

José Dörner

It's a great pleasure to become Assistant Secretary General of ISTRO as well as a great challenge to continue with the work done by Lars Muckholm, who takes over as Secretary General. Please do not hesitate to contact me in order to inform ISTRO Members about the different activities conducted around the world, which also helps to achieve our goals.

I would also like to welcome Jorge Ivelic as the new ISTRO INFO assistant. Jorge Sáez is a PhD Student at Universidad Austral de Chile and is working on the sustainable management of Vega Soils under grazing systems in Chilean Patagonia (Magallanes). At the same time, I take the opportunity to thank the excellent work conducted by Alvaro Calleja Huerta as ISTRO INFO Assistant and wish him all the best with his PhD in soil compaction at Aarhus University.

☞ ISTRO 2022 General Assembly

The 2022 ISTRO General Assembly meeting was held online on Tuesday May 24th at 12 noon (GMT+1) Irish Time. The General Assembly was conducted according to the Agenda defined in the ISTRO Constitution.

The General Assembly was also the last of Blair McKenzie as Secretary General. Dear Blair, many thanks for all the work done for ISTRO!! We have no doubt that you will continue to contribute to ISTRO goals.

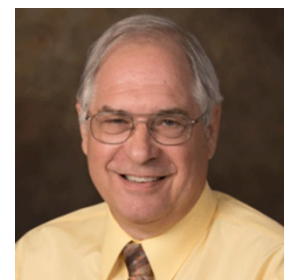
New Honorary Members: Jan van den Akker, Doug Karlen, Marta Birkas and Hubert Boizard were nominated for Honorary Members Status during the Assembly.

☞ New Honorary Members

Their nominations were acclaimed for the General Assembly. All of them made a huge contribution to different topics related to soil conservation, soil quality, soil structure evaluation and in turn the sustainable management of soils.



Jan van den Akker served ISTRO as Secretary General (2006 – 2009) and was also responsible for the edition of the Proceedings (Van den Akker et al., 1999, 2003) of subsoil compaction workshops.



Doug Karlen served also as Secretary General of ISTRO (2009 – 2015) and was responsible for several contributions related to soil quality.



Marta Birkas (pictured in the bottom row, far right) was the Chair of the Hungarian ISTRO Branch (2002 – 2007) and her research area is focused on adaptable soil tillage, soil conservation and climate damage mitigation.



Hubert Boizard has been part of the ISTRO Board for several years and also helps to organise the 21st ISTRO conference in Paris.

☞ CESTRO and Czech ISTRO Branch



Experimental Station at Mendel University in Brno (Czech Republic).

All preparation works for both events are going well. After an extended registration, we currently have more than 70 registered participants from 15 countries: Czechia, Slovakia, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Turkey, Peru and Brazil. We expect approximately 30 oral presentations and 40 posters which will be divided into 4 sessions.

All submitted abstracts are reviewed. We are preparing a 2nd announcement which includes a scientific programme and it will be available on August 1st!! We are also preparing a Field Trip programme where the 3rd Conservation Soil Tillage Workshop will be organised. Various soil tillage systems with no-till or strip-till approaches with cover crops will be shown.

I wish you a peaceful summer holiday and SEE YOU IN BRNO THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER!

Vladimír Smutný
President of Czech Branch of ISTRO
Brno, July 4, 2022

☞ Upcoming Meetings and Events

2022

July - September

July

12th International Symposium on Earthworm Ecology (ISEE12). July 10th – 15th, 2022, in Rennes, France. Webpage:

<https://isee12.symposium.inrae.fr/>

International Symposium on Managing Land and Water for Climate Smart Agriculture. July 25th – 29th, 2022, in Vienna, Austria. Webpage:

<https://conferences.iaea.org/event/270/>

22nd World Congress of Soil Science – Crossing boundaries, changing society. July 31st to August 5th, 2022, in Glasgow, UK. Webpage:

<https://22wcss.org/>

August

ESAF2022: 15th international conference of the East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil science societies (ESAFS). August 22nd – 26th, 2022, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Webpage:

<http://www.msss.com.my/esafs2022/>

4th International Conference on Hydropedology. August 23rd – 26th, 2022, in Skukuza, South Africa. Webpage:

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/conferences/conference/fourth-international-conference-on-hydropedology>

ISCRAES 2022: The 2nd International Symposium on Climate-Resilient Agri-Environmental Systems. Sunday, 28. August 2022 to Wednesday, 31. August 2022. Webpage: www.iscraes.org

September

16th International Conference on Soil Micromorphology. September 4th – 8th, 2022, in Krakow, Poland. Webpage:

<http://www.icosm2020.sggw.pl/>

2nd Central European ISTRO Conference (CESTRO) “Trends and challenges in soil-crop management”. 6th – 8th September, 2022, in Brno, Czech Republic. Webpage: <http://istro.cz/>

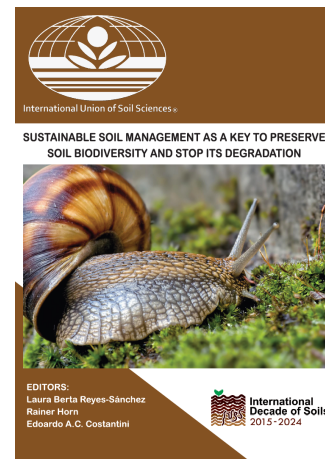
5th International Interdisciplinary Conference on Land Use and Water Quality: Agriculture and the Environment. September 12th - 15th, 2022, in Maastricht, Netherlands. Webpage:

<https://www.luwg2022.nl/>

☞ New Books

Sustainable Soil Management as a key to preserve Soil Biodiversity and stop its Degradation

Editors: Laura Berta Reyes-Sánchez, Rainer Horn, Edoardo A.C. Costantini.



Most organisms in terrestrial ecosystems develop at least a part of their life cycle in soil habitats or live in them, making the soil resource the most important reservoir of global biodiversity. Soil biodiversity plays a fundamental role in the proper functioning of all terrestrial ecosystems as well as economic, social, and human services that guarantee both human well-being and the existence of life on Earth.

In this regard, Soil Biodiversity was proposed as a current topic of great scientific, social, economic, and political importance for the present IUSS book as a document that had to be written from an interdisciplinary perspective and starting on the current state of the art in this area.

For more information please follow this [Link](#)

Advances in measuring soil health

Editor: Professor Wilfred Otten.

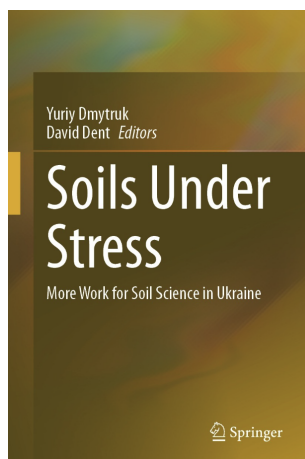


This new book reviews the development of better analytical techniques to measure the biological, physical and chemical properties of soils and discusses their implications for better management of farm soils. The collection also surveys developments in measuring soil physical properties through advances in visual, imaging and geophysical techniques, as well as the methods used to measure chemical properties such as soil organic carbon.

For more information please follow this [Link](#)

Soil Under Stress. More Work for Soil Science in Ukraine

Editors: Yuriy Dmytruk, David Dent.



Dokuchaev carried out most of his research in Ukraine. His student and friend, Volodymyr

Vernadsky, went on to create trans-disciplinary environmental sciences and the concept of Earth as a living organism, famously taken up by James Lovelock. Soils have always been under stress but, in the Anthropocene, mankind is in the driving seat. As a sequel to Soil Science Working for a Living: Applications of soil science to present-day problems, we consider issues of policy as well as soil genesis, attributes and functions in various environments, natural and man-made. We consider human impacts on the soil cover through its use and misuse, highlight methods of research and assessment of soil quality, and the threats of soil degradation. The distinguished contributors also describe and propose various options for the evaluation and remediation of degraded soils, drawing on the latest methods of modelling and cartography as well as long-term field experiments and long experience.

For more information please follow this [Link](#)

Conservation Agriculture: A Sustainable Approach for Soil Health and Food Security

Editors: Somasundaram Jayaraman, Ram C. Dalal, Ashok K. Patra, Suresh K. Chaudhari.



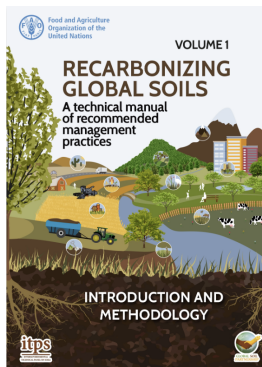
Following the increasing global population, which is projected to reach ~10 billion by 2050, there has been increasing demand for more improved/sustainable agricultural management practices that can be followed by farmers to improve productivity without jeopardizing the environment and ecosystem. Indeed, about 95% of our food directly or indirectly comes from soil. It is a precious resource, and sustainable soil management is a critical socio-economic and environmental issue. Maintaining environmental sustainability while the world is facing resource degradation, increasing

climate change and population explosion is the current challenge of every food production sector. Thus, there is an urgent need to evolve a holistic approach such as conservation agriculture to sustain higher crop productivity in the country without deteriorating soil health.

For more information please follow this [Link](#)

Recarbonizing global soils – A technical manual of recommended management practices

Editor: Global Soil Partnership



This technical manual is the first attempt to gather, in a standardized format, the existing data on the impacts of the main soil management practices on SOC content in a wide array of environments, including the advantages, drawbacks and constraints. This manual introduces different sustainable soil management practices in different contexts, supported by case studies that have been shown with quantitative data to have a positive effect on SOC stocks and successful experiences of SOC sequestration in practical field applications.

For more information please follow this [Link](#)

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

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