European Society of Agricultural Engineers
Newsletter Spring 2006
www.eurageng.net

EurAgEng

AGENG
Bonn 2006

Agricultural Engineering for a Better World

3-7 September 2006
Bonn, Germany

Don't miss this year's major agricultural engineering conference. It will be held in Bonn, Germany on 3-7 September and will combine the EurAgEng conference AgEng2006, the XVI CIGR World Congress and the 64th VDI-MEG International Conference Agricultural Engineering. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) will hold a two-day workshop on Agricultural Engineering's Contributions to Solving Future Global Agricultural Problems. Immediately before the main congress, a pre-conference event will be held on 1-2 September on Automation Technology for Offroad Equipment (visit <www.atoe2006.org> for details).

The scientific sessions, posters, technical section meetings, and special interest group meetings will deal with the latest developments in agricultural engineering. The event will provide an excellent opportunity for agricultural engineering scientists and representatives from industry to learn of current developments from many different points of view and to promote new ways of employing recent advances.

The event will be held in Bonn, the capital city of the Federal Republic of Germany until reunification in 1991. It is an attractive city situated on the river Rhine. The meetings will take place in the baroque building of Bonn University and at the International Congress Centre *Bundeshaus Bonn* which includes the former parliament building. During the congress there will be numerous social events and afterwards excursions to agricultural engineering industries.

Programme

The programme will include sessions and posters in:

- Land and Water Use and Environment
- Power and Machinery
- Information Systems and Precision Farming
- Livestock Technology
- Processing & Post Harvest Technology & Logistics
- Energy and non-Food Production Technology
- Systems Engineering and Management
- Fruit and Vegetable Cultivation Systems
- Global Issues

Two special EurAgEng events will be held: the EurAgEng Innovation and Development Award and the UNACOMA Vision Event. See below and page 8 for details.

For early bird registrations (before 31 May), the fee for the three days will be €510 (€460 for members of EurAgEng, VDI and CIGR) and will cover a book of abstracts, a CD-ROM containing the proceedings, a reception with the mayor of Bonn, a banquet and all lunches and coffee breaks. There will be further reductions for participants from developing countries, and for students and accompanying persons.

To register for the event and for the latest news and prices, visit the website <www.2006cigr.org>

Vision at AgEng2006

UNACOMA

At AgEng2006 in Bonn in September 2006, EurAgEng will again be asking younger people to demonstrate their vision of agricultural and biological systems engineering in the future in the UNACOMA Vision Event. If the presentations at AgEng2002 and AgEng2004 are anything to go by, it will be a high point in the conference!

Competition

At the Event, 'young' people (aged 35 or under) will present papers on what they think will be important in the profession in years to come. The ideas should show lateral thinking and should take into account ecological and economic factors. Entrants will be allowed to bring details of inventions and prototypes if appropriate, to demonstrate their vision.

The prize

As in previous years, the winners will be rewarded with a generous cash prize from UNACOMA, the Italian Farm Machinery Manufacturers Association.

How to enter

Anyone interested in entering is stronly advised to contact Constantino Valero (constantino.valero@upm.es) or Prof Margarita Ruiz-Altisent (margarita.ruiz.altisent@upm.es) at the Polytechnic University of Madrid as soon as possible. They will discuss ideas, offer coaching and advice and answer questions. They won the prize in 2004 and know how to do it. After that, entrants should send a half-page description of their ideas to Prof Ruiz-Altisent. The best entries will be invited to give full presentations at the Vision Event at AgEng2006 in Bonn on 6 September 2006.

Research topics in the field of Agricultural Engineering Technologies at a European level

EU officials and representatives from industry and academia in the agricultural engineering technologies sector held a workshop in Brussels on 30-31 January to discuss the priority issues for research. Participants from 15 countries joined in the task to identify and formulate future research priorities for the sector with the aim of generating expert input for the work programmes of the Framework 7 programme (2007-2013), and to make the sector more visible at EU level.

Prior to the workshop, four key areas had been identified, which were the basis for the different working groups of the workshop:

- Ensuring quality and product security
- Enhancement of environmentally acceptable, sustainable plant production
- Maintaining environmentally acceptable animal production appropriate to the species, and agricultural construction
- Protecting the climate and conserving resources by using renewable raw materials.

Each working group identified future research fields and topics, and discussed and prioritised them.

The representatives from the European Commission, Dr Christian Patermann, Director Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food Research, and Christos Tokamanis, DG Research, Head of Unit Production, Processes, Products and Organisations, were impressed by the diversity of research topics in the Agricultural Engineering Technologies sector. Both had given an introduction to the Framework 7 programme from their thematic approach and reported about the latest developments. The European Commission welcomed the initiative and encouraged the participants to continue.

Professor Heinrich Flegel

The initiators of the workshop were the Max-Eyth-Society for Agricultural Engineering of the VDI (VDI-MEG) and the VDMA Agricultural Machinery Association. Dr Ludger Frerichs, head of VDI-MEG and chairman of the workshop preparation group, explained the purpose of the workshop: "In the Framework 6 Programme (2000-2006) Agricultural Engineering Technologies and related tasks were not taken into consideration enough, perhaps because we didn't make a sufficient effort at a European level. This has to be and will be different for FP7."

In order to continue the process of talks with the European Commission and to institutionalise the initiative, the initiators agreed to set up a section on Agricultural Engineering Technologies within the Technology Platform MANUFUTURE.

The head of the high level group of this platform, Professor Heinrich Flegel, gave an overview on the tasks and co-operations of the diverse Technology Platforms (ETP). He stressed the significance of European Research in the context of global competition. A document of the results of the workshop will be produced and placed at the disposal of the European Commission. For the MANUFUTURE working group this will be the basis for the development of future tasks.

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 <web@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 general forum for members' discussion. If you would like to create a discussion forum for a new subject, please contact Mike Hurst on <web@eurageng.net>

Desertification in the Mediterranean Region: A security Issue

A Special Volume of the NATO Programme for Security through Science Published by Springer in 2006

Until the early seventies, land degradation and desertification were not considered a major issue in most Mediterranean regions. Traditional agricultural measures were believed to be able to keep those processes in check. In the eighties the agricultural practices introduced in the sloping land under cultivation in the basin in previous decades were identified as a major contributor to soil degradation. In the nineties, a new threat emerged in the shape of global warming generated by the enhanced greenhouse effect. By examining present climate patterns and possible future trends, scientists have been able to assess the impact of climate change on the land degradation and desertification processes. In addition, it was recognised that research activities were too fragmentary to be able to cope with the demand of implementing sound soil conservation measures. It was also suggested that the old projects should give way to more flexibility, so that programmes could be modified during implementation to take advantage of experience gained and lessons learned. All these threats will become more pronounced in the years to come, as society enters an era of increasingly complex global development.

To combat these problems both NATO and the European Union (EU) in cooperation with other international organisations have founded various programmes and projects and held important scientific events for mitigating drought and assessing and preventing soil degradation and desertification.

In this context, the Volume (614 pages) features the main outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop on *Desertification in the Mediterranean Region: A Security Issue*, held in Valencia, Spain on 2-5 December 2003. The Event was organised by the US Environmental Protection Agency (Las Vegas, Nevada USA), the Centre for Desertification Research (Valencia, Spain), and the Desert Research Institute (Reno, Nevada, USA) on behalf of the NATO Science Committee and the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society, with the cosponsorship and scientific support of other international institutions, among which is worth mentioning the European Society of Soil Conservation, the Field of Interest on Soil and Water of EurAgEng and the Working Group on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Crop Production of ICID.

The main aims of the book are twofold:

- to open discussion on the issue of linking security to environmental conditions throughout the Mediterranean region to explore likely impacts on the social, economical, and political dimensions of human society
- to evaluate the consequences of desertification to security both in regard to the ability of the environment to provide important ecological goods and services and relative to social and political instability.

Moreover, it provides a multi-lateral forum for cooperation, information exchange, and dialogue among the environmental, development, foreign and security policy communities, and focuses on the following topics:

- Consequences of degradation on social, economic and political issues
- Soil and vegetation monitoring techniques and programmes
- Water resources planning and management
- Forecasting techniques and advanced technologies.

For more information see the websites :
<www.nato.int/science>
<www.springer.com>

Daniele De Wrachien
EurAgEng Past President
Chairman of the Field of Interest on Soil and Water
Executive Board of CIGR and PCTA member of ICID

William G. Kepner
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

Member in the News - Daniele De Wrachien

Years of dedication and hard work have earned Prof Daniele De Wrachien, Past President of EurAgEng and Coordinator of the Field of Interest on Soil and Water, a place among some of the most influential and accomplished people in the world.

The credentials gained by Daniele, mainly during his Presidential term, were acknowledged by the Marquis Who's Who Publication Board that bestowed upon him the privilege of including his biographical profile in the *Who's Who in the World 23rd Edition 2006*. Inclusion in the publication is limited to those individuals who have "demonstrated outstanding achievements in their own fields of endeavour and who have thereby contributed significantly to the betterment of contemporary society". The profile, besides biographical information, features both the role played by Daniele as Executive Officer of EurAgEng, CIGR and ICID and his commitment to enhancing the status and widening the reach of our Society.

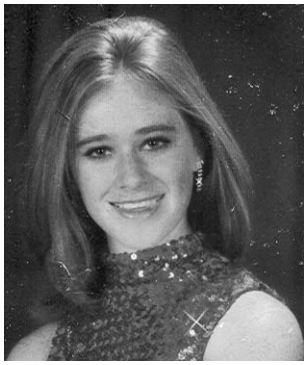
We congratulate Daniele on this prestigious acknowledgement and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours.

Summary of Agriscience Project Report

An evaluation of Hydrostatic Tractors compared with Gear Drive Tractors

Assessing a Tractor Technology Innovation via the Scientific Method

Erica Giles - Lowndes High School, Valdosta, Georgia, USA



Erica Giles is a senior at Lowndes High School in Valdosta, Georgia, USA. She has been very active in agricultural education activities during her high school career including public speaking, livestock exhibiton, and FFA leadership activities.*

In recent years, the agriculture implement industry has been incorporating more hydrostatic transmissions into tractors. Hydrostatics feature more operator friendliness than tractors using the more dated gear drive technology, yet a bias exists against hydrostatics. However, while many experts and lay-people have opinions, we know of no one in the tractor industry who has formally compared the production of a hydrostatic tractor against that of a gear drive tractor. Erica Giles, a Senior Agricultural Education student at Lowndes High School in Valdosta, Georgia, set out to evaluate hydrostatic tractor technology as agricultural innovation compared to gear drive transmission tractors using the scientific method. This is a summary of her findings.

A detailed background examination was performed gathering information from both experts in the field and reviewing of available literature. Historic data revealed that the first hydrostatic models were quick to lose power,[1] giving rise to a lack of consumer confidence and a preference for gear drive machinery (personal communication, David Sprinkle, 4 Dec 05).

Current hydrostatic technology information states that the scientific principle involved in hydrostatic mechanics is Pascal's Law of Fluids which states that a confined fluid transmits externally applied pressure uniformly.[2] Hydrostatic transmissions apply this law by using a confined fluid in lieu of many of the mechanical parts in a gear drive system. Hydrostatic transmissions contain three essential parts; the engine, pump, and hydraulic motor.[3] The hydrostatic engine can pump the minimum or maximum work load. It is easy to operate and quickly responsive because an operator can change from full speed forward to full speed reverse with the use of a control such as one pedal.

Gear drive transmissions are very complex with a number of components intertwined in a complex of multiple connections.[4] Hydrostatic transmissions can be easily repaired. In contrast with gear drive tractors, hydrostatic tractors simply lose power as problems develop over time.

The only related study found was a mowing test by the John Deere Company (personal communication, David Sprinkle, 4 Dec 05). In this test, the hydrostatic tractor was 12% more productive. Yet about 35% of consumers refuse to purchase hydrostatic tractors. Some consumers doubt that the hydrostatic tractor will be able to utilize all of the horsepower they are buying.

The hypothesis for this project, based on the background information, was that the composite of a hydrostatic tractor will be more productive in acres processed and weight moved, expressed as statistical significance, versus a gear drive tractor. To test the hypothesis, field experiments were performed with hydrostatic and gear versions of the same model 32 horsepower tractor. One hour each of tilling, mowing, and load moving was performed with each tractor. Acreage measurements from the mowing and tilling operations were taken with a GPS. One thousand pound hay bales were used in the load moving operation. Production measurements were taken at the thirty-minute and one-hour intervals. T-tests were performed to analyze each data set.

Instruction in tractor safety

In terms of production, the hydrostatic tractor tilled 74% more area with 49% more area mowed. Both tractors moved the same number of hay bales during the experiment. The differences in the tilling and mowing operations were, as revealed by the T-test, considered to be very statistically significant. The T-test demonstrated that there was no statistical difference in the load moving operation.

Implications included that while the hydrostatic tractor is more expensive to buy, it proves to be a better investment over time. A positive marketing plan would be to create a line of hydrostatic tractors that behave like gear drive tractors.

Three **recommendations** arose from this project:

- that this project be repeated on a larger scale
- that industry use the results of this test and the larger study recommended previously
- that the US Department of Education and the state and local boards work to keep agriscience education viable in schools.

Four **conclusions** were drawn as a result of this project:

- that the hypothesis was accepted
- that the hydrostatic tractor is more fuel efficient than the gear drive tractor
- that the hydrostatic tractor was easier to operate than the gear drive tractor
- the fourth conclusion dealt with the status of hydrostatic transmissions as an agricultural innovation. Experts said that the hydrostatic machine would prove to be more productive and efficient. It was discovered through the experiment that the hydrostatic is easier to handle and more productive. It was determined that the hydrostatic is more fuel efficient. Given all the evidence, the fourth and final conclusion was that the hydrostatic transmission is a bona fide agricultural innovation.

References

1 **International Harvester 1066.** (No date). Retrieved 5 Dec 05, from the Tractor Data website http://www.tractordata.com/td/td366.html

2 **Conventional and hydrostatic transtibial interface comparison.** (No date). Retrieved 6 Dec 05 from the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists website http://www.oandp.org/jpo/library/1999_04_085.asp

3 **Working principle of a hydrostatic transmission system.** (No date). Retrieved 5 Dec 05, from the Poclain Hydraulics website http://www.poclain-hydraulics.com/main/english/technology/examples/transmission.htm

4 **Multiple-power gear drive transmission and drive assembly including such transmission, and brake energy accumulator.** (No date). Retrieved 7 Dec 05, from the Free Patents Online website http://www.freepatentsonline.com/4313351.html

Enquiries about this research should be directed to James Corbett <jcorbett@mail.lowndes.k12.ga.us>

*** FFA**

FFA, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is now the National FFA Organization. FFA is an organization of almost 500,000 agricultural education students in the United States. FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA members have the opportunity to develop themselves through many diverse agricultural competitions.

News from CIGR

CIGR on the move

On 1 January 2006, Prof Takaaki Maekawa from the University of Tsukuba, Japan, took over the CIGR General Secretariat from Prof Peter Schulze Lammers of Bonn, Germany. Prof Schulze Lammers had held the post since 1998. We wish Prof Maekawa every success in this new post.

The CIGR Ejournal

The CIGR Ejournal is now in its eighth year and continues to grow in quality and quantity of papers. It has published 191 peer reviewed original research papers and 74 invited overviews with authors from 42 countries. All published papers can be viewed and printed free of charge from the website <http://cigr-ejournal.tamu.edu>. The website also contains details of how to submit papers to the ejournal for publication.

34th International Symposium

Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering

21-24 February 2006, Opatija, Croatia

Prof Silvio Kosutic - Convenor of the Symposium

Prof Daniele De Wrachien - Past President of EurAgEng

The 34th International Symposium *Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering* was held on 21-24 February 2006 in Grand Hotel Adriatic, Opatija, Republic of Croatia. The principal organiser, Agricultural Engineering Department, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb was supported by the following frameworks: Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University J.J.Strossmayer, Osijek, Department of Biosystems Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Maribor (Slovenia), Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Hungarian Institute of Agricultural Engineering Gödöllö and Croatian Agricultural Engineering Society. Co-sponsors of the Symposium were CIGR, EurAgEng, AAAE and Association of Agricultural Engineers of South Eastern Europe (AAESEE).

The Symposium was attended by 119 participants from 15 countries. It consisted of an Opening Session and six Topic Sessions covering all the broad subject-areas that fall under the scope of agricultural engineering. The importance of the Event was underlined by the presence of the former Secretary-General of CIGR Prof P Schulze Lammers, the immediate Past President of EurAgEng Prof Daniele De Wrachien, the President of Club of Bologna Prof Ettore Gasparetto, the President of AAESEE Prof Nikolay Mihailov and the representatives of the National Societies of Agricultural Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina Prof S. Skaljic, Romania Prof V. Ros, Serbia and Montenegro Prof M. Martinov and Prof M. Djevic and Croatia Prof Silvio Kosutic.

At the Opening Session acknowledgments were bestowed upon the members of the Scientific Committee Prof Robert Zimmer and Prof Daniele De Wrachien for their long-standing endeavour to enhance the level and widen the reach of the Symposia. The Convenor, Prof Silvio Kosutic brought the greetings of both the Croatian Society of Agricultural Engineering and the Faculty of Agriculture of the State University of Zagreb. Prof Daniele De Wrachien stressed the long tradition of the Symposia and their future role as one of the main gathering events for agricultural engineers in south-eastern Europe, and pointed out the dimension of the tasks and challenges that agricultural engineering education in European universities will have to face and cope with in the third millennium. Prof Nikolay Mihailov brought the greetings of AAESEE, while Mr Joze Dular the President of the Slovenian Agricultural Engineering Society closed the Session bringing the greetings of the Slovenian Society.

Next, a number of lectures was held, among which is worth mentioning *Agricultural Engineering Curricula: Past, Present and Future* presented by Prof Luigi Febo. In the Topic Sessions, each starting with a review report, 64 papers were discussed in oral presentation. At the closing session the Convenor emphasised the role of EurAgEng in the ecologically sustainable development of agriculture within the East-European countries on the eve of their joining the European Union.

During the Symposium round-table meetings of representatives of CIGR, AAESEE, ERA and EurAgEng were held, focusing on the main achievements and trends of the DAAD Project *A Network of Advanced Education in Agricultural Engineering for South-Eastern Europe*. The participants agreed that there is a real need for improving and restructuring education and training in the field of agricultural engineering based on a hybrid system of engineering and biosystems. Moreover, they expressed a shared interest in a harmonisation of the core curricula structure, within this ground, to stimulate and enhance student mobility across Europe.

World famous agricultural machinery producers, such as AGCO, Case New Holland, Claas, and others presented their current programmes by means of video tapes and oral presentations during afternoon sessions.

Information regarding the 35th Symposium in the year 2007 will soon be available at the web site: http://www.agr.hr/aed/index.htm

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 <web@eurageng.net> if you are interested.

Sponsored Events

7-9 June 2006
1st International Conference Monitoring, Simulation & Prevention of Dense and Debris Flows
Venue: Rhodes,Greece
Web: www.wessex.ac.uk

1-2 September 2006
3rd Conference Automation Technology for Off-Road Equipment
Venue: Bonn, Germany
Email: info@atoe2006.org
Web: www.atoe2006.org

3-7 September 2006
AgEng2006 / XVI CIGR World Congress / 64th VDI-MEG International Conference "Agricultural Engineering for a Better World"
Venue: Bonn, Germany
Tel: +49 211 62 14 266
Fax: +49 211 62 14 177
Email: info@2006cigr.org
Web: www.2006cigr.org

5-7 September 2006
First International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation Management, Technologies and Policies
Venue: Bologna, Italy
Tel: +44(0)238 029 3223
Fax: +44(0)238 029 2853
Web: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2006/irrigation06/

12 September 2006
Workshop on Water Saving Practices in Rice Paddy Cultivation
Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: :+44-1491-692303
Email : Rag@ceh.ac.uk
Web: www.wg-crop.icidonline.org

14-15 September 2006
International Conference on Development of Agricultural Technologies
Venue: Lithuania
Organiser: Lithuanian University of Agriculture
Tel: +(8-37) 449643
Fax: +(8-37) 549366
Email: institutas@mei.lt

2-6 September 2007
22nd European Regional Conference of ICID. Water Resources Management and Irrigation and Drainage Systems Development in the European Environment
Venue: Pavia, Italy
Tel +39 06 488472 8
Fax +39 06 4884728
Web: www.icid.org

Other Events

26-28 April 2006
CIGR Section VI International Symposium "Future of Food Engineering"
Venue: Warsaw, Poland
Web: www.cigr.pl/
E-mail: wierzbickaa@alpha.sggw.waw.pl
Tel: +48-22-59-370-73

8-10 May 2006
Advances in Agricultural Technologies and their Economic and Ecological Impacts
Venue: Tel Aviv, Israel
Web: www.agritech.org.il/events/isae.html

18-22 May 2006
2nd International Training Workshop "Towards the Integration of Biosaline Irrigated Agriculture"
Venue: Desert Research Centre, Matareya-Cairo, Egypt
Tel: +201 060 462 44
Fax: +202 635 7858
Web: www.drc-egypt.com (click on Seminars)

29-31 May 2006
Tillage Systems for the Benefit of Agriculture and the Environment
Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists
Email: lars.munkholm@agrsci.dk
Web: www.njf.nu (click on Seminars)

1-4 June 2006
ASABE ¼ Scale Tractor Student Design Competition
Venue: Peoria Expo Gardens, Peoria, Illinois, USA
Organiser: ASABE
Tel: +1 269-429-0300
Web: www.asabe.org

9-12 July 2006
2006 ASAE Annual International Meeting
Venue: Portland, Oregon, USA
Organiser: ASABE
Tel: +1 269-429-0300
Web: www.asabe.org

9-12 July 2006
"Fountain Wars" Environmental Design Student Competition
Venue: Portland, Oregon, USA
Organiser: ASABE
Tel: +1 269-429-0300
Web: www.asabe.org

24-26 July 2006
World Congress of Computers in Agriculture
Venue: Grosvenor Resort Hotel, Orlando, Florida, USA
Organiser: ASABE
Tel: +1 269-429-0300
Web: www.asabe.org

19-22 August 2006
International Conference on Environmental Science & Technology
Venue: Houston, Texas, USA
Email: env-conference@aasci.org
Web: www.AASci.org/conference/env/2006/index.html

20-23 August 2006
15th International Drying Symposium
Venue: Budapest, Hungary
Tel: +36 28 522055
Fax: +36 28 410804
Email: farkas.istvan@gek.szie.hu
Web: http://fft.gau.hu/events/ids2006.html

28 August - 3 September 2006
ISTRO 17th Triennial Conference Soil Management for Sustainability
Venue: Kiel, Germany
Tel: +49 431 8802573
Fax: +49 431 8802940
Email: b.vogt@soils.uni-kiel.de
Web: www.istro.org

New faces at the secretariat

After nearly 14 years as Secretary-General, Mike Hurst has decided to take a break. At the last Council meeting in 2005, he indicated that he would not seek re-appointment when his contract expired at the end of the year. He felt it was time both he and the Society had a change.


Incoming - Dave and Nicky Tinker

The good news is that a replacement has been found. In fact, a husband and wife team, Dave and Nicky Tinker, will take over. Dave is a well-known agricultural engineer who until recently worked at Silsoe Research Institute in the UK. His latest work has been in abattoir engineering. He has plenty of experience in organisations like EurAgEng being a full Council member of the UK Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE) and the UK Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE). He has also served as the National Treasurer of the IAgrE.

Nicky has recently finished her work as the Head Teacher in a primary school in the UK, a very varied and responsible position. In the 1980s, they spent over over five years out of the UK working in Honduras and in Egypt. They bring considerable experience to EurAgEng with David's knowledge of agricultural engineering and Nicky's skills of administration.


Outgoing - Mike Hurst

Mike Hurst is not disappearing entirely. He will continue to look after the EurAgEng website and the newsletter. Also, he agreed to stay on until the end of March 2006 when Dave and Nicky take over fully.

The revised email addresses are:

David and Nicky	<secgen@eurageng.net>
Mike (web)	<web@eurageng.net>
Mike (newsletter)	<newsletter@eurageng.net>

We wish all three good luck in their new endeavours.

EurAgEng Innovation & Development Award

To enhance the appeal of the conferences to engineers from industry, the **EurAgEng Innovation and Development Award** has become a regular feature since AgEng2000 (when it was known as the Industry Innovation Award). As in previous years, the award will be given at AgEng2006 in recognition of innovation underpinned by science, technology and practice.

To enter for the Award, authors of papers with a connection with the agricultural or biosystems engineering industry make their submissions twice on the congress submission website, INTAWI. The first submission will be under the normal category (such as *Power & Machinery*) and the second under item 10, *Industry Innovation*. Submissions that demonstrate innovation and scientific understanding in the agricultural and biosystems engineering industry then go forward for assessment of the full paper.

To be considered for the Award, the paper must be presented at the congress. However, the assessment will not be concerned with the quality of the presentation but will be based solely on the innovation described in the paper. Eligible innovations may involve prototypes, new products or the application of new technology. However, products must be in production or close to it.

Papers resulting from cooperation between industrial companies and research institutes or university departments in the fields of agricultural and biosystems engineering are welcome. The author of the paper (or at least one of the authors) must be employed in industry.

The winner and the runners up will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on 5 September 2006. If you have any questions, please contact Aad Jongebreur on <aad.jongebreur@wur.nl>

Biosystems Engineering

EurAgEng is proud to have ***Biosystems Engineering*** as its official scientific journal. Members of EurAgEng are eligible to subscribe to the journal for their own personal use at the much reduced rate of GBP199 per year. If you wish to take up this offer, please contact Dave Tinker at <secgen@eurageng.net>

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