

From the President

Aad Jongebreur

Agricultural Engineering for a Better World was the theme of the AgEng2006 conference in Bonn organised in close cooperation with CIGR, VDI-MEG and FAO. The conference was very successful in terms of participation, especially through the enthusiasm of young engineers in many sessions.

An outsider to the field of agricultural and biosystems engineering may well ask the question: "Is Agricultural Engineering and the related expertise needed any more, given that agricultural production already has enough technology to carry out its tasks?" My answer is that for sustainable production and healthy countryside, there is no doubt that agricultural engineering and expertise are needed more than ever.

Recognising the broad disciplines within agricultural engineering is important. Our professionals pursue activities in education, research and advisory bodies or in companies for machinery and equipment production. The work is done in the context of crop and livestock production, the development of rural areas, irrigation and water control and energy use and production. Today agricultural engineering covers a wide variety of expertise from soil and water to information engineering.

Observations of the position of agricultural engineering in the different European countries and listening to the different messages makes it clear that this position is under pressure and threatened. We know that research institutions are being closed and in some countries there is a decrease in the number of students. To be fair, this is not only happening in the agricultural and biosystems engineering disciplines. We see similar developments in the fields of crop production, animal nutrition and breeding to name but three. It is more or less the struggle for survival in the whole scientific world.

Nevertheless changes are continuing and implemented and agricultural engineers must re-establish themselves in other organisations or commercial settings. My view is that agricultural engineers working in a setting closer to animal and crop production, land planning and social sciences have certain advantages. It is engineering for life sciences. Let us look at the opportunities and challenges because they are available in areas such as energy saving

and production, precision control of processes in crop, animal and horticultural production, safe food production and environmental engineering. Some people think that global developments are going so fast that the price of food will increase in the future. And despite the fact that mechanisation has helped the production of food keep pace with global population growth and an increase in life expectancy of about 20-25 years, we must be aware that 1.1 billion people are in extreme poverty and are not able to buy food for today. This also requires the activities of our profession.



LAND. TECHNIK AgEng2007

In November 2007, the Max-Eyth-Society for Agricultural Engineering within the German Federation for Engineers (VDI-MEG) and EurAgEng will be holding an international conference **Engineering Solutions for Energy and Food Production**. This conference will be held just before the opening of the well known agricultural machinery fair AGRITECHNICA. This joint conference is intended to improve international communication between agricultural engineers from industry and those from universities and institutions. The EurAgEng

Executive has taken several steps to improve relationships with the European industry and this is one of the resulting opportunities. The AGRITECHNICA Fair is increasingly acting as a meeting place for

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professionals in agricultural engineering. The programme committee is composed of members of EurAgEng and VDI-MEG, and the main topics include tractors, electronic and automation technology, crop protection, precision farming and Young Engineers for Europe. I hope that a good number of our members will make scientific contributions. More information can be found at www.vdi.de/land.technik-ageng2007.

Special Interest Groups and Fields of Interest

The Executive of EurAgEng has discussed several times the activities of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and the Fields of Interest (Fol). The actual numbers of Fields of Interest and Special Interest groups are respectively 9 and 19. On the one hand it underlines the broad area of agricultural engineering and on the other hand we might wonder whether the numbers are too high. The Coordinators of the Fields of Interest and the Chairmen of Special Interest Groups have made suggestions for improving participation and rejuvenating the activities, such as the timing of the SIG meetings, overlapping between groups, cooperation with other groups in the same field, improving input and activities in the international AgEng conferences. The position and role of the Fields of Interest and the interaction with the Special Interest Groups needs to be clarified. Executive appreciates that not all groups can be very active as well as that activity and participation depends on the quality and available time of the chairmen.

A concept discussion paper with some actions has been produced and sent to the leading members of the Fols and SIGs. We have received a number of comments on this. At our next Executive Meeting in April we will discuss the adapted position paper and a special point in this discussion will be how we can ascertain the role of our EurAgEng groups in the conference in Greece in June 2008. I will be happy to receive more comments before the Executive meeting (please email to aad.jongebreur@planet.nl).

Agricultural Engineering and Technologies

Approximately three years ago a group from the German Society for Machinery and Equipment, the German Federation for Engineers and quite a number of members of EurAgEng started a Framework Programme 7 initiative. This initiative is called *Agricultural Engineering and Technologies* (AET) and works under the umbrella of MANUFUTURE, which is a European Technology Platform of the European manufacturing industry. After intensive contacts with several EU Directorates-General for Research and Development in different fields, a European Workshop on future research in Agricultural Engineering and Technologies with 50 participants from 15 countries was held in Brussels on 31 January 2006. The results of the meeting are detailed in two papers by a steering group with the participation of EurAgEng and the Agricultural Engineering Industry: *Vision 2020* and *Strategic Research*

Agenda plus the First Implementation Plan (see www.manufuture.org).

In the Strategic Research Agenda the broad ideas for research proposals are listed under four topics:

- Quality and Product Security
- Sustainable Plant Production
- Sustainable Animal Production
- Bioenergy and Renewable Materials

Several ideas were worked out in concept proposals or topics using the following four criteria: benefits, strengthening competition, supporting EU policy and contribution to solving the problems of society and consumers. The aim of these concept proposals is that they should play a role in the text of the EU FP7.

In the first Implementation Plan six topics were worked out, namely:

- RFID for Food and Process Control
- Robotics for Crop management
- Implement-to Tractor Control
- Advanced Agricultural Machinery Systems
- EU Standards for Sustainable Dairy production
- Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery

In November 2006 we discussed the papers with several EU Directorates including Agriculture, Research, Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food Research and New and Renewable Energy Sources. Generally, the reactions we have received from the EU officials were positive with the main emphasis on cooperation with other disciplines and modest range of project costs. In the next meeting of the steering group of AET (I represent EurAgEng in this group) we are discussing the following actions in relation to the next calls of FP7 (eg robotics for crop management) and how we can continue the work to draw the attention of the EU officials to the work done in the different fields of Agricultural Engineering and Technologies. And of course the question *How can our members benefit from these activities?* is on the agenda. There is more information on the 7th EU Framework on page 5 of this Newsletter.

Conclusion

In this my first presidential letter in this newsletter I have paid attention mainly to actual issues. Another issue is the Publicity Toolbox headed up by our Executive member Prof Hannu Haapala from ENGAGE with support of EurAgEng. I hope that this will be soon available for use by our members. On the agenda of the next Executive is the important point of recognition of the University studies in Agricultural Engineering where we have the very active group, USAEE, with Prof Demetres Briassoulis as coordinator.

Please send any comments to me at aad.jongebreur@planet.nl

Book Review

Drying and Cooling Grain in Bulk

Review by David Bartlett - former Crop Storage Engineering Specialist with ADAS

Modern harvesting methods increasingly mean high grain input rates and lower harvest moisture content, making bulk storage and drying an attractive choice for many farmers. Near ambient drying offers a low cost, energy efficient method of grain preservation but it comes with a risk! Well managed it can be very energy efficient: badly managed it can be a disaster! This handbook gives the reader practical guidance and scientific background to get the best out of this popular drying method.

Complex subject

Understanding grain drying requires a unique blend of biological and engineering knowledge. Antoni Ryniecki has presented a complex subject with great clarity.

Q&A format

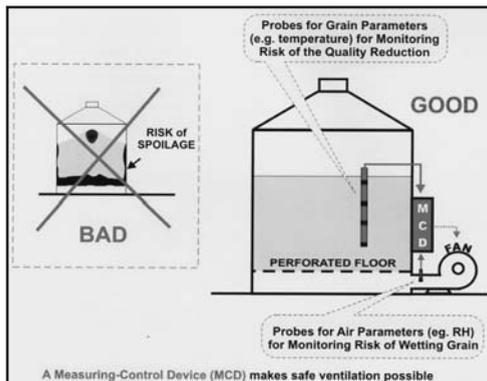
The Question and Answer format used in this handbook makes it easy to use. The reader can find a quick answer to a specific question or follow the references to other sections to acquire more detailed understanding.

Diagrams

The understanding of psychrometry and equilibrium moisture content are the key to managing bulk grain drying. The cartoon model of air and grain humidity gives the reader a sound mental image of the processes. This knowledge will lead the reader to make rational decisions during the design and management of practical drying and storage installations.

Changing criteria

The handbook recommendations for air flow are soundly based on practical experience from a range of climatic conditions. Current research is highlighting the need to avoid the formation of ochratoxins by pre-visible mould development during drying. This work points to a need to reduce drying time. The principles and advice outlined in this book can easily be extended to accommodate these developments.



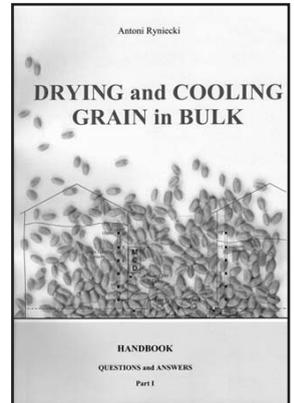
The author plans a second volume of this handbook which is expected to give information about resistance to air movement through systems and crops.

Drying and Cooling Grain in Bulk, Part I

Author: Antoni Ryniecki of the University of Agriculture, Poznan, Poland

Publisher: Mr Info, Lukrecjusza 22, 60-461 Poznan, Poland

ISBN 83-909784-1-5



It's a JCB Jim but not as we know it!

The JCB Dieselmax is a diesel-engined 'Streamliner' car which broke the land speed record for a diesel-engined vehicle by reaching 563 km/h for a distance of one mile on the Bonneville salt flats in August 2006. The car was powered by a pair of specially-tuned versions of the production JCB444 engine which in its unmodified form powers various JCB backhoe loaders and telescopic handlers. The tuned version developed up to 750 bhp each (over 5 times the power of the production version) from 4 cylinders and 5 litres, accompanied by twin compound turbochargers and twin compound intercoolers.

One of the engines drove the front wheels while the other drove the rear. Each engine was rev-limited to 3800 rpm, and had a usable lifetime of two hours. As the size of the car prohibited meaningful wind tunnel testing, the streamlined shape of the car was refined entirely through the use of computational fluid dynamics, which has enabled the car to obtain a very low coefficient of drag of only 0.174 and a CdA value of only 0.153 m². Some JCB!



1st International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation Management, Technologies and Policies

Prof Carlos Brebbia - Director of the Wessex Institute of Technology, UK

Prof Daniele De Wrachien - EurAgEng Past President

Agriculture will have to meet the future challenges posed by food security by increasing production while conserving natural resources. In the past, the increased demand for food has been satisfied by the expansion of agricultural land. Today, any increase in agricultural production will necessarily rely on a more accurate estimation of crop water requirements on the one hand, and on major improvements in the operation, management and performance of existing irrigation systems, on the other. All these factors and constraints compel scientists, technicians and decision-makers to review the strengths and weaknesses of current trends in irrigation and rethink technology, research thrust and institutional and financial patterns, so that service levels and system efficiency can be improved in a sustainable manner.

On these themes an International Conference took place in Bologna, Italy, on 5-7 September 2006. The Event was organized by the Convenors Prof G. Lorenzini of the State University of Bologna and Prof C. Brebbia, Director of the Wessex Institute of Technology, UK, and was sponsored by CIGR and EurAgEng.

The objective of the Meeting was to bring together engineers, scientists and managers to exchange knowledge and expertise in the field of irrigation in its broadest sense. The Conference aimed to cover technical as well as policy related topics in order to find innovative solutions for the many problems to be resolved in order to reach sustainable irrigation solutions. The emphasis of the Conference on interdisciplinary activities explored new areas for collaboration among different professionals involved in irrigation studies and application. This made the First International Conference unique.

The Event consisted of an Opening Session and four Topic Sessions: Irrigation Controls, Irrigation Systems & Planning, Irrigation Modelling and Irrigation Management. At the Opening Session, Prof Brebbia highlighted the scope and the goals of the Conference along with the activities carried out at the Wessex Institute. Prof Lorenzini then welcomed the delegates

and stressed the challenges that irrigation technology will have to face and to cope with within the next few years.

Two keynote lectures followed. The first was given by Prof I. Smout, Director of the Water Engineering and Development Centre of Loughborough University, UK. His report "**AWAM: A model for optimal land and water resources allocation**", drawn up in cooperation with SD Gorantiwar of the Agricultural University of Rahuri, India, described the main features and characteristics of a model for allocating crops and water to land within canal irrigation schemes.

The second keynote address "**Theoretical and experimental analysis on the thermal fluid dynamics of water droplets in irrigation**", was delivered by Prof Lorenzini. The lecture, drawn up in cooperation with Prof De Wrachien, described a new approach to water droplet dynamics, recognised by the international scientific and professional communities as a useful indicator of the performance of sprinkler irrigation systems. In the topic sessions 40 papers were presented in oral presentation and as posters.

The Proceedings of the Conference, 416pp (ISBN: 1-84564-043-8) are available in hardback from WIT Press. Orders can be placed by email: marketing@witpress.com or via the WIT Press web site at www.witpress.com. Papers from the Conference are also available online at the WIT eLibrary as volume 96 of WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment (ISSN: 1743-3541). For more details visit the WIT eLibrary at www.witpress.com.



Carlos Brebbia



Daniele De Wrachien

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.

7th EU Framework Programme

Ludger Frerichs

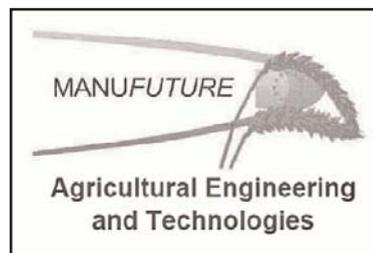
Head of Advanced Engineering, CLAAS Selbstfahrende Erntemaschinen GmbH



In the European sector of Agricultural Engineering and Technologies (AET), an AET Working Group has been established to secure a reasonable number of AET research and development topics in the newly launched 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission (FP7). Since last year this group

has been acting under the umbrella of the European Technology Platform **MANUFUTURE**. As a result, a Vision 2020 and a Strategic Research Agenda for our sector were drawn up. All the results of the Working Group's deliberations were made available to the AET sector and to the people from Directorate-General Research of the European Commission with whom the group had been working. For the duration of FP7, the Working Group will continue with this work. The VISION 2020 and the SRA paper are available for download under www.manufuture.org.

At the end of 2006, the first calls for the submission of proposals in the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission were



published. Several specific programmes were defined. The programme "Cooperation" includes different calls, which are classified into ten priorities. These priorities cover a wide range of research in Europe. The AET working group has analysed the calls and identified those which are more or less related to Agricultural Engineering and Technologies. These topics were compiled as a summary and distributed in the AET sector. They are also available on the webpage.

All calls and further information can be found in several languages on the EU webpage <http://cordis.europa.eu/>. For detailed information about FP7, the national contact points should also be consulted.

www.eurageng.eu

For several years, the EurAgEng website has been hosted at www.eurageng.net. Traffic addressed to eurageng.org, [com](http://eurageng.com), [biz](http://eurageng.biz) and [info](http://eurageng.info) has been forwarded to eurageng.net automatically. Recently, addresses ending in [eu](http://eurageng.eu) have become available and EurAgEng has acquired the domain eurageng.eu which is particularly appropriate for a European Society. At present, traffic for www.eurageng.eu is forwarded to eurageng.net automatically, but the longer term aim is to make eurageng.eu the main site.

Whichever address you enter, the following facilities are available to members from the homepage by clicking on Members' Login:

- 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 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

The discussion forum has recently been updated to make it easier to use (for those who are interested, it is now based on SEO-Board). There is a general forum for members' discussion but if you would like to create a discussion forum for a new subject, please contact Mike Hurst on <web@eurageng.net>

The AgEng2006 Bonn Conference

Over seven hundred agricultural engineers from fifty five countries around the world met at the beginning of September in Bonn, Germany to attend AgEng2006. The conference was organised by the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR) and the German Society of Agricultural Engineers (VDI-MEG). It was supported by the European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng) and FAO (the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation). Experts presented papers on topics ranging from livestock technology to biomass handling and processing. Poster sessions ran over the three days of the conference.



Organisers were pleased to see participation from young engineers and part of the Closing Session was dedicated to the UNACOMA Vision Award, sponsored by the Italian Farm Machinery Manufacturers' Association, UNACOMA. Teams of students from Dublin, Ireland and Almería, Spain, competed for the prize with exciting presentations on autonomous robots and living in space. The Spanish team of Alfredo Sánchez-Gimeno and Jose Luis Guzmán Sánchez won with a paper on 'The future of protected agriculture in arid regions: autonomous mobile robots for quality and safety'. The picture on the left shows the winning presenter Alfredo Sánchez receiving a cheque from Ettore Gasparetto on behalf of UNACOMA.

The conference took place in the University of Bonn's main building but the Awards Ceremony was held in the prestigious former Bundeshaus situated on the banks of the Rhine and the meeting place for the Federal Republic government until it was moved to Berlin. Many engineers and academics were recognised for their contribution to the world of agriculture. EurAgEng presented its Innovation and Development Award and its first ever Award of Merit, intended to recognise the work of a leading light in the industry. Ray Clay, recently retired from JCB, was the inaugural recipient of the Award of Merit for his work on the JCB Fastrac.

A clear message from Christian Patermann, Director DG Research, Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food at the European Commission at the end of the conference highlighted the areas for development over the next seven years in which engineers with biotechnology and agriculture will play a significant part.



Award of Merit winner Ray Clay (right) with Prof Bill Day (left) the outgoing EurAgEng President, and Prof Aad Jongebreur (centre) the incoming EurAgEng President.

Visit the conference site at www.2006cigr.org for full reports, photo galleries, awards and plenary speeches.

More to come

Planning for AgEng conferences starts well ahead of the event, and we now have decided on the locations of the three which will follow AgEng2006.

AgEng2007 will take place in Hanover, Germany in November 2007. See page 8 for details.

AgEng2008 will be held in Crete in June 2008. What a good place for a conference!

AgEng2010 will take place in Clermont-Ferrand in central France and will be organised by CEMAGREF. The conference will focus on environmental technologies in agrosystems.

It might seem a long time ahead, but in 2007 we will be considering bids to hold **AgEng2012**. **Now is the time for national societies to start thinking about submitting a bid.**

Sponsored Events

3 May 2007

IAgrE Annual Conference 'Achieving Traceability across the Food Chain'

Venue: East of England Showground, Peterborough, UK

Contact: Chris Whetnall

Email: conferences@iagre.org

Web: www.iagre.org/landwards2007

2-6 September 2007

22nd European Regional Conference of ICID, Water Resources Management and Irrigation and Drainage Systems Development in European Environment

Organiser: ICID Italian National Committee

Venue: Pavia, Italy

Contact: Prof. Elisa Scarascia Mugnozza

Tel +39 06 488472 8

E-mail: me.scarascia@politicheagricole.it

italicid@libero.it

4-6 September 2007

IV Congreso Nacional y I Congreso Iberico de Agroingenieria 2007

Venue: Albacete, Spain

Contact: Jose M Tarjuelo

Tel: +34 9675 99200 ext 2846 or 2816

Web: <http://crea.uclm.es/agroingenieria2007>

17-19 September 2007

XXXIII CIOSTA CIGR V Conference 'Advances in Labour and Machinery Management for a Profitable Agriculture and Forestry'

Venue: Nitra, Slovak Republic

Convenor: Prof. Dr. Ladislav Nozdrovicky

www.mf.uniag.sk/ciosta

20-21 September 2007

12th International Conference on 'Technical and Technological Progress in Agriculture'

Venue: Lithuania

Tel. +370 37 449556, +370 37 449643

Fax. +370 37 549 366, +370 37 449643

Email: conference@mei.lt

Web: www.mei.lt/eng

4-6 October 2007

International Symposium Greensys2007: 'High Technology for Greenhouse system Management'

Venue: Naples, Italy

Convenor: Prof Giacomo Scarascia Mugnozza

Tel: +39 080 5442966

Fax: +39 080 5442977

Web: www.greensys2007.com/

8-10 October 2007

ECOSPREAD International Seminar on Environmental Technologies applied to Spreading of Mineral and Organic Matters

Organiser: CEMAGREF

Venue: Vichy and Montoldre, France

Contact: Pierre Grenier

Web: www.cemagref.fr

9-10 November 2007

LAND.TECHNIK/AgEng2007 'Engineering Solutions for Energy and Food Production' 65th International Conference on Agricultural Engineering

leading in to the major fair, Agritechnica 2007

Organiser: VDI-MEG in cooperation with

EurAgEng and Agritechnica

Venue: Hanover, Germany

Web: www.vdi.de/land.technik-ageng2007

9-11 April 2008

4th Central European Congress on Food & 6th Croatian Congress of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists & Nutritionists

Venue: Cavtat, Croatia

Web: www.pbn.hr/CEFood2008/

23-25 June 2008

AgEng2008 - International Conference on Agricultural Engineering

Organiser: Agricultural University of Athens

and EurAgEng

Venue: Aldemar hotel, Heraclion, Crete

Other Events

2-5 May 2007

4th Asian Regional Conference & 10th International Seminar on Participatory Irrigation Management

Venue: Tehran, Iran

Contact: S. A. Assadollahi

Tel: +98 21 22257348

Fax: +98 21 22272285

Web: www.irncid.org

Web: www.pim2007.org

3-6 June 2007

6th European Conference on Precision Agriculture & 3rd European Conference on Precision Livestock Farming

Venue: Island of Skiathos, Greece

Web: www.6ecpa.gr

14-15 June 2007

Soil Dynamics Workshop

Venue: Izmir, Turkey

Organiser: ISTRO Turkey Branch

Contact: Prof. Dr. Engin Cakir

Email: engin.cakir@ege.edu.tr

Web: <http://ziraat.ege.edu.tr/~istrotr>

17-20 June 2007

ASABE Annual International Meeting Celebrating 100 Years of Service to the Profession

Venue: Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Organiser: ASABE

Tel: +1 269-429-0300

Web: www.asabe.org

19-21 June 2007

29th Intl Conference of CIGR Section IV:

'Rational Use of Energy in Agriculture and Renewable Energy Sources in Connection with Environment Protection'

Venue: Olsztyn, Poland

Organiser: University of Warmia and Mazury

in Olsztyn, Poland

10-736 Olsztyn, Poland

Tel: +48 89 523 36 21

Fax: +48 89 523 36 03

Email: bognak@uwm.edu.pl

Web: www.uwm.edu.pl/cigr

26-29 June 2007

Intl Conference Multi-Functions of Wetland Systems

Venue: Legnaro-Padova, Italy

Contact: Maurizio Borin

Email: info@panspinoff.com

Web: www.multiwet-conf.it

2-5 July 2007

EFITA 2007 - 5th Annual Conference of the European Federation of IT in Agriculture - 'Environmental & Rural Sustainability through ICT'

Venue: Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK

Organiser: EFITA

Email: c.g.parker@gcal.ac.uk

Web: www.efitaglasgow.org

24-26 September 2007

3rd International Symposium of CIGR Section VI on Food and Agricultural Products: Processing and Innovations

Venue: Naples, Italy

Tel: +39-02-70608276

Fax: +39-02-59610042

Email: 3cigr@aidic.it

Web: www.aidic.it/3CIGR

10-12 October 2007

2nd Conference on Precision Crop Protection

Organiser: University of Bonn

Venue: Bonn, Germany

Email: ec-oerke@uni-bonn.de

www.precision-crop-protection.uni-bonn.de

5-8 February 2008

Global workshop on High resolution digital soil sensing & mapping

Organiser: IUSS

Venue: Sydney, Australia

Contact: Raphael Viscarra Rossel

Email: r.viscarra-rossel@usyd.edu.au

Web: www.digitalsoilmapping.org

30 June -4 July 2008

IAMFE Denmark 2008 - The 13th International Conference and exhibition on mechanization of field experiments

Organiser: The International Association on

Mechanization of Field Experiments (IAMFE)

Venue: Koldkærgaard, Denmark

Web: www.lr.dk/iamfe2008

13-19 October 2008

20th International Congress on Irrigation & Drainage 'Participatory Integrated Water Resources Management - From Concepts to Actions'

Organiser: ICID

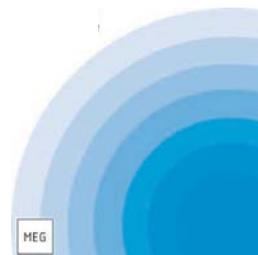
Venue: Lahore, Pakistan

Email: icid@icid.org

Web: www.icid.org

AgEng2007/LAND.TECHNIK Engineering Solutions for Energy and Food Production

International Conference on Agricultural Engineering
9-10 November 2007
Hanover, Germany



AgEng2007 will be a special event held jointly with the 65th Land.Technik conference and the first in the AgEng series to be held in an odd-numbered year. It will take place in Hanover, Germany on 9-10 November 2007, and will be the opening event of Agritechnica 2007, the famous agricultural machinery fair. The conference language will be English. By holding the conference immediately before the fair the organisers hope to attract delegates from industry, universities and research institutes. It will give an opportunity for industry and academia to meet and mix in a setting where there is something for everyone.

The main topics of the conference have been deliberately chosen to be closely connected with those of Agritechnica. They are:

- Tractors
- Power train
- Mobile hydraulics
- Electronic and automation technology
- Soil protection, tillage and cultivation
- Crop protection
- Harvesting technology
- Precision farming
- Production of bio-energy
- Field robotics
- Industrial product development
- Young Engineers for Europe

The session *Young Engineers for Europe* will offer young professionals in agricultural engineering the opportunity to contribute to the conference with presentations. Speakers should be no older than 33 years.

Experts in these fields are requested to contribute to a successful conference by submitting papers in English for consideration by the Programme Committee. Please

submit an electronic version of your abstract to: www.vdi.de/land.technik-ageng2007. The abstract should contain:

- Title of the paper
- Authors (company address, department, phone, fax, email, personal title of the author and co-authors, date of birth (if for Young Engineers))
- Meaningful abstract (max one page A4)
- Assignment to a specific presentation topic

Deadlines

Submission of papers: 15 March 2007
Decision of programme committee: 27 April 2007
Notification of acceptance to the authors: 15 May 2007
Camera-ready manuscript: 03 August 2007

Oral presentation

The oral presentations are limited to 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion.

Publications

The authors of the accepted papers will be asked to submit a camera-ready manuscript of their presentation for the proceedings.

Conference fee

Speakers may register at a reduced fee of 50% of the regular conference fee.

Contact

VDI Wissensforum IWB GmbH
Postfach 10 11 39, 40002 Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel +49 (0) 211 62 14-3 59, Fax +49 (0) 211 62 14-4 30
Email: koenig_b@vdi.de

The final programme and registration form will be available approx 10 weeks prior to the conference and at the website www.vdi.de/land.technik-ageng2007

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, the same price as last year. If you wish to take up this offer, please contact Dave Tinker at <secgen@eurageng.net>



Published by European Society of Agricultural Engineers, Barton Road, Silsoe, Bedford, MK45 4FH, UK
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Opinions contained in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of EurAgEng
Email: newsletter@eurageng.net Tel: +44 (0)1525 861096
Web: www.eurageng.net Fax: +44 (0)1525 861660
Editor: Michael Hurst ISSN 1462-0669