ISTRO INFO
NEWSLETTER
of the
International Soil Tillage Research Organisation

Lars J. Munkholm

The ISTRO Board met in Paris early December2016 and had the ISTRO conference 2018 as the main topic on the agenda. We had a look at the excellent conference facilities as described below and provided feedback to the French organizing committee on their plans and ideas. The foundation for a – hopefully – very successful conference in 2018 has been laid. We are planning for 3-400 participants and you are most welcome to note the event in your calendar. However, you do not have to wait until 2018 to attend an ISTRO event. In June 2017 the ISTRO branches in Croatia, Czech Republic and Hungary organize their 3rd International Scientific Conference and in late August the Iranian ISTRO branch will take part in organizing the 15th National Iranian Soil Society Congress (see below). In late August, the Visual Soil Examination and Evaluation working group will hold a workshop in Ireland with focus on grasslands and tillage visual soil evaluation as detailed below.

ISTRO Board looking at urban farming on a Paris rooftop.

⌘ISTRO Conference 2018

The preparation of the 21th international ISTRO conference is progressing as planned. The conference will be organized at the International University Campus in Paris, located in the south of Paris, 15 minutes from downtown by bus or metro. The International University Campus is situated in a 500-ha-Park and it continues to pursue the Utopian dream of its founders and offers its residents somewhere to meet other students in an atmosphere of tolerance and reflection. With 5,800 rooms in 40 residences, the International University Campus in Paris is the largest site hosting (and melting) foreign students and researchers in Ile de France (the region of Paris). Built in the 1930s, thanks to John D. Rockefeller, the International House, located in the center of the Campus, offers many opportunities for the organization of events, with a 400-place-amphitheater and a superb neo gothic reception room.

The salon Honorat

The Amphitheatre

For more information: www.ciup.fr/en/home

The conference will be opened on Sunday the 23rd of September by a welcoming reception. The main

conference will be held between Monday the 24th and Thursday the 27th of September 2018.

⌘Obituary Alvaro da Silva

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Prof. Alvaro Pires da Silva which occurred on November 25, 2016. He was 57 years. Prof. Da Silva was born on February 15, 1959 in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. He was a Professor at the Department of Soil Science, School of Agriculture Luiz de Queiroz - University of São Paulo - ESALQ/USP. He received his degree in Agronomy from the Federal University of Bahia in 1981 and completed his Masters and Doctorate degrees at ESALQ/USP in 1984 and 1988, respectively. During this time, he developed research on soil compaction and spatial variability of soil physical properties. He began his teaching activities in 1986 at the Universidade Estadual Paulista Julio de Mesquita Filho - UNESP, where he remained until 1989. In 1989, he began teaching and researching soil physics, pedology and soil management as Associate Professor at ESALQ/USP. In 1994, he completed the PhD at the University of Guelph, Canada, where he made pioneering studies on the quantification of the Least Limiting Water Range (LLWR), an important and modern indicator of the physical and structural quality of soils. The studies developed by Prof. da Silva established the methodological basis of modeling the LLWR through a statistical approach, which allowed a better understanding of the LLWR in both scientific and applied terms.
The first paper resulting from these studies was entitled "Characterization of the Least Limiting Water Range of Soils", which brought a clear definition of the LLWR concept and has been used as a reference to quantify the impacts of anthropic actions on the physical quality of soils in different regions of the world. He developed studies that related the LLWR with the proportion of the total measurements in which the water content falls outside the LLWR linking this indicator with plant growth parameters (shoot growth rate - corn). He found a strong correlation between the shoot growth rate and the LLWR, which justified further studies to determine the relationships between crop yields and the LLWR under different soil and climatic conditions. Prof. da Silva opened a path for a great number of new studies and advances in the quantification of the soil physical conditions and its impact on crop production. He had a special ability to establish connections between complex concepts in soil physics and their potential applications, which inspired a large number of researchers to develop studies applying soil physics concepts to the creation of more productive and sustainable agricultural management systems.
In Brazil, the professional endeavors of Prof. da Silva promoted a great interest in soil physics research. He was always a very creative and innovative person, and pursued his ideas with enthusiasm and determination. He published 114 scientific articles in journals of high scientific relevance and published 10 book chapters in Brazil and abroad. He coordinated the development of equipment that contributed to the advances in LLWR studies, in particular a penetrometer for the automated collection of RP data from undisturbed samples. His passion for new methodological approaches resulted in new equipment and in the improvement of instruments to measure air permeability, tensile strength of aggregates and water retention. In Brazil, he also pioneered studies on the quantification of tensile strength of aggregates and the S index. He also contributed to the training of a large number of new scientists in soil physics and soil management, who now work in various universities and research centers throughout Brazil and Argentina. He also participated in an international cooperation project that resulted in the first studies in Brazil on the quantification of structural quality in tropical and subtropical soils through the methodology of Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS). In addition to his teaching and research activities, Prof. da Silva held important administrative positions at

ESALQ/USP as the head of Department of Soil Science and Coordinator of the Postgraduate Program (he was the current coordinator) in Soils and Plant Nutrition.
Most recently, his research activities involved a large project, with researchers from several institutions in Brazil, proposing a methodological approach for the quantification of LLWR directly in the field. Another current project focused on the use of mechanical and biological practices for soil compaction relief, which resulted in several master and doctoral theses as well as in publications in national and international journals. This brief professional biography reveals a tireless researcher, a knowledgeable and motivational advisor, with a leadership spirit in searching new results and new ideas. The Brazilian Soil Science loses one of its most eminent researchers in Soil Physics and Soil Management, who contributed greatly to the advancement of Soil Science in Brazil. Prof. da Silva is deeply missed, as a friend, as a colleague, and as a scientist. However, his professional example and his dedication will always be present, leaving his mark imprints on the institution that welcomed him and on the people who had the privilege of working with him.
Prof. da Silva was a very cultured person. He had a highly critical mind that lead him to help develop the students under his guidance. He was quick witted and funny, lighting the atmosphere of any room he worked in, making him very good to be around. He also opened many doors for students using the connections borne from his fruitful career.

Cássio A. Tormena – State University of Maringa, Brazil

Neyde F.B. Giarola – State University of Ponta Grossa, Brazil

Paulo L. Libardi, ESALQ/USP, Brazil

Rachel M. L. Guimarães, Federal University of Technology, Brazil

Silvia Imhoff, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina

⌘Visual Soil Evaluation meeting 2017

on “Grassland and Tillage Visual Soil Evaluation”

The meeting is organized by the ISTRO working group on Soil Examination and Evaluation. There will be focus on subsoil compaction, grassland soil quality and the influence of water content on visual evaluation. August 30-31, 2017 in Ireland. Please register as soon as possible by sending an email to Nick Holden (nick.holden@ucd.ie).

⌘3rd International Scientific Conference

on "Sustainability challenges in agroecosystems”

The conference is organized by Croatian Soil Tillage Research Organization (CROSTRO), Czech branch of ISTRO and HUISTRO – Hungarian branch of ISTRO, under the auspice of International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO) and many others supportive institutions. June 19-21, 2017 in Osijek, Croatia.

Webpage: www.hdpot.hr

⌘Job Vacancies

The Department of Food and Environmental Sciences, University of Helsinki, invites applications for position of PROFESSOR / ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL SOIL SCIENCE
The successful applicant may be appointed to a permanent professorship or a fixed-term associate/assistant professorship (tenure track system), depending on his or her qualifications and career stage.
Applicants are requested to enclose with their applications the following documents:
1) An English-language CV
2) A report (max. 3 pages) of experience and merits which are of relevance for the evaluation of teaching skills.
3) An English-language report (max. 3 pages) on the applicant’s previous research activities and a brief plan for how the applicant intends to develop his or her research and focus his or her activities in the future.
4) A numbered English-language list of publications and other works with which the applicant wishes to demonstrate his or her competence and merits
Or, alternatively, an academic portfolio containing the above documents and information (for instructions, see

http://www.helsinki.fi/recruitment/academicportfolio.html).
A position overview prepared for the application process is available online at http://www.helsinki.fi/affaculty/administration/Overview_professorship_in_Environmental_Soil_Science.pdf

The application, together with the required attachments, must be submitted through the University of Helsinki electronic recruitment system by clicking on Apply for job. Internal applicants (i.e., current employees of the University of Helsinki) must submit their applications through the SAP HR portal. The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2017**.

Further information can be obtained from:
Head of Department, Professor
Maija Tenkanen
maija.tenkanen@helsinki.fi
Tel. + 3582941 58410.

⌘Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 2017
"Intersol 2017-International Conference-Exhibition on Soils, Sediments and Water. March 14-16, 2017, Lyon, France.

Webpage: http://www.intersol.fr/

Soil Science Society of Nigeria, 41st Annual Conference on "Land Degradation, Sustainable Soil Management and Food and Nutrition Security". March 13–17, 2017, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria.
Webpage: http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/events/other-soil-events/detail/en/c/446304/

Soil Erosion Modelling Workshop.
March 20-22, 2017, Ispra, Italy.
Webpage:
http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/themes/erosion-modelling-workshop

Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon
March 21-23, 2017 - FAO HQ - Rome, Italy.
Webpage:
http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/soil-organic-carbon-symposium/en/

May 2017
The 15th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis (ISSPA). May 14-18, 2017, Nanjing, China.
Webpage:
http://isspa2017.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1

SUITMA-9 Congress - Urbanisation: A challenge and an opportunity for soil functions and ecosystem services. May 22-27, 2017, Moscow, Russia
Webpage: http://www.suitma-russia.com

June/July 2017
1st World Conference on Soil and Water Conservation under Global Change – CONSOWA, 2017. June 12-16, 2017 in Lleida, Spain.
Webpage:
http://www.swcs.org/index.cfm/6404/72691/first_world_conference_on_soil_and_water_conservation_under_global_change

Global Soil Map 2017 International Conference.
July 4 – 6, 2017, Moscow, Russia
Webpage: http://globalsoilmap2017.ru/en/Home

Pedometrics 2017 Conference
June 26-July 1,2017 in Wageningen, the Netherlands.
Webpage: http://www.pedometrics2017.org/

August 2017
The 15th National Iranian Soil Society Congress with the overall theme "Soil Health, Safe Living". The Iranian ISTRO branch will organize a minisymposium as part of the conference.
August 28-30, 2017.
Webpage:
http://Soilcong15.iut.ac.ir

September/ October 2017
6th International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter *"Healthy soils for sustainable agriculture: the role of SOM"*. September 3–7, 2017, Rothamsted, Research Harpenden (United Kingdom)

2nd Global Soil Biodiversity Conference

October 15-20, 2017, Nanjing, China
Webpage: https://globalsoilbiodiversity.org/

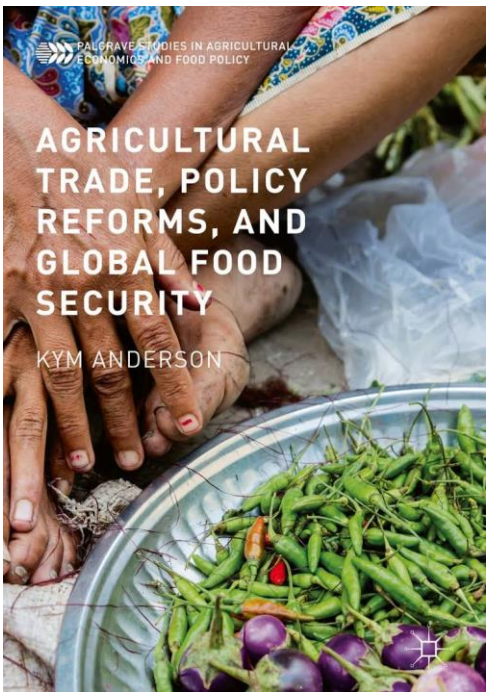
August 2018
21st World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) on the theme: "Soils to feed and fuel the world". August 12-17, 2018 in Rio de Janiero, Brazil.
Webpage: http://21wcss.org/

September 2018
21st ISTRO Conference, Paris, France. September 24-27, 2018.

⌘New Books

Agricultural Trade, Policy Reforms, and Global Food Security

Author: Anderson, Kym

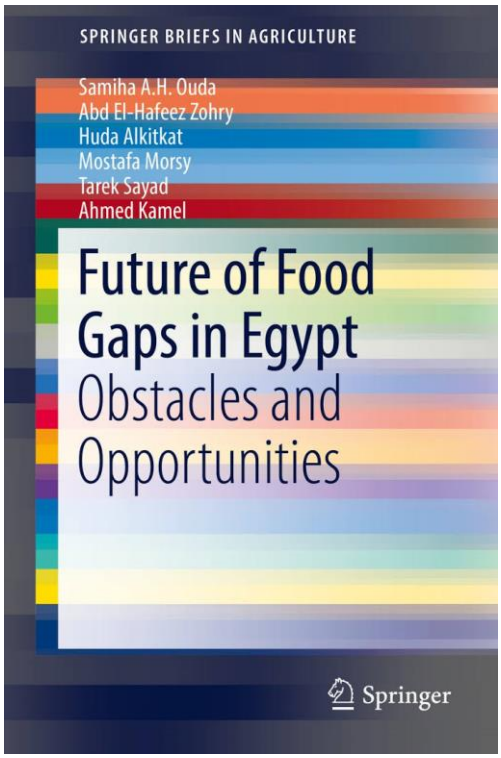


This book explores the potential for policy reform as a short-term, low-cost way to sustainably enhance global food security. It argues that reforming policies that distort food prices and trade will promote the openness needed to maximize global food availability and reduce fluctuations in international food prices.

More information about this book:
http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9781137471680?wt_mc=Alerts.NBA.Dec-16_EAST_26352456#aboutBook

Future of Food Gaps in Egypt:Obstacles and Opportunities

Authors: Ouda, S.A.H., Zohry, A.E.-H., Alkitkat, H., Mostafa, M., Sayad, T., Kamel, A.



This work gives a multidisciplinary approach to assess and provide solutions to improve food security in Egypt. It has specific chapters on projection of climate change using IPCC AR5 models and regional climate model, and a chapter on population projection in 2030. This book aimed at research, graduate/post graduate students and policy makers. It can also be used by overpopulated countries to solve their own food gap problems.

More information about this book:
http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319469416?wt_mc=Alerts.NBA.Dec-16_EAST_26352456#otherversion=9783319469423