

Meet the New President



Professor Bill Day became the new President of EurAgEng for 2004 to 2006 at the end of the AgEng2004 conference in Leuven. He has been Director of Silsoe Research Institute in the UK since 1999 and has worked in agricultural research institutes in England since completing his PhD in 1974. His research interests have included environmental physics and modelling crop processes and systems.

During a recent interview he said, "I am proud to take on the role of President of the Society. There are real opportunities for us to develop the contribution of AgEng, both as a discipline and for society, even in these challenging times.

"The discipline has demonstrated its contribution to a widening target community. Engineering innovation in land management is providing new and more sophisticated approaches to meeting biodiversity and other environmental goals as well as agricultural ones. Techniques for sensing, monitoring and controlling systems are being developed, but not just for livestock production - they are also being directed towards other important animal systems. And the techniques being developed now for improved environmental control in farm and horticultural structures are in parallel being directed towards the optimisation of internal environments for similar systems.

"So we can expect there to be a continuing need for our underlying skills in engineering directed towards complex natural and managed biological systems. We must look to strengthen the appreciation of our European base in these skills, and demonstrate to a new generation of young scientists and engineers the interest and value of our work.

"We will have to put time and effort into communication both within our discipline and to wider society. EurAgEng makes a distinctive contribution through the series of AgEng conferences that have been running now for more than 20 years. Within these conferences we have begun to develop an interface with industry, but it is still very limited. Strengthening this link is an important target over the coming years. A major opportunity will come when we join with VDI in Germany to put on an international conference adjacent to the Agritechnica show. Before then we will need to encourage debate and develop understanding of the ways in which our strengths and industry's needs can be brought into closer engagement.

"For political and public audiences, we must improve the way we communicate the meaning, value and potential of AgEng, so that the opportunity to sustain our discipline is not lost. A pan-European exercise to raise our profile is being put together now, and will aim to highlight the value of the work to which you all are contributing.

"I look forward to working with you to sustain and enhance the Society through to the next AgEng conference in September 2006 - jointly AgEng2006, XVI CIGR World Congress and 64th VDI-MEG International Conference."

AGENG
Bonn 2006

AgEng2006 Bonn
Agricultural Engineering for a Better World
3-7 September 2006 Bonn, Germany

The next conference in the AgEng series will be held in Bonn, Germany in September 2006. It will combine the **XVI CIGR World Congress**, the **64th VDI-MEG International Conference Agricultural Engineering**, and the **EurAgEng conference AgEng2006**. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) will hold a workshop on **Agricultural Engineering's Contributions to Solving Future Global Agricultural Problems**. Also, immediately before the main congress, a pre-conference event will be held on **Automation Technology for Offroad Equipment**. There is going to be a lot going on!

Venue

The meetings will be held at Bonn University and at the Bundeshaus Bonn which includes the former parliament building.

Programme

The programme will include sessions in:

- Land & Water Use and Environment
- Power & Machinery
- Information Systems and Precision Farming

- Livestock Technology
- Processing & Post Harvest Technology and Logistics
- Energy and non-Food Production Technology
- Systems Engineering and Management
- Fruit & Vegetable Cultivation Systems
- Global Issues

Submissions

Abstracts not exceeding one page in length should be submitted in English and must emphasise objectives and results. Full information on the conference and the submission of papers can be obtained from the website <www.2006cigr.org>

Dates

1 Feb 06	Submission of abstracts
15 Mar 06	Notification of acceptance
15 Apr 06	List of papers available
1 Jun 06	Submission of full papers
3-7 Sep 06	Conference/Congress

News from Switzerland

Changes at the Swiss National Committee of Rural Engineering, Irrigation and Drainage (CH-AGRID) - André Musy



To become more efficient and to ensure the future of its activities, the CH - A G R I D committee has decided to reorganise internally and to strongly modify its structures.

Therefore and further to numerous discussions, meeting and brainstorming sessions, **CH-AGRAM, Swiss National Commission on Agro-systems Engineering and Land Improvement** has officially been accepted as a member of the Swiss Academy of Technical Science (ASST) and takes over the activities of the former association, CH-AGRID.

This new commission is composed of 15 members including a committee of three people, each representing academic and professional associations within the agricultural engineering field of interest.

- President:** Mr Claude-Alain Vuillerat, Agricultural engineer, director of an engineer-consultant private office
- Vice-president:** Mr Robert Kaufmann, Agronomist, Agroscope FAT, Taenikon
- Treasurer:** Mr Andreas Schild, Agricultural engineer, Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture in Berne

This new commission will pursue the missions of the previous association and its representatives (or National Points of Contacts-NPC) in the international memberships and their addresses are as follows:

- ICID:** Professor André Musy, EPF Lausanne, ICID vice-president
- NPC address:** HYDRAM-ISTE-ENAC-EPFL
GR CI 565
Station no. 2
CH-1015 Lausanne
- EurAgEng:** Dr Walter Meier, Eglisau (Mr Robert Kaufmann, Agroscope FAT Taenikon)
- CIGR:** Mr Michael Gysi, vice-director,
- NPC address:** Agroscope FAT
CH-8356 Taenikon

For any other national activity, information must be requested from the CH-AGRAM secretariat, who will forward them:

- Postmail address:**
Bureau B+C Ingénieurs S.A.
avenue du Casino 45
CH-1820 Montreux
- Tel: +41 21 966 10 80
Fax: +41 21 966 10 89
Email: <vuillerat@vtx.ch>

Good luck to this new commission, which will ensure efficient and pertinent developments in several agricultural engineering fields, both nationally and internationally.

New course in Switzerland

A new **Master of Advanced Studies in Water Resources Management and Engineering**, Specialisation in Hydrology or in Hydraulic Schemes will be launched jointly by the Swiss Federal Institutes of Lausanne (EPFL) and Zurich (ETHZ) in October 2005 for a period of two years, part-time.

This programme is oriented towards the acquisition of a global vision for higher technical and scientific qualifications in the fields related to hydrology and water resources. It also encourages the transfer of the most recent knowhow on water resources management and engineering, whatever the geographical or economical situation of the countries concerned.

The programme offers two specialisations amounting to a total of about 600 hours of

theoretical teaching, subdivided into eight individual modules, followed by the MAS practical research thesis period and exam.

Further information is available at <<http://water-eng-mas.epfl.ch>> or from EPFL-ENAC-ISTE-HYDRAM
GR CI 565
Station no. 2
CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0)21 693 37 35 or 37 24
Fax: +41 (0)21 693 37 39
Email: <water-eng-mas.hydr@epfl.ch>

The deadline for applications from non-European candidates is 30 April 2005 and from European, Swiss and/or resident candidates is 31 May 2005.

The ICID WatSave Awards 2005

The **International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)** was established in 1950 as a scientific, technical and voluntary not-for-profit, non-Governmental International Organization with headquarters in New Delhi. The mission of the Commission is to stimulate and promote the development and application of the arts, sciences and techniques of engineering, agriculture, economics, ecological and social sciences in managing water and land resources for irrigation, drainage and flood management applications, including research and capacity building for achieving sustainable irrigated agriculture.

ICID has a network of 104 member countries worldwide, covering about 260 million hectares of irrigated area which is 96% of the world irrigated area. Building on its past experience, accomplishments and the comprehensive water management framework, ICID strives to promote water saving/conservation programmes to enhance sustainable development of irrigated agriculture.

ICID has been awarding **WatSave Awards** to recognise outstanding contributions of professionals to water saving/conservation for sustainable irrigated agriculture, since the year 1998. So far, 17 professionals from different regions of the world have been honoured with ICID WatSave Awards. The

awards are presented at the annual meeting of International Executive Council (IEC) of ICID.

There are three categories of awards:

- **Technology Award**
- **Innovative Water Management Award**
- **Young Professionals Award.**

Each award carries a prize money of US\$2000 and a Citation. The WatSave Award-2005 will be presented during the 56th IEC of ICID to be held at Beijing, China in September 2005. The last date of receipt of nominations at the Central Office ICID, New Delhi through the concerned national Committee of ICID, is 31 May 2005.

Interested persons should submit their nominations electronically through the National Committee of ICID where the applicant is working. Nominations received without validation by the concerned National Committee and/or directly to the New Delhi Office will not be considered. A list of ICID national committees is available on the ICID website <<http://www.icid.org/nc1.html>>

Detailed information on the WatSave Awards and other ICID awards is available on the website <<http://www.icid.org/awards.html>>

Cooperation between EurAgEng and VDI-MEG

EurAgEng has embarked on a programme of making links with like-minded organisations, and in this endeavour, an agreement has been reached with VDI-MEG.

The Max-Eyth Society of Agricultural Engineering within the German Association of Engineers (VDI-MEG) and the European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng) recognize that it could be of mutual benefit if the AgEng Conferences evolved over time into a permanent event in Hanover. The event would be under the leadership of EurAgEng in conjunction with VDI-MEG, the operators of the Hanover fairground Deutsche Messe AG, and DLG. The agricultural engineering industry would also be closely involved.

To test the idea, EurAgEng agrees to join with VDI-MEG in holding a Conference in Hanover in 2007. With this objective, the President of VDI-MEG, Dr Ludger Frerichs and the then President of EurAgEng, Prof Daniele De Wrachien signed in Leuven (Belgium) in September 2004, a Memorandum of Understanding which provides for the following:

- The Conference will be called **AgEng 2007 Hanover**
65. Internationale Tagung LAND. TECHNIK
(event: Launching of Agritechnica 2007)
- It will take place in 2007 at the Convention Centre, Messe Hanover, Germany
- The event will be used to test the idea of a merger between the Landtechnik Conference (and the Agritechnica industry exhibition) and the AgEng Conference
- The Conference language will be English
- A joint programme committee will be set up
- Presentations and subject matters will cover the full range of agricultural engineering and will be of high quality
- The regulations and recommendations of EurAgEng Conferences will be observed
- The Conference administrators will be VDI Wissensforum IWB GmbH
- A levy per delegate will be payable to EurAgEng at the rate of €20 per full-paying delegate and proportionately less for delegates who pay less
- A reduction in registration fees will be offered to members of EurAgEng
- EurAgEng will not be asked to make any financial contribution to the event (it does not have the resources) and there must be no financial risk to EurAgEng.

Member in the News

Dr Machito MIHARA, a Life Member of European Society of Agricultural Engineers, has recently been promoted to full Professor at the Faculty of Regional Environment Science, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan.

His research fields are Soil and Water Conservation Engineering and International Environment Cooperation. Prof Mihara obtained his Bachelor



degree from Tokyo University of Agriculture in 1988, Master's degree from Ibaraki University in 1990, and Doctoral degree from Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology in 1993. His career has spanned 12 years as a researcher and a lecturer at Tokyo University of Agriculture since 1993.

Prof Mihara has also obtained the Scientific Encouragement Award from the Japanese Society of Irrigation, Drainage and Reclamation

Engineering in 2001, and the Scientific Award from the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation, Japan in 2003, as a result of his research activities.

At present, Prof Mihara is also the Director-General at the Institute of Environment Rehabilitation and Conservation, and Regional Vice-President at World Association of Soil and Water Conservation. His research and extension activities have been focused on Mekong River regions.

Cooperation between EurAgEng and RURALIA

The **Italian Association for the Unitary Restoring of Rural Heritage and Sites (RURALIA)** was launched in 1998 with the main objectives of:

- Promoting studies inherent in the conservation, recuperation, enhancement and re-use of traditional rural buildings and their landscapes, running training courses and publishing essays and other writings on care and repair methods
- Organising visits, tours, conferences on the recovery of the rural heritage and relevant craft techniques by experts in their fields
- Establishing a documentation centre for research in the field of rural patrimony
- Consulting local councils, associations, public and private entities, expressing opinions about planning and projects fundamental to rural patrimony recovery.

EurAgEng has embarked on a programme of making links with like-minded organisations. In this endeavour RURALIA and EurAgEng have

Events for the latest information visit www.eurageng.net and click on Conferences/Events

SPONSORED EVENTS

5-8 June 2005

Vth International CIGR Symposium on Concrete for Sustainable Agriculture
San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain
Contacts: Miguel A. Garcimartin & Elvira Sanchez Espinosa
Departamento de Construcción y Vías Rurales, E.T.S. Ingenieros Agrónomos, Ciudad Universitaria, 28040 Madrid
Tel.: +34/913 365 762 & +34/913 365 420
Fax: +34/ 913 365 766
secretariat@cvr.etsia.upm.es
www.cvr.etsia.upm.es/cigr_concrete_symposium.htm

9-12 June 2005

5th European Conference on Precision Agriculture; 2nd European Conference on Precision Livestock Farming
Uppsala, Sweden
Convenor: Lars Thylén
Tel: +46 18 30 33 75
Fax: +46 18 30 09 56
lars.thylen@jti.slu.se
www-conference.slu.se/ecpa/index.htm
www-conference.slu.se/ecplf/index.htm

27-30 June 2005

Agricultural Engineering for the Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean Region International Conference
Organised by AIIA in Cetani, Italy
Details from AIIA, Istituto di Ingegneria Agraria, Via Celoria 2, I - 20133 Milano
Tel. +39 02-50316879/76

Fax +39 02-50316845
domenico.pessina@aiaa.it
www.aiaa.info

6-11 September 2005

International Conference on Water, Land and Food Security in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute, Valenzano (Bari), Italy
Contact: Mrs. Mervat Hassan
Tel. +202 544 9442
Fax +202 544 94 49
abu-zeid@mwri.gov.eg
or Mrs. Camilla Caldarulo
Tel. +39 080 46 06 222 or 201
Fax +39 080 46 06 206
hamdy@iamb.it

8-9 September 2005

New Technological Processes and Investigation Methods for Agricultural Engineering
Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Lithuanian Agricultural University
Tel: +370 37 449643
Fax: +370 37 549366
institutas@mei.lt
www.mei.lt

12-16 September 2005

7th Symposium on Fruit, Nut and Vegetable Production Engineering, 'Information and Technology for Sustainable Fruit and Vegetable Production'
Montpellier, France
INRA-ENSAM-CIRAD-Cemagref
frutic05@montpellier.cemagref.fr
www.frutic05.org/

19-21 September 2005

XXXI CIOSTA - CIGR V Congress, Increasing Work Efficiency in Agriculture, Horticulture, and Forestry,
University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany
Contact: Dr Monika Krause
Tel: +49 (0)711/459-3231
Fax: +49 (0)711/459-4307
ciosta@uni-hohenheim.de
www.uni-hohenheim.de/ciosta-cigr

21-24 September 2005

3rd Agricultural Engineering Conference
Venue: University of Leon, Spain
Spanish Society of Agricultural Engineering
Contact: Dr. Pedro Aguado, ESTI Agraria, Av. Portugal, 41, 24071 Leon. SPAIN
Tel: +34 987 291806
Fax: +34 987 291810
agroing2005@unileon.es

10-11 November 2005

International Conference: Earth Observation for vegetation monitoring and water management
Venue: Napoli, Italy
Organiser: Dept. Agricultural Engineer. and Agronomy, University of Naples Federico II
Tel: +39 081 2539412
durso@unina.it
www.agraria.unina.it/CONGRESS/EONapoli2005/

7-9 June 2006

1st International Conference: Monitoring, Simulation & Prevention of Dense and Debris Flows 2006
Venue: Rhodes, Greece

Convenor: Prof. Institute of Tech
www.wessex.ac

3-7 September

AgEng2006 / XV VDI-MEG Internat 'Agricultural Engineering
Bonn, Germany
Tel: +49 211 62
Fax: +49 211 62
info@2006cigr.c
www.2006cigr.c

3-10 September

22nd European F Water Resources and Drainage Sys European Environ
Organiser: ICID
Committee
Venue: Pavia and
Contact: Prof. EL
ITAL-ICID, Via S
Tel +39 06 4884
Fax +39 06 4884
me.scarascia@p
italicid@libero.it

OTHER EVENTS

18-20 May 2006

International Live Symposium (2006)
Venue: Beijing, C
Organiser: ASAE

Eng and RURALIA

agreement on close cooperation and assistance for the transfer of knowledge at both national and international

to Presidents, Prof Antoniotto Guido Cavalchini of RURALIA and Prof Daniele Machien of EurAgEng, signed in Milan on 14 September 2004, a Memorandum of Understanding which provides for the following:

1. Exchange of representatives and deputy representatives to each other's relevant decision-making bodies as well as to advisory committees.

2. Mutual application of each other's announcements in their own media on a reciprocal basis, free of charge.

3. Cooperation in the planning and implementation of enterprises of common interest as research projects, seminars, workshops, conferences, training courses, etc.

Awards for Innovation at AgEng2004



Andreas Brunnert receiving his award from Aad Jongebreur

The **Industry Innovation Event** is an opportunity every two years for companies in the Ag Eng industry to gain publicity by presenting papers at the International AgEng conference on their most innovative products. The papers are judged by a team from EurAgEng and the winner is presented with **The Industry Innovation Award**. The Event was last held at the AgEng2004 conference in Leuven, Belgium. From the initial entries, two papers were selected for presentation on 14 September 2004.

The first paper was given by **Andreas Brunnert** of **Claas CSE** on **Automatic Guidance of Harvesting Machines**.

Later, **Johann Visser** and **Jan Pieter Dijkhuis** gave a paper on their machine **DR Helix Distribution Rotor for Harvesting Potatoes**. The presentations kept the attention of the audience and generated several searching questions. Ettore Gasparetto, Brian Witney and Aad Jongebreur were the assessors and agreed that Andreas Brunnert from Claas was the winner, although both presentations had strong technical merit and both had been very accomplished performances.

This is the third time the Industry Innovation Event has been held and it is now a firm part of the AgEng conferences. The next one is planned for AgEng2006 to be held in Bonn. For details of how to enter for the award at AgEng2006, go to the website www.eurageng.net.



Johann Visser and Jan Pieter Dijkhuis

Brescia, Italy

Tel: +1 269-429-0300
www.asae.org

25-26 May 2005

4th International Scientific & Practical Conference, Ecology and Agricultural Machinery

Venue: Saint Petersburg, Russia
Contacts: Larissa Levchenko, Guenrikh Agapov
Tel: (812) 466 78 04; 466 62 44
Fax: (812) 466 56 66
nii@nevsky.net
www.sznii.ru

2-5 June 2005

2005 ASAE Quarter Scale Tractor Student Design Competition

Venue: Quad City Downs/Deere Headquarters, East Moline, Illinois, USA
Organiser: ASAE
Tel: +1 269-429-0300
www.asae.org

29 Jun-1 July 2005

International Soil Conference: Soil - Agriculture, Environment, Landscape

Venue: Brno, Czech Republic
Organised by ISTRO - Czech Republic
Contact: Dipl. Ing. Barbora Badalíková
Research Institute for Fodder Crops Ltd.
Zahradní 1, 664 41 Troubsko, Czech Republic
Tel: +420 547 227 385
badalikova@vupt.cz
www.vupt.cz/istro

29 Jun-1 July 2005

8th Workshop on Spray Application Techniques in Fruit Growing

Venue: Barcelona, Spain
Contact: Cristina Escobar
Tel: +34 93 413 7548
Fax: +34 93 413 7501
sprayfruit.2005@upc.es
www.insad.pl/sprayfruit2005.htm

2-5 July 2005

8th Inter-regional conference: EnviroWater 2005

Venue: Arlington, Texas, USA
www.uta.edu/cigr
cigr@exchange.uta.edu

17-20 July 2005

2005 ASAE Annual International Meeting

Venue: Tampa, Florida, USA
Organiser: ASAE
Tel: +1 269-429-0300
www.asae.org

5-6 August 2005

First Asian Conference on Precision Agriculture (FACPA)

Venue: Toyohashi, Japan
www.tuat.ac.jp/~tuatpf/index.html

5-6 September 2005

Seminar on manure - an agronomic and environmental challenge

Organiser: Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists
Contact: John Morken
john.morken@umb.no

www.njf.nu/?birta=frett&flokku=3&id=79
(Seminar no. 372)

6-9 December 2005

International Agricultural Engineering Conference

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand
Organiser: Asian Institute of Technology
Details from Dr. Emmanuel C. Canillas
Tel: +66 2 524 5494
Fax: +66 2 524 6200
aaae@ait.ac.th

8-12 April 2006

International Symposium on Hydrology and Management of Forested Wetlands

Venue: New Bern, North Carolina, USA
Organiser: ASAE
Tel: +1 269-429-0300
www.asae.org

9-12 July 2006

2006 ASAE Annual International Meeting

Venue: Portland, Oregon, USA
Organiser: ASAE
Tel: +1 269-429-0300
www.asae.org

20-23 August 2006

15th International Drying Symposium

Venue: Budapest, Hungary
Contact: Prof István Farkas
Tel: +36 28 522055
Fax: +36 28 410804
farkas.istvan@gek.szie.hu
<http://fft.gau.hu/events/ids2006.html>

Environment

ZRNKO 04 Tajana Kricka



The *First International and 18th Croatian Congress of Technologists for Post-Harvest Technology*

ZRNKO 04 was held in Stubicke Toplice near Zagreb, from 17 to 18 November 2004. The congress organizers were the Faculty of Agriculture University of Zagreb, the Faculty of

Technology University of Tuzla, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine from Kiev, the Faculty of Food Technology University J.J. Strossmayer of Osijek, and the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology University of Zagreb. The congress was co-sponsored by EurAgEng and supported by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Croatia. It

was sponsored by the leading companies in the field of processing and food industry.

A book of Abstracts in Croatian and English was printed before the Congress was held. The first day of the Congress began with its opening, during which the representatives from state establishment greeted the delegates. The congress attracted 150 participants from five countries, and held 23 oral and 15 poster presentations. A few sponsors orally presented their production program. During the first day of the congress, a round table discussion with the theme *Croatian Agriculture in Front of the European Union* was held.

The Congress was closed after the poster presentations, and during the cocktails at the end of the second day. The Organization Committee thanked to all participants and arranged the next meeting in November 2006.

Agricultural Transformation Clustered Greenfactories (ATCG): A Future of Agriculture

At the AgEng2004 conference in Leuven last September, EurAgEng invited visionary people from the younger age group to give their views on the future, and answer the intriguing questions *What can agricultural engineering do for society? What will agricultural engineering look like in the future?*

This took the form of a competition sponsored by UNACOMA, the Italian Machinery Manufacturers' Association. Young people aged 35 or under presented papers on their vision of the future of agriculture and technology in agriculture. Two papers were chosen for the final.



Left to right: M. Teresa Riquelme, José Rodríguez, Natalia Hernández, Luis Ruiz (standing), Pablo Gutiérrez (kneeling), Belén Diezma, María Marín (standing), Constantino Valero (kneeling), and Victor Gil

The first was given by nine young people from the Polytechnic University of Madrid who presented their paper *Agricultural Transformation Clustered Greenfactories (ATCG): A Future of Agriculture*. The second presentation was by Ole Peters on a paper he had co-authored with Christiane Albrecht from the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart on the *Autonomous Self-helping Machine Network*.

They made their presentations with enthusiasm and skill at the **UNACOMA**

Vision Event at AgEng2004. The ATCG team even brought a scale model of their Greenfactory which gave off a ghostly green glow.

The assessors (Bill Day, Ettore Gasparetto and Brian Witney) had a difficult job but finally agreed that the ATCG team from Madrid was the winner. They received certificates and a generous cash prize from UNACOMA. They also received a free subscription to the journal *Biosystems Engineering* for a year, donated by the publisher, Elsevier. The whole event was thought-provoking and entertaining, and brought younger people to the conference.



SIG SW20 - Soil & Water

Daniele De Wrachien

The **SIG SW20** held its seventh meeting in Leuven, Belgium, on Monday 13 September 2004 during the AgEng 2004 Conference on Engineering the Future. The meeting was chaired by Prof D. De Wrachien, President of EurAgEng and as Secretary acted Prof André Musy of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology of Lausanne, Switzerland. In his opening speech the Chairman highlighted the progress made since the sixth meeting (Budapest, July 2002) and underlined the current and future activities of the Group, along with the interrelationships between the SIG and other national and international organisations with deal with the same field of knowledge.

After the Chairman's address, Prof Marnik Vanclooster of the Department of Environmental Sciences and Land Use Planning of the Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve delivered a key-note report on *Unsaturated flow and transport modelling concepts as a support for soil water, nutrient and pesticide management: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats*. The lecture was an exhaustive review of the most advanced deterministic and stochastic models, nowadays available, that describe the flow and transport processes occurring in unsaturated soils.

After the key-note lecture the meeting focused on the following items:

- Membership
- Cooperation with other national and international frameworks impinging on the same field of knowledge
- Forward activity program.

The Chairman proposed to appoint Prof Marnik Vanclooster of the Faculty of Bioengineering, Agronomy and Environment, Department on Environmental Sciences and Land Use Planning – Genie Rural, of the Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) as Vice Chairman. The participants agreed on the proposal.

For the two-year period 2004-2006 the following scientific events, organized with the help and the scientific support of the Group, have been scheduled:

33rd International Symposium Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering

- organised by the Croatian Agricultural Engineering Society, in cooperation with EurAgEng, CIGR and AAAE. The aim of the Symposium is to present the latest scientific results on aspects of research design and development activity in the various disciplines of agricultural engineering. The SIG will help the organising framework manage the Session on Soil and Water.

Internet Information: <http://www.agr.hr/aed>

The Symposium was held in Opatija, Croatia, in February 2005.

5th International Workshop Research on Irrigation and Drainage

- organized by the Macedonian National ICID Committee. The main topics will be water resources planning and management, irrigation and drainage development, catchment and river hydrology, wastewater: treatment, management and environmental impacts.

Internet Information: vukelic@gf.ukim.edu.mk

The Workshop was held in Skopje, Macedonia, in March 2005.

21st European Regional Conference Integrated Land and Water Resources Management: Towards Sustainable Rural Development

- organised by the ICID German National Committee in co-operation with the ICID Polish National Committee. The Workshop will focus on the following topics: water resources protection, flood protection, irrigation and drainage, tools for planning, operation, monitoring and evaluation of integrated land and water resources management.

Internet Information: gecid@zalf.de

The Workshop will be held in Frankfurt, Germany, in May 2005.

CIGR World Congress/AgEng 2006 International Conference organized by CIGR and EurAgEng.

- the CIGR Section I and the SIG SW20 will be the organisers of the Session: Land and Water Use and Environment.

Internet Information:

www.2006cigr.org

The Congress will be held in Bonn, Germany, in September 2006.

The number of scientific events will probably increase due to the fact that in the future the need for a better coordination among different professional and scientific organisations is expected to grow.

The Group agreed to hold its next Meeting in Bonn, in September 2006, during the CIGR World Congress/AgEng 2006 International Conference.

A website, outlining the structure the scope, the strategies and the activities of the Group is available www.eurageng.net. Click on **Special Interest Groups**, then **Soil and Water**.

Members-only pages on www.eurageng.net

The *Members' Login* on the EurAgEng website gives access to the members' area containing four options:

- view the members' directory
- update your own entry in the directory
- join a discussion forum
- change your password

Logging in

To log in, enter the first four letters of your surname and your password. Initially your password is the same as your membership number, which is the 4 or 5 digit number on your address label. If you would like a reminder of your membership number, contact Mike Hurst on secgen@eurageng.net. Once you have logged in, you can change your password to any combination of up to ten letters and numbers.

Finding members

To search for a particular member, enter the person's surname (or part of it), or the country (or part of it), or the field of interest. The more you enter, the narrower the search will be. A list of members who fit the search criteria will then

be displayed. Click on the surname of the required member to give fuller details. The search facility can also be used to find all the members in a particular field of interest or in a particular country.

Updating your own membership details

Enter any details which should be changed in the appropriate boxes. When you press the Submit button, a message containing the new information will be sent to the secretariat.

Changing your password

Enter a new password up to 10 characters long. The new password will take effect immediately.

Joining a discussion forum

There is a forum for each Special Interest Group and one for all the groups. In addition, there is a general forum for members' discussion. If you would like to create a discussion forum for a new subject, please contact Mike Hurst on secgen@eurageng.net. There is also a public discussion forum which can be accessed from the homepage.

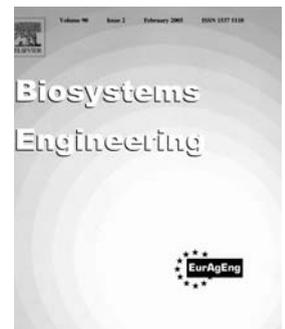
Do you need staff?

If you look at the EurAgEng web site <www.eurageng.net> you will see a section **Jobs**. We have had several advertisements on the site, generating income for the Society. Next time you are recruiting staff, please consider placing an advertisement with us on the web. It does not cost much and it reaches a very wide and appropriate audience. Also, it can be arranged very quickly. Contact Mike Hurst at the address below if you are interested.

Biosystems Engineering

EurAgEng is proud to have **Biosystems Engineering** as its official scientific journal. Members of EurAgEng are eligible to subscribe to *Biosystems Engineering* for their own personal use at the much reduced rate of GBP176 per year. Recently, the publisher has begun to offer electronic access to the journal at no extra charge for personal subscribers of the print version. Alternatively, members can subscribe to electronic access on its own for GBP168.

If you wish to take up any of these offers, please contact Mike Hurst at the secretariat.



Landwards

Landwards, the magazine of the UK Institution of Agricultural Engineers is highly readable, topical and oriented towards users. It is published six times a year and is available to EurAgEng members for GBP30 per year including postage. Contact Mike Hurst at the secretariat for details.

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