

Lars J. Munkholm

COVID-19 continues to severely affect our daily life – as the daily numbers of infections and deaths are still very high at global scale and new peaks of infections are experienced by the countries that have reopened after 1st wave of infections and restrictions. Even though a number of vaccines are under way, it will take many months/years before we are back to something near normal. Many are still working primarily from home and heavily utilizing different online tools for meetings and teaching. Most international 2020 meetings have been turned into online meetings/webinars, postponed to next year or simply cancelled. The latter is also the case for the 2nd Central European ISTRO Conference (CESTRO)/8th International Conference of the Czech ISTRO branch that has been postponed to September 2022.

Please notice, however, that the 1st ISTRO working group meeting on Conservation Soil Tillage and the 13th International Scientific/Professional Conference – Agriculture in nature and environment protection – will be held early September in Osijek, Croatia as planned (see details below).

One thing that is not affected by the COVID-19 situation is the election for the ISTRO Board, as it is a 100 % online activity. See below for a re-announcement of the different board positions. Do not hesitate to send an email to Blair or me, if you are interested being a board member.

⌘ ISTRO 2021 conference: Soil and tillage and the transition to digital agriculture

22nd ISTRO International Conference Dublin, Ireland. 20–24th September 2021.

We continue to be optimistic on 2021 and we look forward to the triannual gathering of the ISTRO community in Dublin next year. We will start to announce keynote speakers and open the call for oral and poster submissions in September 2020.

Important Dates

- September 2020 to March 2021 – Call for Abstracts
- September 2020 – Registration Opens
- May 2021 – End of Early Bird Registration

⌘ Nominations for President-elect

The opportunity to host the 2027 ISTRO conference is now open. As members may already be aware of, the main ISTRO conference is held every 3 years. The 22nd conference will be held in Dublin in 2021 as described above, and the 23rd in Virginia, USA in 2024. Those interested in holding the 24th conference in 2027 should nominate for ISTRO President-elect (and thus serve on the ISTRO board). In the first instance, they should contact Secretary-General Blair McKenzie (b.mckenzie@dundee.ac.uk) or Assistant Secretary-General Lars J. Munkholm (lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk) on or before September 1st, 2020, to discuss their interest.

⌘ Nominations for Assistant Secretary General

The Assistant Secretary General position will be vacant after the 2021 conference in Dublin where Lars J. Munkholm will take over from Blair McKenzie as Secretary General. The position involves service for 6 years as Assistant Secretary General followed by 6 years of service as Secretary General. The Assistant Secretary is responsible for ISTRO INFO and assists the Secretary General and the ISTRO Board in the planning and coordination of ISTRO business. Nominations are being accepted from all ISTRO members in good standing. If a member wishes to nominate a colleague or even themselves, please send the name, a brief biographical statement outlining the candidate's qualifications for the Assistant Secretary General position, and an affirmation that the candidate is willing to be on the ballot and to serve if elected to Secretary General Blair McKenzie on or before September 1st 2020. Please use the email address b.mckenzie@dundee.ac.uk for this communication.

⌘ Nominations for Board positions

Nominations for minimum two and maximum four Board positions of 6 years and are now being accepted from all ISTRO members in good standing. We aim at a good geographical spread and a gender balance. The current ISTRO Board has a good geographical spread but a very poor gender balance (all members are male). Therefore, we strongly encourage our female members to consider this opportunity.

As for the Assistant General Position, if a member wishes to nominate a colleague or even themselves, please send the name, a brief biographical statement outlining the candidate's qualifications and an affirmation that the candidate is willing to be on the ballot and to serve if elected to Secretary General Blair McKenzie on or before September 1st, 2020. Please use the email address b.mckenzie@dundee.ac.uk for this communication. Depending upon the number of nominations received, the current ISTRO Board members will

identify six potential Board candidates. A ballot will be prepared and distributed to members in good standing around November 1st 2020. ISTRO members elected to these positions will assume their new positions following the 22st Triennial Conference in Dublin, Ireland in September 2021. If four or fewer nominations are received, a ballot will not be required.

General requirements for Board members are to serve for a period of 6 years (2021–2027), to be available to attend pre- and post-conference Board meetings (held at the triennial conference) as well as a mid-congress Board meeting at the location of the 2024 and 2027 Triennial conference sites, to serve in various liaison positions to ISTRO Branch and/or Working Groups, and to actively participate in discussions and email exchanges associated with ISTRO business. Although funds for travel to ISTRO Board meetings are available (but not the triennial conference), it really helps the Organization if the candidate has some mechanism to help cover a portion of their travel expenses so that ISTRO dues can remain at their very modest level.

If you have any questions about any of these opportunities, please contact Blair McKenzie (Blair.McKenzie@hutton.ac.uk) or Lars J. Munkholm (lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk).

⌘ New special issue on terrain-machine Interactions

Journal of Terramechanics have just published a special issue on “Modeling, Visualization, and Verification in Terrain-Machine Interactions” The special issue includes a number of papers that would of interest to ISTRO members working on soil-machine interactions. For more information: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-terrmechanics/vol/90>.

☞ Upcoming Meetings and Events

Cancelled

4th Global Soil Security Conference, October 12–15, 2020 in Seoul, Korea. Webpage: <http://www.globalsoilsecurity2020.org/index.html>

-- 2020 --

September 2020

13th International Scientific/Professional Conference – Agriculture in nature and environment protection, September 7–9, 2020 in Osijek, Republic of Croatia.

1st ISTRO WG-CST (working group conservation soil tillage) workshop meeting, September 8–9, 2020 in Osijek, Republic of Croatia.

Webpage: <https://www.istro.org/index.php/working-groups/wg-c-conservation-soil-tillage>

October 2020

1st International Joint Congress on Sustainable Management of Cultural Landscapes in the context of the European Green Deal, October 7–10 2020 in Santo Stefano di Camastra, Italy.

Webpage: <https://www.ecocycles.net/>

November 2020

ISCRAES 2020 - International Symposium on Climate-Resilient Agri-Environmental Systems, November 3–6, 2020 VIRTUAL. **NEW DATE**

Webpage: <http://www.iscraes2020.org/>

3rd Annual Congress on Plant Science & Biosecurity, November, 9–11, 2020 in Osaka, Japan. **NEW DATE**

Webpage: <https://acpb2020.com/>

ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting, November 9–13, 2020 VIRTUAL. **NEW DATE**

Webpage: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>

December 2020

World Soil Day, 5th December, worldwide.

-- 2021 --

EIP-AGRI seminar 'Healthy soils for Europe', spring 2021 in Setubal, Portugal. Webpage:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-healthy-soils-europe-sustainable>

February 2021

The Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity, 'Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity', February 2–4, 2021 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

NEW DATE Webpage:

<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/soil-biodiversity-symposium/en/>

May 2021

Global conference on sandy soils: Properties and management, May 30–June 3, 2021 in Madison, United States of America.

Webpage: <https://sandysoils.org/>

June 2021

8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, June 21–24, 2021 in Zollikofen/Bern, Switzerland.

Webpage: <https://8wcca.org/>

Soils Conference 2021, 'Soils, investing in our future', June 27–July 2, 2021 in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. **NEW DATE**

Webpage: <https://www.soilscienceaustralia.org.au/2021-joint-conference/>

August 2021

Eurosoil. August 23–27, 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland. **NEW DATE**

Webpage: <http://eurosoil2020.com/>

Fall 2021

20th International and 9th Americas Conference organised by the International Society for Terrain-Vehicle Systems, **fall 2021**. Webpage:

<https://conference.istvs.org/>

September 2021

The 22nd ISTRO conference on Agriculture in the 2020s: the role of soil and tillage research and innovation in the transition to digital agriculture, September 20–24, 2021 in Dublin Ireland.

October 2021

International Soil Classification Congress, October
14–22, 2021, México. **NEW DATE**

Webpage: <http://iscc2020.org/>

November 2021

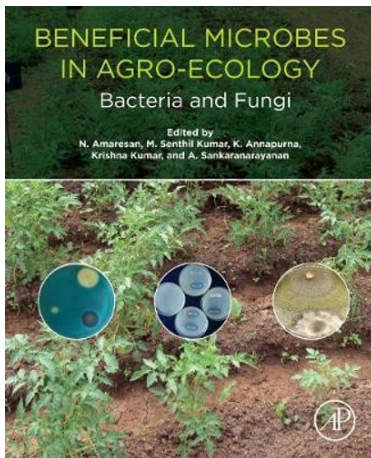
3rd Global Soil Biodiversity Conference, November
1–3, 2020 in Dublin, Ireland. Webpage:

<https://gsb2021.ie/>

🌀 New Books

Beneficial Microbes in Agro-Ecology, 1st edition, Bacteria and Fungi

Editors: N. Amaresan M. Senthil Kumar K. Annapurna Krishna Kumar A. Sankaranarayanan



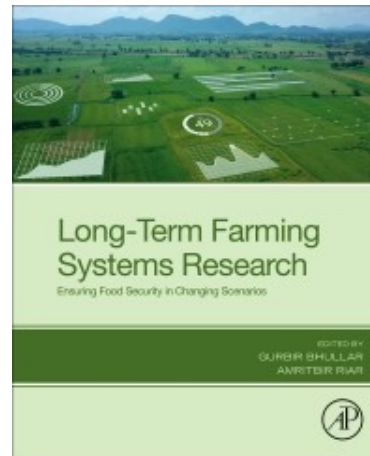
Beneficial Microbes in Agro-Ecology: Bacteria and Fungi is a complete resource on the agriculturally important beneficial microflora used in agricultural production technologies. Included are 30 different bacterial genera relevant in the sustainability, mechanisms, and beneficial natural processes that enhance soil fertility and plant growth. Covering a wide range of bacteria and fungi on biocontrol and plant growth promoting properties, the book will help researchers, academics and advanced students in agro-ecology, plant microbiology, pathology, entomology, and nematology.

More information on this book:

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/beneficial-microbes-in-agro-ecology/amaresan/978-0-12-823414-3>

Long-Term Farming Systems Research, 1st edition – Ensuring Food Security in Changing Scenarios

Editors: Gurbir Bhullar Amritbir Riar



Long-Term Farming Systems Research presents the legacy and heritage of Long-Term Experiments (LTEs) in agriculture while also addressing the challenges and potential solutions. This book offers a thorough resource of information based on experiences from various ongoing LTEs in different parts of the world, with a focus on various aspects of farming systems, crop management practices, plant, soil and human nutrition as well as on capacity development. Challenges and lessons learned from different LTEs are identified and recommendations for potential solutions provided.

More information on this book:

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/long-term-farming-systems-research/bhullar/978-0-12-818186-7>

ISTRO INFO is the newsletter of the **International Soil Tillage Research Organisation**. (www.istro.org).

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