

ISTROEXTRA

Dear Friends, we are happy to announce that we have five strong candidates for the four open positions for the ISTRO Board. The candidates represent countries as Argentina, India, Nigeria, Croatia and China. Two of them are females and three males.

We have received two nominations for President Elect position (Professor Danijel Jug, Croatia; Professor Lingling Li, China), and four nominations for 3 regular Board positions, Dr. Silvia Imhoff, Argentina; Dr. Ranjan Bhattacharyya, India; Professor Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, Nigeria; Professor Lingling Li, China.

The ISTRO Board invited both candidates for the President Elect position to an interview (27.11.23) and presentation of their ISTRO Conference proposal. We received several Letters of Support for Prof. Jug and Prof. Li from ISTRO Members from different countries. After their outstanding presentations, the ISTRO board decided to support the nomination of Professor Jug which also consider the organization of the 2030 ISTRO Conference. Prof. Li accepted to be nominated as regular board member. We thank both for nominations and presentations.

The 3 elected for the open Board positions will replace Professor Danijel Jug, Croatia and Professor Guillermo Siri-Prieto, Uruguay, who are serving until 2024.

Dr. José Dörner

⌘ Voting Procedure

To vote for the 3 regular board positions email Secretary-General Lars J. Munkholm (lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk) with the subject heading ISTRO ballot 2024. In the text state your name, membership number (if known) and your country. Then state the names of your three preferred candidates. All votes received will be acknowledged. Voting will close at midnight on 29 February 2024. Only votes from ISTRO members whose membership is up-to-date will be counted – so please ensure you membership dues have been paid. To pay your dues, please contact Treasurer Steve Prior (Steve.Prior@ars.usda.gov).

⌘ President-elect



Dr. Danijel Jug was born 1972, in Osijek, Croatia. He is an employee of Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek, at the Department for Plant Production and Biotechnology. In 2006, he achieved academic degree of PhD in the scientific field of Agroecology and Crop Production. From 2019, he was elected to academic rank of full professor with tenure.

His main field of expertise and scientific interest is in Sustainable soil/land management, Conservation agriculture, Agroclimatology and climate change. His most important research experience can be summarized as follows: multidisciplinary approach to study of reduced and conservation soil tillage in relation to biological, physical and chemical soil properties in conditions of climate changes, development/innovations of sustainable agricultural management/systems according to specific agroecological conditions, adaptation of crop production to climate change, agricultural productivity, soil conservation and remediation.

He has been participating, as project leader or researcher, in several national and international scientific and professional research projects mostly related to crop reaction to different climate variations and adaptation measures according to the principles of conservation soil tillage. As co-author he published more than 150 scientific paper, more than 200 professional papers, three university textbooks as the first author: "Soil tillage in agroecology framework", "Conservation soil tillage as a measure for climate change mitigation" and "Glossary of agroclimatology" and more than ten scientific and professional books as coauthor.

Danijel is one of the founders of CROSTRO (Croatian Soil Tillage Research Organization), the branch of ISTRO. As the CROSTRO secretary he organized first International Scientific Conference (in 2010) and as the actual CROSTRO president organized two ISC (in 2014 and 2017). He also initiated CESTRO (Central Europe Division of ISTRO) and as the president organized the ISC for the first time in 2017. From 2018 he serving as ISTRO Board member, and from same year he established ISTRO WG-CST (Working Group - Conservation soil tillage) and as Chair he organized three WG-CST Workshops. Currently, he is working on the establishing and promoting PannEx initiative (Regional hydro-climate project over the Pannonian basin) as member of IPC and as the coordinator of working group "Adaptation of agronomic activities to weather and climate extremes". Danijel initiated and also served as president or member of Scientific or Organizing Committee on more than 20 International Conferences with ISTRO as Co-organizer.

Main idea of his engagement to serve as ISTRO President-elect is additional promotion of basic ISTRO ideas goals and principles. Also, strengthening not only connections between soil tillage scientists but also in relation to other lining scientific branches (e.g., conservation soil tillage and climate changes). Also, as one of his main obligations on position as President-elect, will be preparation for ISTRO Conference in 2030. This topic would be one of the most important initiatives of his engagement on the position of ISTRO President-elect. Danijel is very active scientist, persistent and committed in promotion of ISTRO ideas through his activities. As a member of ISTRO President-elect, Danijel is ready and willing to continue to serve and contribute to the ISTRO ideas and goals in the next six years period.

⌘ Nominations for Board positions



Dr. Lingling Li is a female Professor with 25yrs experiences in soil and tillage research and rainfed

agriculture. Initiated very first conservation tillage experiment on the rainfed Loess Plateau from 2001, introduced conservation tillage from Australia, promoted conservation tillage research in China. Validated "S theory" on red soils of New South Wales Australia and Loess soil of China. Promoted green production package for rainfed maize on the semiarid Loess Plateau of China. She has publications record of 208 articles in Chinese and in English and received many prizes for contributions to science and education and also for youth leadership. She promises to contribute to the ISTRO, and bring female perspectives on science and research to the Board.

Currently serving as the Dean of the Agronomy Faculty at Gansu Agricultural University and holding the position of Managing Director of the China Farming System Research Association, Dr. Li is deeply invested in her community's interest in hosting the 24th ISTRO conference in 2030, drawing on her past successful experiences and expertise.



Dr. Silvia Imhoff is Agricultural Engineer (1992). She studied at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the National University of the Litoral (UNL) of Argentina. She completed the Ms. Sc. in Agronomy with emphasis on Soils and Plant Nutrition in 1998, and the Ph.D. in Agronomy, with emphasis on Soil Physics in 1992 at the University of São Paulo (Brazil). She was a Visiting Scientist at the University of Guelph (Canada) (2001 and 2007). Currently, Dr. Imhoff works as Associate Professor of Soil Management at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (UNL) and as a Researcher at the National Research Council (CONICET). She is a professor in several master's and doctoral courses. At present, she is Director of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (ICiAgro Litoral) CONICET-UNL, advisor of Master's and Doctorate students, and has published more than 60 research papers in international and local

journals and several chapters in books. She participated in numerous Congresses, as President of the Commission and as a speaker. Dr. Imhoff is Member of the CONICET Evaluation Council, of the Argentine Association of Soil Science Board, president of the Soil Physics Commission of the IUSS, and Director of National and International Research and Development Projects. Research interest includes soil compaction, the interaction between soil physical quality and plant growth and, more recently, the effects of manure application on soil physical quality and plant growth interactions.



Engr. Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu obtained B. Eng. degree in Agricultural Engineering with first class honours in 1982 from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN). He later obtained M.Eng., degree in the same discipline and University in 1986. He obtained PhD degree in Agricultural Engineering from the Technical University of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada (now Dalhousie University) in 1991. He joined the services of University of Nigeria, Nsukka as a Graduate Assistant in 1983 and rose through the ranks to Professor in 1999. Over the years, he has worked in the areas of: agricultural power and machinery, agro-processing machinery, biomass engineering, processing of industrial raw materials and science and technology policy.

He was Head, Agricultural Engineering Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (2000-2003), Director, Engineering Infrastructure, National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure, NASENI, Abuja (2003-2005), Director General/CEO, Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), Abuja (2005-2013) and Visiting Professor, National Universities Commission (NUC), Abuja (2014-2015). He was: Coordinator, Science Technology and Innovation (STI) thematic group of Vision 20-2020, Chairman, Committee of Directors of

Research Institutes of Nigeria (CODRI) (2010-2013), member National Research Fund (NRF) Committee of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) (2019-2022) and Chairman, Technical Board of Engineering Materials Development Institute (EMDI) (2021-2023). At the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja he was: Head, Materials Science and Engineering Programme (2016-2020); Director, Academic Planning (2020-2021); Centre leader, Pan African Materials Institute (PAMI), African Centre of Excellence in Materials (2017-2020); Focal Point, Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) (2020-2023), Team Lead, AUST-PASET project "From Research to Markets: strengthening the innovation capacity of AUSTInspire" (2021-2023) and Co-PI for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Project - "Strengthening Capacity of Research Funding Agencies in West Africa". He has authored over 200 scientific publications in books, journals and conference proceedings.

Professor Onwualu has received many professional awards including: Presidential merit award, Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Individual Honours Award, Nigeria Society of Engineers, Abuja branch; Award of Excellence by Nigeria Institute of Physics, Most Distinguished Agricultural Engineer of the Year by Nigerian Institution of Agricultural Engineers. He is a Fellow of 12 professional bodies, including: Nigerian Institution of Agricultural Engineers; Polymer Institute of Nigeria, Materials Science and Technology Society of Nigeria, Solar Energy Society of Nigeria, Agricultural Society of Nigeria, Nigerian Society of Engineers, Nigerian Institute of Management, Nigeria Academy of Science and Nigerian Academy of Engineering.

He is presently serving in the following positions: 12th President, Nigeria Academy of Engineering (2022-2024), President, Nigerian Branch of International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO-Nigeria) (2022-2023), Board of Directors of African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) network, Nairobi, Kenya and Acting President, African University of Science and Technology, Abuja, Nigeria.



Dr Ranjan Bhattacharyya earned his M.Sc. degree in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi in 1998 and joined as a Scientist (Soil Science/Soil Physics/Soil and Water Conservation) at the ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan (Vivekananda Institute of Hill Agriculture), Almora, India in November 2001. He earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of Wolverhampton, UK in 2009 (in Soil Science/Soil Conservation/Environment Science) at the School of Applied Sciences on his pioneering work on using palm-mat geotextiles for soil and water conservation in arable lands of the UK, availing a notable EU-fellowship (2006-2009) of the EU-Project (BORASSUS), 2005-2009. In 2011, he joined the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India and since then he is working on soil carbon stabilization and sequestration, nitrogen dynamics, soil health and crop productivity as affected by various conservation tillage, conservation agriculture, long-term fertilization, and organic farming practices and different land uses under diverse cropping systems and land configurations. During 2017-2018, he worked at the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences (SAFS), University of Queensland, Australia and worked on soil organic carbon stabilization mechanisms and temperature sensitivity of organic carbon decomposition as affected by different land uses and long-term conservation tillage in Australia, availing the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Indo-Australia ECMR fellowship (2016-2017) and the research work was well supported by the SAFS, UQ, Australia.

Dr Bhattacharyya got several prestigious awards: Currently he is an Expert Member of the Inter-Governmental Technical Panel of Soils (ITPS), FAO and he is a fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS, India) in 2014, received

the Team Award 2008-09 for outstanding contribution on soil carbon sequestration under Natural Resource Management from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), India as the Team Leader, and got the B.C. Dev Memorial Award from the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA, India). He was elected as a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 2016 and received the Fellowship Award from the West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology, W.B., India in the same year. He also was awarded with the B. Laxminarayan Award by the IARI in 2011, received one of the best young researchers working on soil conservation in Europe by the European Society for Soil Conservation in 2007, travel grants from the British Society of Soil Science, UK, Best Asian Young Scientist Award by the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation in 2009, best Indian young scientist award by the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) in 2010 and the prestigious 12th International Commemoration Award of the ISSS in 2019. He was a board member of the International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO) during 2015-2018 and received a Scholarship Award from ISTRO in 2009. He served as an Editorial Board Member of 'Geoderma' during 2014-2020, and is presently an Editorial Board Member of 'Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment' since 2014 to date, and Soil and Tillage Research (since 2021 to date). He also served as an Associate Editor of Agronomy Journal during 2015-2017.

To date, Ranjan has published 131 international and 37 Indian national papers, three bulletins, four books, 27 book chapters, 57 conference papers and has an h-index of 47 and i10-index of 112 (with 7,483 total citations in Google Scholar as on 6 October 2023).

Ranjan is currently a Principal Scientist and Full Professor (Soil Science) at the Division of Environment Science, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi since June 2016 and working (online) as an Honorary Principal Fellow at the SAFS, the University of Queensland, Australia since July 2021 to date.

Since 2007, Ranjan published as many as 24 papers as the lead and co-author in Soil & Tillage Research and since 2015, he contributed significantly to increase the ISTRO membership in India. This was acknowledged in ISTRO INFO December 2021 by

Lars J. Munkholm, the then Assistant Secretary-General of ISTRO, who quoted that 'We have welcomed 28 new members during the last ½ year – increasing the total number of members to c. 500 members. Most of the new members are young researchers from India. Ranjan Bhattacharyya, former ISTRO Board member, has done a great effort to stimulate the interest in ISTRO among researchers in India'. Ranjan is the Secretary General (Elect) of the Indian Society of Soil Science that has over 2700 members. He will endeavour to persuade members of the Indian Society to join ISTRO for its sustained development. Given the opportunity, he is committed to working diligently to educate the people of India about ISTRO and its activities.

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