aspects of land management and it is worth to underline the positive experiences reported at the LANDCON which confirmed that in many cases the local population has been most supportive to promote land conservation, and cases were quoted about areas where land erosion has been reduced with the growth of population and its agricultural activity - to the contrast of the general assumption that land erosion increases with the increase of population. Four key opportunities were proposed that may also help the message of land conservation reach a wider audience. *First* was the Proposal for the formation of an Intergovernmental Panel on Land and Soil (IPLS), a little sister for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that had done so much to influence international policy. *Second* was the proposal to widen the brief of the UNESCO International Sediment Initiative (ISI) to include wider catchment characteristics, and *third* was the proposal for the creation of a Balkan regional coordination group to continue the work begun in Serbia in 2007 on the creation of administrative frameworks for land conservation. *Fourth,* was the proposal to include a younger scholars forum in every future LANDCON meeting in order to help the development of the next generation of land conservation scientists.

Session on Work of Young Scholars

This session contained 17 inspiring presentations from a wide range of new and on-going soil conservation studies. The number and quality of these presentations illustrated the importance of allowing a voice to the younger scholars, who have a limited number of fora available for the communication of their work to a wide international audience, and fewer

still that provide the relatively safe and supportive nature of this kind of session, where co-presenters are other young scholars, not seasoned professionals. While many valuable scientific insights were reported, the most important aspect of this session was that it provided a good opportunity for students to practice presenting their work in another language and to learn to summarise their work in 10-15 minutes. Moreover, after the presentations students can get immediate feedback from a wide range of students and researchers. Consequently this would help students to improve their professional skills and also could give a better accessibility to national research results to an international audience. Therefore, we all think it was a great opportunity for students to be able to participate in this international conference and would be an excellent idea to continue Topic 8, "Work of Younger Scholars" in the future. Recognizing the success of the sessions by younger scholars in presenting their work at LANDCON 0905, it is strongly recommended that future LANDCON meetings include a similar program for younger scholars.

¤ Closing remarks to LANDCON 0905 Conference, Tara Mountain, Serbia, 20 May 2009, by Ben Boer

On behalf of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, and its Specialist Group on Sustainable Soils and Desertification, let me congratulate the organisers of this conference for its great success, both on a professional and on a personal basis; in particular, let me thank once again Professor Miodrag Zlatic, all of his enthusiastic colleagues, and his most impressive students, in bringing us all together, and in particular for having the foresight to include a legal and ethical section in this event.

The ethical and legal aspects of land and soil conservation and sustainable use are and should always be an inherent part of the scientific debate.

So, do not forget the lawyers; we can stand by you, assist in ensuring that all of your important work can be implemented through institutional development, policy development and adequate legal frameworks at an international regional, national and local level. The law of nature and the law of human society must be harmonised. This can only be done by working together.

Summarized by Jose Rubio jose.l.rubio@uv.es

Main global problems!!!

- Increase food production to avoid food security problems
- Global climate change
- Water scarcity and water quality
- Land use changes (urban expansion, soil consumption)
- Land degradation-desertification-migrations
- Land contamination, residues and waste
- Loss of biodiversity and landscape quality
- Alternative sources of energy: biofuels and H2 cells

The answers are related to soil!!!
Some questions!

- How incorporate the economic value of soil and soil services
- How to improve perception of soil as biosphere crucial system
- How to cope with heterogeneity, language and methodologies
- How to cope with multifuncionality and other scientific and societal new demands

Some negative burden (Soil Science)!

- Isolation and inward looking
- Constrained by old approaches, methods and views
- Not to blame the past, particularly agrarian contributions
- Slow to adjust to environmental demands
- Dialogue between soil science community itself
- Difficulties in communication to others disciplines
- Too much complains and lack of answers

THE ISSUE TODAY!

- Soil as a crucial natural resource
- New soil paradigms
- Multifunctional medium
- Incorporating soil inputs to environmental global problems: Climate change, Combating land degradation-desertification, food security …
- MORE OPPORTUNITIES THAN EVER BEFORE¡¡¡

Research aspects!

- Multifuncionality approaches-Soil quality
- Integrated approaches for monitoring assessment
- Increased attention to biotic processes and biodiversity

- Carbon cycling and storage
- Soil-water relationships
- Sound soil productivity
- Incorporation new technologies and approaches
- **INNOVATION¡¡¡**

The societal and socio-economic problems!

- In a economicistic society lets talk economic language:
- Incorporating economic activities: carbon trading, carbon storage, payment for ecosystem services, certification schemes, economic value to resist erosion …
- How society benefits in economic terms
- Private Sector in Soil Science?

The role of ESSC, WASWC!!

- Knowledge and research gaps
- Societal perception
- Protect the sustainability of soil resources trough innovation
- Support sound agricultural productivity- Food security
- Improve soil structure and fertility
- Improve soil ecological functions

Some Strategic Points!!!

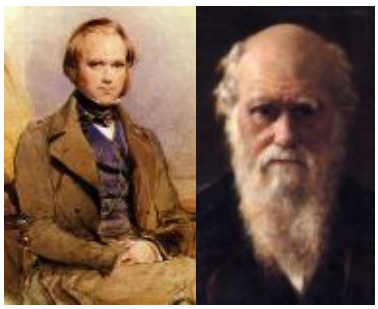
- Lobbying and alliance between soil associations
- New European and Global Soil Charter
- Promoting a new vision of soil as a base for life in the planet
- Young researchers incorporation: ***Soil Conservation needs You ¡¡¡***

A detailed report along with recommendations of LANDCON 0905 will be published in next issue 25(3) of newsletter – Ed.

MISCELLANEOUS

SCIENCE FOR EVERYONE

Happy birthday Charles Darwin



200 years ago, a man was born who changed the world

Charles Darwin would have been 200 years old on February 12, 2009. It is also 150 years since he published the most important book since the various religious scriptures; "The Origin of Species". He quite literally changed the world.

Charles Darwin is my favorite scientist. Granted, there have been some exceptional scientists of which Einstein, Newton and the Curies are a mere handful, but Darwin did something extraordinary. He questioned belief and religious thought – much as Galileo did when he proposed that the Earth is not actually the centre of the universe. That must take guts!

A brief history

Charles Robert Darwin was born on the 12th of February 1809 to a wealthy family in Shrewsbury in England. He had a rather privileged childhood and when old enough, his father sent him to practice medicine. This, however, was not his calling as he really didn't like blood all that much!

Much to his father's disappointment he dropped out of medical school so he was sent to Cambridge where he was to study to become an Anglican Priest although his interests firmly lay in the natural world and geology.

At the meagre age of 22, after finishing his theology course, he embarked on a five year world voyage on the HMS Beagle which departed from Plymouth and took him to Australia, South Africa but mainly around South America and, famously, to the Galapagos Islands.

Here, he took extensive notes on his main love, geology, and also on his other hobby, the natural world. He collected specimens from the various places he visited and read 'Principles of Geology' of Charles Lyell (standing in the photo

at right; sitting at left is Darwin, reading Wallace's letter and sitting at right is Hooker). The 'Principles of Geology' proposed that the Earth was not only a few thousand years old, as calculated by religious scholars at the time, but was in fact much, much older. This immense geological time was instrumental in his thinking about the formation of species.

The Galapagos Islands

This part of his voyage is what most people associate with Darwin. On the islands he noted that the mockingbirds varied depending on the island, yet were strikingly similar to the mockingbird species form the mainland.

He also noted that the tortoises from the islands varied in their carapace (shell) designs and shape to the extent where the exact island they came from could be identified. Here, he also collected finch specimens but wasn't aware of their immense importance until his return.

Home sweet home

Darwin returned to England a science celebrity as his journal excerpts had been published while he was aboard the Beagle. He quickly went about getting the help from various naturalists to help classify his findings, and one of these was John Gould.

He informed Darwin that the varieties of mockingbirds he collected from the various islands were in fact separate species. He also classified the finches and other birds Darwin collected as a new group of 12 species, completely unknown to science.

What grabbed Darwin now, as it did with the tortoises and mockingbirds, is that the similarities between the species, and similarities between the island and mainland animals were uncanny. This led him to ponder whether this 'undermined the stability of species' as he put it. The idea that the diversity of life on the planet was not the result of individual creations was becoming more and more real to him.

Enter Alfred Russel Wallace

Amongst other things, Darwin had a fancy for breeding pigeons. It was this artificial selection that fuelled his fire for accepting the 'transmutation' of species, claiming that if man could take certain traits and breed animals and plants to produce incredibly diverse varieties in a short amount of time, imagine what nature could do with eons!

In the late 1850s a naturalist by the name of Alfred Russel Wallace sent Darwin letters and papers on his own findings from the Malay archipelago in which he drew the same conclusions as Darwin on evolution, although with much less evidence and depth. This prompted Darwin to publish his own findings in what is the most important book ever written; 'The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection'. The world would never be the same.

Despite criticism even today, the principle of evolution by means of natural selection is the underlying principle of all biology, and has come on leaps and bounds since the discovery of DNA. And despite innumerable attempts by religious bodies, no evidence has ever been presented to contradict evolution.

It may be of interest that he married his first cousin, and that he was a tad obsessed with earthworms and barnacles, but all geniuses have their quirks! He went on to publish more work, famously 'The Decent of Man', but it is the Origin of Species that will forever be his legacy. And to think, all he did was point out the obvious!

Dave Canavan has an MSc in Behavioural Ecology and is the Head of Secondary at Garden International School, Bangkok. Dave is fascinated by science and loves animals, especially the dangerous kind! You may contact Dave at davidc@gardenbangkok.com

Poets' Corner

Land-leveling and Ground-water, by J.S. Bali, Jammu, India

Books have been written, hundreds of prescriptions
Practices in the field, from trees to the crops
Details a plenty, farmers get lost
Ask me for two essential field practices of soil conservation
I shall name: Land-leveling and Ground-water

The two keys to sustainable farming
For now and also for the progeny
Level the field, cut from high spots
Fill the low spots, use the simple instrument
Leveling feasible even in tiny, scattered holdings

If soil depth is less, do not bury the top-soil
Do not expose the sub-soil and the regolith
Scrape the soil from the surface into contour heaps
Level the sub-soil, re-spread the scraped top-soil
You get a nice level field even in the shallow soils

The level field receives the rainfall, conserves it
Every drop of rain is absorbed and penetrates
Benefits the crops and recharges the aquifer
Do not reject this practice, do not listen to those
Who are for “cost-effectiveness” at your expense

Ground-water is the next essential practice
Push- button water control, essential for the farmer
Irrigate the minimum required, at the time required
Before sowing for good germination and at flowering time
Use more often, if you have more water, but with care

For do-gooders and for the Government staff
Take a farmer’s application, at least one a day
Take it to the Bank or to other money sources
Do the running about on behalf of the farmer
Get him, not the money, but the engine and pump

Arrange the well – digging or the tubewell
This will be your solid support, the golden touch
The rest, the farmer will do himself, he knows
How to use water, how to grow abundance
Guide him from time to time as extension work

If you want to do more, give farmer the seed
Of best quality suited to his soil and needs
He keeps his food needs for the season
Help him market the rest, without his time
Buy at the farm-gate, give him the best price

While the above practices are neglected
We preach and preach, write books and pamphlets
Exhorting the farmer to do this and that and everything
He ignores you, he rightly does so
If you have something to really give, he’ll never reject

Computips!

¤ How to save your favorite Web Pages on Your PC?

Today tip will help you to save any webpage on your disk in proper way. Many times you find a webpage, which want to view or read when you are not connected to the internet. It's happened to you dozens of times in a month. Here I have solution to this problem, almost all web browsers allow you to save any webpage to your computer and when you can enjoy those pages whenever you want. There are many options in web browser to save your favorite web pages.

First open your favorite web page then go to File menu in web browser to save that page. In File menu choose Save as option here. You should browse to any folder where you want to save that webpage and choose the proper format to save it in.

Webpage Complete (*.htm, *. html)
This option saves the webpage in its regular HTML format. With this format, Internet Explorer saves all the graphics of that webpage only in one folder.
Web Archive, Single file (*.mht)
Using this option, the explorer saves the webpage in a single file in a zipped format which is known as Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension HTML. There are no folders creating with this technique and it save all the graphics of webpage in only one file. If you don't want to use the code of HTML, this format is better to save any file because this option saves all the files in a single file.
Webpage, HTML only (*.htm, *. html)
With this option you can save only the HTML portion of the webpage, with this option you can save webpage without any graphics. For the next time when you will try to open the page which you have saved though it might be difficult to read

because graphics are normally use to hold the pieces of webpage together. If you want to reuse the HTML in a webpage you want to create then choose this option.

Text File (*.txt)

You can save a webpage as text format (text only) with using this option. If you want to save only text from a page and you do not want about the pictures then this is good option for you.

When you want to read that saved page, open your browser and go to File menu and then browse to that folder where you have saved that pages.

¤ How to insert YouTube movies into PowerPoint slides?

You can insert the YouTube movies into your PowerPoint slides to express your idea or better way to communicate something. You can convey these ideas in more effective ways, if you are using movie files with your simple slides.

Follow the given steps to add YouTube movies into PowerPoint slides:

First of all download the YouTube.com movies and then save on your computer hard drive. Mostly movies are available in flash video file format on YouTube site. You can convert also the downloaded movies from YouTube into any common format, for example, windows media video file (wmv), windows video file (avi) and movie file (mpeg).

- First of all open the presentation in which you want to insert movie file.
- Now click on "Movies and Sounds" option from the Insert" menu and choose the option "Movie from File".
- Now select your movie that you want to insert into slide and click on Ok button.
- Here now you are asked "Do you want your movie to play automatically in the slide show? If not, it will play when you click it."
- Recommend choosing Ok button to play automatically even if you want the movie to play when clicked.
- Finally save your PowerPoint presentation and run it for test.

¤ Different methods through which viruses may be transferred

There are different methods through which viruses may be transferred from one computer to another. Now- a-days, most of the viruses spread due to receiving unknown e-mail messages that contains viruses. When a user opens such an infected message, the virus is also loaded into the computer memory. In this way, many other program files loaded into the memory are infected. This virus is also transferred to other computers when e-mail messages are sent from the infected computer to them. Due to these viruses, some time an auto generated email message from your email ID sends to your friends from your side with different virus messages.

Never open unknown and attractive subject line email messages, always scan first even if you know the sender of the message.

Another way of spreading virus is by using Internet and other networks. For example, when you download infected executables files or data files from the Internet or from a shared disk on the network, viruses are transferred to your computer. It must be noted that many software are available on the Internet with free of cost. Most of that software contains viruses, for example free PHP or ASP scripts are the main source of virus, always get these scripts from reliable sources. In an LAN, if a computer contains a virus, then all the computers on the network may be infected with that virus.

One important means of exchanging data is through the use of removable media like, CDs, MP3 player, ipod and flash devices. So, when you copy the data from one computer to another by using a removable media, the viruses are also transferred.

The virus can also infect your computer by using pirated software. The software, which is installed into your computer without license is referred to as pirated software. Some companies may intentionally attach some virus programs into their software. This program will only activate when it does not find some special files like license files on your computer.

¤ To delete a file that cannot be deleted

1. Open a Command Prompt window and leave it open.
2. Close all open programs.
3. Click Start, Run and enter TASKMGR.EXE.
4. Go to the Processes tab and End Process on Explorer.exe.
5. Leave Task Manager open.

(After this There will be no desktop icons and nothing is accessible but don’t worry this is due to shutting down of explorer)

6. Go back to the Command Prompt window and change to the directory to where undeletable file) is located in.
7. At the command prompt type DEL where is the file you wish to delete.
8. Go back to Task Manager, click File, New Task and enter EXPLORER.EXE to restart the GUI shell.
9. Close Task Manager.

LAUGHTER ZONE … JUST TO LAUGH

Are you Internet Junkie?

- When asked to your address, your answer begins with http://
- Instead of calling you to dinner, your spouse sends e-mail.
- You chat with your fingers, not your mouth.
- You use Netscape 4.72, and you check every week whether version 4.73 was released.
- You know the difference between Java and Java script.
- Most of your friends have an @ in their names.
- In order to watch CNN you move to www.cnn.com
- On your business card the e-mail appears before the phone number.
- You find yourself typing “com” after every period when using a word processor.com
- You check your mail. It says “no new messages.” So you check it again.
- You can perfectly imitate the sound pattern of your modem connecting to your ISP.
- You can think of nineteen keystroke symbols that are far more clever than :-).
- You are told about a new program, and you are disappointed to find that it is a TV program.
- Not only do you check your email more often than your paper mail, but you remember your network address faster than your postal one.
- You wake up at 3 a.m. to go to the bathroom and stop to check your e-mail on the way back to bed.
- Customer: “Can you copy the Internet for me on this diskette?”

Another one …

A panda (a hindu religious man) walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and proceeds to fire it at the other patrons.
"Why?" asks the confused, surviving waiter amidst the carnage, as the panda makes towards the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.
"Well, I'm a panda," he says at the door. "Look it up."
The waiter turns to the relevant entry in the manual and, sure enough, finds an explanation.
"Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

Bill Gates on plane

One night, a Delta twin-engine puddle jumper was flying somewhere above New Jersey. There were five people on board: the pilot, Michael Jordan, Bill Gates, The Dali Lama, and a hippie.
Suddenly, an illegal oxygen generator exploded loudly in the luggage compartment, and the passenger cabin began to fill with smoke. The cockpit door opened, and the pilot burst into the compartment. "Gentlemen," he began, "I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that we're about to crash in New Jersey. The good news is that there are four parachutes, and I have one of them!" With that, the pilot threw open the door and jumped from the plane.
Michael Jordan was on his feet in a flash. "Gentlemen," he said, "I am the world's greatest athlete. The world needs great athletes. I think the world's greatest athlete should have a parachute!" With these words, he grabbed one of the remaining parachutes, and hurtled through the door and into the night.
Bill Gates rose and said, "Gentlemen, I am the world's smartest man. The world needs smart men. I think the world's smartest man should have parachute, too." He grabbed one, and out he jumped.
The Dali Lama and the hippie looked at one another. Finally, the Dali Lama spoke. "My son," he said, "I have lived a satisfying life and have known the bliss of True Enlightenment. You have your life ahead of you, you take a parachute, and I will go down with the plane."
The hippie smiled slowly and said, "Hey, don't worry, pop. The world's smartest man just jumped out wearing my backpack."

Few Nice/Interesting Words

Great Spirit – Grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins.
- An (American) Indian Prayer

“Essentially, all life depends upon the soil .... There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together.” *Charles E. Kellogg, USDA Yearbook of Agriculture, 1938*

WASWC members are requested to send news about anything concerning SWC, e.g. funds, awards, publications, websites, exhibitions, technical meetings, to publish with us by sending to sskukal@rediffmail.com, aroraspau@yahoo.co.in, and rmfowler@iafrica.com

Contributors for WASWC Newsletter

The contributions made by the following editorial members and other contributors are highly acknowledged.

M. Agassi, *Israel,* menahema@moag.gov.il
Artemi Cerdà, *Spain,* acerda@uv.es
Will Critchley, *Netherlands,* wrs.critchley@dienst.vu.nl
Raymnd D. Desjardins, *Canada,* desjardins@agr.gc.ca
Nahid Elbezzaz, *Morocco,* nahidelbezzaz@yahoo.fr
Wyn Ellis, *Thailand,* wynellis.gtzbkk@gmail.com
Mike Fullen, *U.K.,* m.fullen@wlv.ac.uk
Yantai Gan, *Canada,* gan@agr.gc.ca
Tom Goddard, *Canada,* tom.goddard@gov.ab.ca
Mohammad Golabi, *USA,* mgolabi@guam.uog.edu
Antonio J.T. Guerra, *Brazil,* antoniotguerra@gmail.com
John Laflen, *USA,* laflen@wctatel.net
C. Licona-Manzur, *Italy,* Clemencia.LiconaManzur@fao.org
Li Dingqiang, *China,* dqli@soil.gd.cn
Li Rui, *China,* lirui@ms.iswc.ac.cn
Victoria Mack, *Australia,* vmack@silc.com.au
Machito Mihara, *Japan,* waswc@nifty.com
Prasanta K. Mishra, *India,* pkmbellary@rediffmail.com
Ted Napier, *USA,* Napier.2@osu.edu
Yuji Niino, *Thailand,* yuji.niino@fao.org
Franco Obando, *Colombia,* fobando1@yahoo.com
James O. Owino, *Kenya,* joowin@yahoo.com
Martin Parkes, *China,* martinpa@gn.apc.org
Sam Portch, *Canada,* sportch@ppi-ppic.org
Horrie Poussard, *Australia,* poussard@thereef.com.au
T. Francis Shaxson, *UK,* FShaxson@aol.com
Rhodri P. Thomas, *UK,* rhodri_p_thomas@hotmail.com
Takashi Ueno, *Japan,* erecon-hq@nifty.com
Willy Verheye, *Belgium,* wlverheye@telenet.be
Kristie Watling, *Australia,* kristie.watling@nrm.qld.gov.au
Alex Watson, *New Zealand,* watsona@landcareresearch.co.nz
Rob Youl, *Australia,* rob.youl@landcareaustralia.com.au
Guo Zixing, *China,* zxguo@soil.gd.cn
Miodrag Zlatic, *Serbia,* mizlatic@yubc.net

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE YOU PRINT THIS HOT NEWS

INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN WASWC

1. Individual membership: US$5/yr for developing countries; US$10 for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide. Payment of the fee for 4 years at the same time will enable the membership to be 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.

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 John Laflen or me or any other address in the following list:

a. Dr. John M. Laflen, Treasurer, 5784 hwy 9, Buffalo Center, IA 50424 U.S.A. Phone: +1-641-561-2324. Fax: +1-641-584-2265 Attn: J.M. Laflen. laflen@wctatel.net. 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:
- **Foreign wires:** United Bankers Bank, 1650 West 82nd Street, Bloomington, MN 55431, U.S.A. Routing number 091 001 322; Swift Code UBBKUS41; for benefit of First National Bank of Volga; account number 091 402 552; further credit World Soil #703-488.
- **Domestic wires:** United Bankers Bank, 1650 West 82nd Street, Bloomington, MN 55431, Routing number 091 001 322; for benefit of First National Bank of Volga; account number 091 402 552; further credit World Soil #703-488.

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, Bangkhen Branch, 2124 Phaholyothin Road, Jatujak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand. Phone: +66-25614091/ 25791146-8, Fax: +66-25791149. SWIFT CODE: BKKBTHBK, A/C No. 161-0-210864, which you should also indicate "payable to Dr. Samran Sombatpanit".
IMPORTANT NOTES: 1. DO NOT write the word 'WASWC' in your remittance document, as it will cause a problem, since this is an alternative account that supplements the official one (a, as above).
2. Do not deduct the bank fee from your side from the amount of money to send.
3. For sending money by wire/bank transfer or check please add US$8 per transaction to compensate for the charge at the receiving bank in Bangkok. This additional charge is NOT applicable for the payment of membership fee(s) of US$50 or more.

c. You can also send to **Dr. Samran Sombatpanit** (use the address as shown in b.) through the **Western Union worldwide money transfer service.** Learn how to send from www.westernunion.com. Their service is quick and the transfer fee has been much reduced from the earlier time. Also as in (b), please do not deduct the money transfer fee from the amount to send and also do not have to add US$8 as shown in (b3) above. Please write to sombatpanit@yahoo.com to show your intention before sending.

OTHER ADDRESSES TO SEND THE MONEY TO WASWC

Argentina: Eduardo Rienzi, Fac. of Agronomy, Univ. of Buenos Aires, Av. San Martin, Buenos Aires. Banco Nacion, suc 0082 Nro 200388227 CBU 01100204-30002003882279. rienzi@mail.agro.uba.ar
Australia: Kristie Watling**,** Department of Natural Resources and Water, 203 Tor Street, Toowoomba Q 4350, (P.O. Box 318, Toowoomba Q 4350) Phone: +61-(0)7-4688 1092, Facsimile: +61-(0)7 4688 1487 Kristie.Watling@nrw.qld.gov.au, www.nrw.qld.gov.au
Brazil: Antonio Guerra, Avenida Jose Luiz Ferraz, 250, apartamento 1706, CEP. 22.790-587, Rio de Janeiro – RJ BRAZIL.
SWIFT: BRASBRRJRJO, Banco do Brasil – conta 652291-2; agencia 3652-8. antoniotguerra@gmail.com
India: Surinder S. Kukal, Department of Soils, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana 141004. sskukal@rediffmail.com
India: Suraj Bhan, Soil Conservation Society of India (SCSI), G-3, Nat. Soc. Block, NASC Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi-110012. bhan_suraj2001@yahoo.com
Indonesia: Syaiful Anwar, WASWC Indonesia Chapter (Masyarakat Konservasi Tanah dan Air Indonesia, MKTI, c/o Ministry of Forestry, Jakarta) with following account details: Bank Mandiri cabang Jakarta Gedung Pusat Kehutanan; Account holders: Trisnu Danisworo, qq Zulfikar Ali; A/C No: 102-00-0437516-5. sanwar@cbn.net.id
Japan: Dr. Machito Mihara, WASWC Deputy President, c/o Institute of Environment Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON), 2987-1 Onoji Machida-shi, Tokyo 195-0064, Japan. Phone/Fax: +81-42-736-8972, hq-erecon@nifty.com. He can receive all forms of payment from within Japan, and can receive Visa and MasterCard credit cards from all over the world (mark in all forms of payment "payable to ERECON Japan"). Payment is in Japanese yen only; see more details in www.waswc.org.
Kenya: James O. Owino, Dept. of Agric Eng., Egerton University, P.O.B. 536 Njoro. SWIFT: BARCKENXANKE, Bank code: 003, Branch code: 027, Acc. No. 1214170, P.O. Box 66, Nakuru 20100. joowin@yahoo.com
Morocco: Mohamed Sabir, National School of Forest Engineers, BP 511 Salé. sabirenfi@wanadoo.net.ma
Netherlands: WRS Critchley, ABN AMRO Bank, Gelderlandplein, POSTBUS 87091, 1080 JB Amsterdam. Account number 549365478, BIC number = ABNANL2A, IBAN = NL28ABNA0470430559. wrs.critchley@dienst.vu.nl
Serbia: Prof. Miodrag Zlatic, WASWC President, Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade, Kneza Viseslava 1, Belgrade. Serbia. Phone: +381-11-3553122 (o), +381-11-3583280 (h), +381-63661549 (m). He can receive money from the Balkans Region through the Raiffeisen Banka AD, Beograd, Republic of Serbia, SWIFT code: RZBSRSBG, Customer's name: Zlatic Miodrag, A/C No. RS35265051000004691675. miodrag.zla@sbb.rs, mizlatic@yahoo.com.
South Africa: Richard Fowler, fax 086 672 6872 or e-mail rmfowler@iafrica.com
Spain: Artemi Cerdà, Departament de Geografia, Universitat de València, 46010-Valencia. acerda@uv.es
Thailand: Mrs. Nongkran Maneewan, Land Development Dept., Bangkok 10900, Thailand, for sending from members in Thailand. Savings A/C No. 039-1-01371-8, Krung Thai Bank, Samyaek Kaset Branch. nongkran@ldd.go.th, kaek_nong@yahoo.com.
United Kingdom: Dr. Mike A. Fullen, School of Applied Sciences, University of Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton WV1 1SB, U.K. Phone: +44-1902-322410, Fax: +44-1902-322680, M.Fullen@wlv.ac.uk. He can receive money from within the UK in pound sterling equivalent to the rates stated above. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Wolverhampton. You may use the most recent exchange rate for converting US$ into GBP.

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.