

Lars J. Munkholm

The Chinese New Year Festival marks the end of global New Year celebrations, as far as I am aware of. Unfortunately, this year's celebrations were strongly impacted by the outbreak of the Corona virus epidemic. Presently, this has severely restricted global travelling and thus the exchange of students and researchers across borders. I hope that the epidemic will be soon be under control. Fortunately, we live in an age where rapid exchange of ideas and information is possible just by a click on your computer or smartphone. The ISTRO website is one out of many virtual meeting places, as you know. Last year, our website was visited almost 7000 times. The visitor map shows that ISTRO is truly a global organization. At the ISTRO website, you will find a lot of useful information on the ISTRO organization, working groups, and branches and not the least on upcoming ISTRO activities, as many of you know already.

In ISTRO, we look forward to busy year with board, working group and branch meetings as well as a regional Central European conference (see details below). The current travel restrictions will, hopefully, be lifted long before these events allowing any interested to attend.



Visitor Map 2019 for ISTRO.org.

☞ ISTRO 2021 Conference

The 22nd ISTRO conference will be held September 20-23 2021 at University College Dublin. The theme will be "Agriculture in the 2020s: the role of soil and tillage research and innovation in the transition to digital agriculture". More information will follow in the next ISTRO INFO and on the ISTRO webpage.



Photo: UCD webpage.

☞ Central European ISTRO Conf. 2020

Trends and challenges in soil-crop management

The ISTRO branches in the Czech Republic, Republic of Croatia and Hungary organize a joint scientific conference, September 8–10, 2020 in Brno, Czech Republic, on the campus of Mendel University. It is the 2nd Central European ISTRO Conference as well as the 8th International Conference of the Czech ISTRO branch.

Topics: Soil health assessment, Soil management, Integrated pest Management, and Precision agriculture. As part of the conference, a fieldtrip and excursion are planned.

Submission: abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be submitted by April 1st, 2020.

Please find more information in the separately attached announcement (*Conference brochure CESTRO 2020*)

⌘ New Editor of Soil and Tillage Research



Photo: Veikko Somerpuro, University of Helsinki

Prof. Laura Alakukku has joined the team of Editors-in-Chief of Soil and Tillage Research. Laura is working at the Department of Agricultural Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland. She is a long-term member of ISTRO and served on the ISTRO board 2003-2009.

Laura's research interests cover: environmental technology in agriculture; soil management; soil compaction and structure; conservation tillage methods connected to break-crop systems; biological tillage; precision farming; machine-soil-crop –interactions.

Her e-mail address is: laura.alakukku@helsinki.fi

⌘ CROSTRO Conference 2020

Agriculture in Nature and Environment Protection

For the 13th time, the Croatian branch of ISTRO organizes together with Agrogilas the International Scientific/Professional conference, which takes place June 1–3 at the Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek in Osijek, Republic of Croatia.

Roundtable's theme: an increasingly pressing issue of desertification, land degradation, and drought.

Submission: Papers and abstract are to be submitted by February 28th, 2020, via [sim-agrogilas application](#).

More information: Please find more information in the separately attached announcement (*ANEP 2020*).

⌘ ISTRO working group C Conservation Soil Tillage 1st meeting

To be held on June 2-3 in Osijek, Republic of Croatia, integrated with the conference Agriculture in Nature and Environment Protection

Main intention: to discuss and gather basic knowledge about the current situation in science and professional work in the domain of Conservation Soil Tillage and includes a field trip.

Preliminary program: Presentation and discussion on the first day, and field trip the second day.

Registration: via the [WG-CST Registration form](#).

More information: in the attached flyer (*Flyer WG-CST*) and under the WG-C within Working groups on www.istro.org.

☚ World Soil Day, 5th December 2019

World Soil Day @ Foulum, Aarhus University, Denmark

At Aarhus University, all colleagues from the department of *Agroecology* were invited to join the section *Soil Physics and Hydropedology* for the celebration of World Soil Day (WSD) – as soil matters to all. During the super-speed conference, oral presentations by juniors and technicians, poster presentations of participants past year's work, and discussions about sustainable agriculture alternated. Topics varied from the important soil threats in Denmark and greenhouse gas emission from peatlands, to aids like life cycle assessments of food and the search engine Ecosia. The WSD was a great opportunity to gather the different skills, minds, and fields of expertise to strengthen the research and the impact of the research we do.



Photo: Saghar Khodadad Motarjemi



Photo: Saghar Khodadad Motarjemi

☞ Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 2020

Intersoil 2020 – International Conference on Soil, Sediments and Water. March 2–3, 2020 in Brussels, Belgium. Webpage: <https://www.webs-event.com/webs/en/event/intersoil/accueil>

Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (GSOBI20). March 10–12, 2020 in Rome, Italy (FAO Headquarters).

Webpage: <http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/highlights/detail/en/c/1183872/>

April 2020

International Soil Classification Congress, April 16–24, 2020, México. Webpage: <http://iscc2020.org/>

May 2020

EGU General Assembly, May 3–8, 2020 in Vienna, Austria. Webpage: <https://egu2020.eu/>

ISCRAES 2020 - International Symposium on Climate-Resilient Agri-Environmental Systems, May 19–22, 2020 in Dublin, Ireland. Webpage: <http://www.iscraes2020.org/>

May-June 2020

Global conference on sandy soils – Properties and management, May 31–June 4, 2020 in Madison, USA. Webpage: <https://sandysoils.org/>

June 2020

13th International Scientific/Professional Conference – Agriculture in nature and environment protection, June 1–3, 2020 in Osijek, Republic of Croatia.

1st ISTRO WG-CST (working group conservation soil tillage) workshop meeting, June 2–3, 2020 in Osijek, Republic of Croatia. Webpage: <https://www.istro.org/index.php/working-groups/wg-c-conservation-soil-tillage>

July 2020

3rd Annual Congress on Plant Science & Biosecurity, July 6–8, 2020 in Osaka, Japan.

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

8th International Crop Science Congress, June 21–25, 2020 in Saskatoon, Canada. Webpage:

<https://www.icsc2020.com/>

August 2020

Eurosoil. August 24–28, 2020 in Geneva,

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

September 2020

The 2nd Central European ISTRO conference and the 8th International conference of the Czech ISTRO branch – Trends and challenges in soil-crop management. September 8–10, 2020 in Brno, Czech Republic.

November 2020

ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting, November 8–11, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona.

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

Soil Conference 2020, November 29–December 4, 2020 in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Webpage:

<https://www.soilscienceaustralia.org.au/soils-conference-2020/>

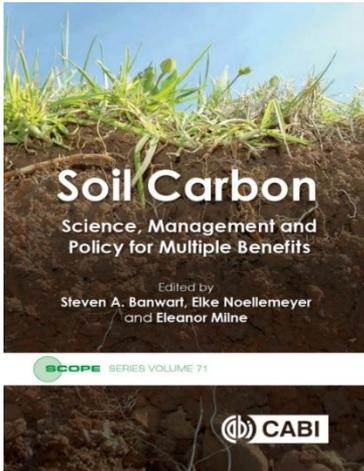
September 2021

The 21st ISTRO conference. September 20–23, 2021 in Dublin, Ireland.

🌀 New Books

Soil Carbon. Science, Management and Policy for Multiple Benefits

Editors: Steven A. Banwart, Elke Noellemeyer and Eleanor Milne



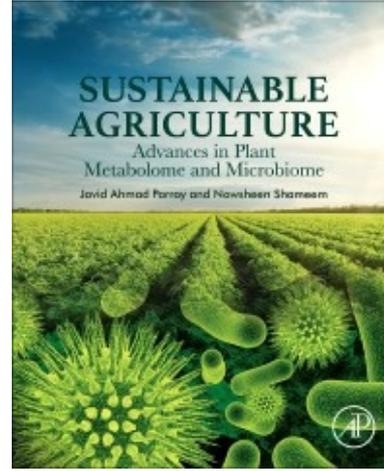
This book brings together the essential evidence and policy opportunities regarding the global importance of soil carbon for sustaining Earth's life support system for humanity. Covering the science and policy background for this important natural resource, it describes land management options that improve soil carbon status and therefore increase the benefits that humans derive from the environment. Written by renowned global experts, it is the principal output from a SCOPE rapid assessment process project.

More information on this book:

<https://www.cabi.org/bookshop/book/9781786395504/?v=dd65ef9a5579>

Sustainable Agriculture, 1st Edition, Advances in Plant Metabolome and Microbiome

Authors: Javid Ahmad Parray and Nowsheen Shameem



Sustainable Agriculture: Advances in Plant Metabolome and Microbiome focuses on the advancement of basic and applied research related to plant-microbe interaction and their implementation in progressive agricultural sustainability. The author also highlights the role of key biosynthetic pathways. The book focusses on selecting positive and effective interactive core-microbiome which will be adaptive and sustainable, thereby helping researchers further improve the quality and productivity of crops through sustainable agriculture.

More information on this book:

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/sustainable-agriculture/parray/978-0-12-817109-7>

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