

WASWC HOT NEWS 2008 (05) MAY 12, 2008

Compiled and sent out monthly by Samran Sombatpanit, Editor

Pls send your contributions/ information for next issue/s of HOT NEWS and WASWC Newsletter to sombatpanit@yahoo.com and samran_sombatpanit@yahoo.com

This document is NOT properly edited, to enable a quick release, to meet many deadlines.

Previous information is available on the website <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>, subpage WASWC HOT NEWS

REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

These are what every one of us can do to help mitigate global climate change - our imminent threat.



PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE YOU PRINT THIS HOT NEWS

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Can you help Burmese people a bit?



I am sure everyone has heard of the cyclone Nargis that has recently killed almost 30,000 people in Myanmar and affected several hundred thousand more. If you can help, even with a small amount of money, that would help alleviate the sorrow of a number of people in this world, the only one world that we share. Many Burmese people are waiting for your help.

I got to know from a colleague in Chiang Mai yesterday that a donation if made through the website www.foundationburma.org your money will get through to the hand of the needy, or you may contact the following e-mail address rookezobrist@hotmail.com for other alternatives. (In case you want to donate through WASWC, please see how to

send money to us at the last page of this HOT NEWS). Or you can donate through your or other organization close to your base that involves in this humanitarian activity, or a lot of other charity organizations:

<http://www.networkforgood.org/topics/international/cyclone/myanmar0508.aspx?source=YAHOO&cmpgn=NEWS>.

See the letter below, which is from a Burmese in Yangon who has first-hand knowledge of the catastrophe there and has asked for help:

"Few colleagues and I drove to outlying townships today - we focused on the areas in which we started our work with Foundation for the People of Burma. In a Hindu temple ceremony hall - there are 800 people camped out with less than satisfactory sanitation, diminishing clean water supply and very little else than rice porridge in the last two days. We headed over to Hlaing Thaya and before we even got to the monastery where we help out - stopped in an elementary school that had around 300 homeless people with a broken water pump. Across the way, in another temple, we saw another 250 or so from the same village where thatch houses had been totally smashed by cyclone Nargis. We then went to the opposite side of the city -Shwebaukan- to the 11th and 12th quarters. Up to 500 people in one school – being threatened by the local army guy that they could not stay there for long, and further a village of people with NO building for shelter, no clean water and a foot of flood water beneath/in each more or less roofless house. I went to Insein yesterday where drinking water is very scarce. The Karen Women's Group will assess the most urgent needs of families there and tell us tomorrow.

"The Myanmar Red Cross was in Yankin today - but does not have enough supplies of rice or water and needs donations.

"The regime is busy chopping up fallen trees on roads - mostly in rich areas in town and is beginning to work on electric poles - in rich areas of town. Survival for the poor or communication with citizenry is not their forte. They even neglect their own... As I passed some soldiers cutting trees yesterday, I asked if they'd eaten breakfast. Of course not! So, I went back home to get them some bread.

"There is a big issue of Myanmar government wanting supplies but not relief personnel to come into the country. After today's slight confrontation with this Shwebaukan thug trying to control things, I understand why.

"We've identified these communities linked to us already - around 3,000+ people. We figure we will need to raise at least \$150,000 in the coming weeks - just to keep these communities afloat until some of the markets get up and running. We're concentrating on food/water/ medicine first. We will be responsible for delivery, the monks will deliver food (some of which will feed them, too). We have a budget-savvy assistant who will handle fund transfers and communication.

"There are other NGOs here - Metta Foundation, IDE, Hope International, etc who will work in the Delta region. We can only take care of what we know. If any of you have ideas for fundraising - can you contact rookezobrist@hotmail.com or check the Foundation for the People of Burma website www.foundationburma.org – they have a link with a pay pal type thing for donations. hank you so much for your support."



Irrawaddy delta of Myanmar on April 15 and May 5, 2008

MESSAGE FROM ISCO PRESIDENT

Dear Participants to the 15th ISCO in Hungary,
Please find below information on presentations.

Oral presentations

Keynote presentations: 30 minutes

Each oral contribution will have altogether 15 minutes including discussions. Projector will be available at the congress. Please bring your **PowerPoint presentation in Microsoft Powerpoint 2000 (Microsoft Office 2000) format** on CD or pendrive to the congress. Please hand over your presentation upon arrival at the registration desk!!

Poster presentations

Poster size:

Maximum width: 80 cm

Maximum height: 100 cm

Please put out your poster in the morning of the day of your session and take it down at the end of the day.

Best wishes on behalf of the Organizing Committee

Prof. Ádám Kertész

ISCO President

AWARDS/ PRIZES/ FUNDS

▲▲▲ OTHER GRANTS-AWARDS from F. X. Browne, Inc. website

http://www.fxbrowne.com/html/newsletters/May_2008/news_may08.htm

[PennVEST Infrastructure Loans/Grants](#)

[Conservation Security Program Sign-up](#)

[PADEP Growing Greener Grants](#)

[PA Invasive Species Volunteer Monitoring Training](#)

[Southcentral PA Riparian and Ag BMP Initiative](#)

[Kodak American Greenways Awards Program](#)

[Wissahickon Water Quality Improvement Grants](#)

[Northeastern Pennsylvania's Environmental Partnership Awards](#)

[Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Poetry, Essay and Photography Contest](#)

[PA Recycling Development and Implemental Grants](#)

[2008 Central Catskill Smart Growth Program](#)

[NY Hudson River Estuary Grant Program](#)

[EPA Region 3 Environmental Achievement Awards](#)

[PA Boating Facilities Grant Program](#)

JOBS

▲ **Postdoctoral Position.** Department of Geography, Rutgers University. Web Site:

<http://geography.rutgers.edu/>. Closing Date for Application: **June 1, 2008**

Methods to Foster Community Participation in Marine Resource Science and Management

The Department of Geography seeks to appoint a postdoctoral research fellow for a fixed period of one year beginning September 2008. The appointee will take the lead on a project designed to make available,

via a dedicated website, information related to Northeast U.S. coastal communities' use of the marine environment. GIS and community generated maps, interview narratives, and analytical reports will make up the

content for the website. Such information is increasingly important to both coastal communities and marine resource managers interested to foster greater community participation in marine science and management.

The ideal appointee should have a strong interest in participatory forms of resource management, political ecology, and community-based approaches. In addition, the ideal appointee should have, or be interested to develop, technical skills related to GIS database development and web-based delivery of GIS generated maps. Key tasks in the project include the transcription and coding of interviews, digitizing hand drawn maps, GIS analysis, integrating interview excerpts and maps into on-line stories and reports, archiving and database management, and hosting a community-based workshop where website design and content will be reviewed and the project assessed.

Inquires are welcome. Also, to apply, please send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and contact information for three people willing to write letters of recommendation upon request to: Kevin St. Martin; Rutgers University, Department of Geography, 54 Joyce Kilmer Drive, Piscataway NJ 08854-8045. kstmarti@rci.rutgers.edu

▲ Professor of Biochar and Soil Science Research, New Zealand



Massey University

Massey University seeks to appoint a world-class Soil Scientist or Agronomist with experience in research on carbon and nutrient management in agricultural systems to co-lead a Government-funded research programme into the potential for Biochar to

mitigate and possibly offset greenhouse gas emissions from New Zealand agricultural and forestry systems. You will have experience of research at both laboratory and field-scales and be able to work collaboratively with industry and other research partners. For further information contact Professor Mike Hedley via email at M.Hedley@massey.ac.nz For further information and to apply online, visit <http://jobs.massey.ac.nz>

NEW INFORMATION SOURCES

(This is a new column; every item is new every time)

BOOKS

▲ [CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA: Impact Assessment and Adaptation Strategies](#) Ariel Dinar, Rashid Hassan, Robert Mendelsohn and James Benhin and others

[Climate Change and Agriculture in Africa](#) encompasses a comprehensive quantitative analysis and assessment of the extent of potential economic impacts of future climate change, and value of adaptation measures in Africa for different zones, regions, countries and farm types.

Published with CEEPA and the World Bank

[READ MORE/ORDER ONLINE](#) – Get your 10% discount with the code **ClimateChangeMay08**

▲ [CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBALIZATION IN THE ARCTIC: An Integrated Approach to Vulnerability Assessment](#)

E. Carina H. Keskitalo

[Climate Change and Globalization in the Arctic](#) presents the latest research in the rapidly growing field of climate change vulnerability assessment. Drawing upon case studies of forestry, fishing and animal husbandry in the European North, it assesses the degree to which stakeholders

find adaptation to climate change possible in a way that could be generalized to other geographic areas or sectors characterized by renewable natural resource use.

[READ MORE/ORDER ONLINE](#) - Get your 10% discount with the code **ClimateChangeMay08**

▲ Visual Soil Assessment (VSA) Home

Environmental and economic sustainability of cropping and pastoral farms can be greatly influenced by soil quality. The visual soil assessment method (VSA) provides land managers with a simple tool to assess and monitor soil quality. Visual soil properties are diagnostic of soil quality, and provide an effective and immediate way to assess soil quality quickly and cheaply in the field.

VSA is based on the visual scoring of key bio-physical indicators of soil quality, and incorporated on an easy to use scorecard. The soil indicators are supported by plant 'performance' indicators that link soil condition to crop production. The indicators are underpinned by extensive research and are linked to economic performance. Soil indicators used are generic, and have the advantage of being largely independent of soil type. This enables VSA to be applied throughout the country.

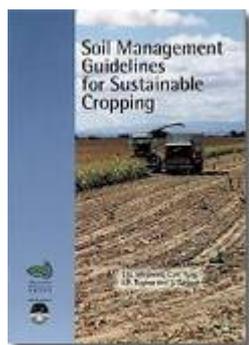
The [VSA Field Guide](#), contains all the information necessary to carry out VSA on your land. The guide is currently **out of print**. [All four volumes](#) are available for download as PDF files.

Contact:



Allan Hewitt [Email](#)

Landcare Research
PO Box 40
Lincoln 7640
Phone: 03 321 9999
DDI: 03 321 9698
Fax: 03 321 9998



Soil Management Guidelines for Sustainable Cropping

T G Shepherd, C W Ross, L R Basher, & S Saggar

\$NZ 19.95 (+ shipping)

[▶ Add to shopping cart](#)

[▶ e-mail to a friend](#)

[▶ Add to wish list](#)

Healthy soil is productive soil and the keys to maintaining soil health can be found in this full colour booklet. Devised by

experienced Landcare Research soil scientists, it is a practical, easy to follow manual which will help farmers and vegetable growers manage their soils sustainably.

Visual soil assessment methods are given as a tool to gauge the soil condition. Best soil management practices are suggested to achieve and maintain healthy soil. Issues covered include machinery compaction, erosion and loss of soil organic matter. The booklet is concluded by a useful summary of take home messages.

The crucial balance between conservation and productivity is addressed. The conclusions deliver a positive message for the arable farmer: improved soil quality can lead to improved yields, greater profits, and environmentally friendly farming. Clear photographs help to make this an indispensable self-help guide.

2000, Colour photos, 26pp,
295x210mm, soft cover, \$19.95

Categories:

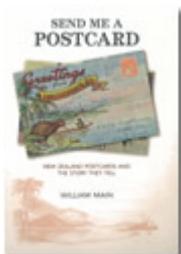
- [Farming](#)
- [Land Management](#)
- [Soil Management](#)

<http://www.mwpress.co.nz/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=326>

PRODUCT DETAILS:

Title:	Soil Management Guidelines for Sustainable Cropping
Author:	T G Shepherd, C W Ross, L R Basher, & S Saggar
ISBN:	0-478-09338-1
List price:	\$19.95
Format:	Paperback
Illustrations:	Colour photos; Black & white illustrations;
Pages:	26
Publisher:	Manaaki Whenua Press
Publication date:	2000

HIGHLIGHTS AND PROMOTIONS:



**Send Me A Postcard: New Zealand postcards
and the story they tell**

William Main

Price \$34.99

[More » »](#)

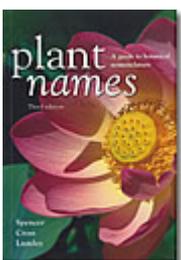


**Carbon Neutral by 2020: How New
Zealanders can tackle climate
change**

Niki Harré & Quentin D. Atkinson

Price \$35.00

[More » »](#)

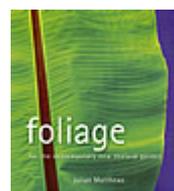


**Plant Names : A guide to botanical
nomenclature, Third Edition**

Roger Spencer, Rob Cross and Peter Lumley

Price \$44.95

[More » »](#)



**Foliage for the Contemporary New
Zealand Garden**

Julian Matthews

Price \$39.99

[More » »](#)

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▲ Guidelines on Nitrogen Management in Agricultural Systems



This publication is the fourth in the IAEA Training Course Series produced by the Soil and Water Management and Crop Nutrition Sub-Programme. It was conceived as a technically oriented document for a target audience

comprising soil and environmental scientists and technicians, agronomists, ecologists, extension workers, and upper-level undergraduate and graduate students in these disciplines, staff of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders involved in sustainable agricultural development at local, national, regional and international levels. The manual (237 pp) can be freely downloaded, click [here](#)

No-Till Farming Systems book

Special Publication No. 3 of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation - <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>, www.waswc.org, edited by: T. Goddard, M. Zebisch, Y. Gan, W. Ellis, A. Watson and S. Sombatpanit. Thirty-four contributions from renowned experts and practitioners around the world provide a comprehensive review of the rapid growth of no-till, the barriers that have been overcome and the challenges that still lie ahead. Chapters cover current research and new directions as well as policy needs, adoption and extension. Five other new books on the topic are also reviewed.

ISBN: 978-974-8391-60-1, 544 pages. Depending on the destination, price ranges from US\$15-20 per one set (book + CD described below) including delivery (Asean: \$15; Other Asian countries: \$16; Africa, Australia, Europe, Oceania: \$18; Western Hemisphere: \$20). Up to now, more than 9,000 copies have been distributed worldwide.

For details please contact Samran Sombatpanit (sombatpanit@yahoo.com, <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn>), WASWC Immediate Past President and Coordinator.

CD on NO-TILL and Other Works from CIMMYT, CIRAD, FAO, ICRISAT, LDD, USDA, WASWC, etc

This CD was planned as a collection of supplementary reference materials, to serve as a companion to the printed book *No-Till Farming Systems* (2008). This CD is entitled the **25th Anniversary Souvenir Edition** of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC – established 1983) and it is a contribution to the **International Year of Planet Earth**. There are 17 sections, comprising 1,008 files in 106 folders, mostly in PDF, PPT, Word, describing no-till and other related SWC works from many national and international organizations. An application form is also provided for those who wish to join WASWC.

WASWC's publications are available widely and inexpensively. This CD, if purchased separately, costs US\$5/copy, with delivery to any post address worldwide. You are most welcome to reproduce and use all materials in any form, without restriction. To get your copy(ies) please contact Samran Sombatpanit at sombatpanit@yahoo.com.

BULLETIN-NEWSLETTER



▲ New and old – all on the web www.iuss.org

A new IUSS Bulletin has been published – number 112. In this Bulletin, there are four short articles on long-term soil research, on arsenic irrigation water, on land degradation, and on the need for soil policies in developing countries. The five questions to a soil scientist are answered by Roland Poss, Hans-Peter Blume, Hossein Khademi, Pandi Zdruli and Tibor Toth. Sergey Goryachkin and Mary Idowu discuss their favourite books. Furthermore, Don Nielsen won the Don and Betty Kirkham medal and there are also three obituaries, reports of meetings and a whole series of new publications reviewed by Hans van Baren. There is a high resolution PDF of

28.3 Mb and a low resolution version of 3.9 Mb.

The Bulletin of the International Society of Soil Science (now IUSS) has been published since 1952 and all ISSS/IUSS Bulletins have been scanned and are available on the IUSS Website as PDF. Happy reading! We are now starting to digitise all World Congress of Soil Science Proceedings back to 1927, and part of our photo archives – some of them are already on the website under IUSS INFORMATION.

▲ Please find Outreach Issues for Saturday 9th May at <http://www.sdin-ngo.net/publications/outreachissues.html>

▲ Please find Outreach Issues for Monday 12th May at <http://www.sdin-ngo.net/>

This issues covers:

Page 1	Small Islands, Big Problems
Page 2	Yale Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy
Page 3	Half-Way Through and Running on Empty
Page 4	The UN Watercourses Convention
Page 6	Sanitation Reaches the End of the Beginning (Perhaps)
Page 7	Environmental Champions League
Page 9	CSD is Education & Reconstruction with Transformation: Changing the Way We Rebuild
Page 10	Farming WITH Nature, Not AGAINST
Page 10	Agrofuels or Biofuels?
Page 11	Who Will Talk to the Farmers?
Page 12	Food for Thought: Global Security at Stake

Felix Dodds

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Web site: www.stakeholderforum.org

- Felix Dodds latest book is **Human and Environmental Security: An Agenda for Change**, edited with Tim Pippard

- Felix Dodds next book will be **Climate and Energy Insecurity** edited with Richard Sherman out Oct 2008

JOURNAL

▲ Dear Scientist,

You and your colleagues are cordially invited to publish research papers in the **Journal of Food, Agriculture and Environment – JFAE** <http://www.isfae.org/publishurwork.php>

Following is the List of the new articles published in the Journal JFAE Vol. 6(2) 2008,

<http://www.isfae.org/scientificjournal/2008/issue2.php>

<http://www.isfae.org/scientificjournal/2008/issue2.php>

Print and Online Journal: Print ISSN: 1459-0255 / Online ISSN: 1459-0263

Journal Contents

Section: Food and Health

Section: Agriculture

Section: Environment

Research and News

WEBSITES

▲ **Thai Translation of Crop Biotech Update**

A Thai version of the Crop Biotech Update (CBU), the weekly e-newsletter of the Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology is now available for downloading at <http://www.isaaa.org/kc>. The Biofuels Supplement is also translated every two weeks and appears along with the CBU. The CBU is also available in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Bangla, Chinese (Mandarin), French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese and Thai.

▲ **Wetland Buffer Planning Guidebook Released**

The Planner's Guide to Wetland Buffers for Local Governments, from the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), identifies both the state-of-the-art and the range of current practice in protection of wetland buffers by local governments. The guide book presents ELI's detailed examination of more than 50 enacted wetland buffer ordinances around the nation and nine model ordinances, as well as several hundred scientific studies and analyses of buffer performance. The Guide provides to local governments considering enacting or amending a wetland buffer ordinance what they need to know to manage land use and development in these important areas. http://www.elistore.org/reports_detail.asp?ID=11272

▲ **New EPA Watershed Handbook Online**

EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds released an online document to help readers develop and implement watershed plans to meet water quality standards and protect water resources. The "Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters" is designed to help anyone undertaking a watershed planning effort, but should be particularly useful to persons working with impaired or threatened waters. It contains in-depth guidance on quantifying existing pollutant loads, developing estimates of the load reductions required to meet water quality standards, developing effective management measures, and tracking progress once the plan is implemented. New materials were added to the handbook including ways to protect important elements of the landscape and aquatic habitats within a watershed. http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook/

▲ **Study Examines Wetlands Programs in Each of the 50 States**

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) announces the publication of State Wetland Protection: Status, Trends and Model Approaches. This report examines state-level efforts to protect wetland resources. Research for the report is based on a 50-state study conducted by the Environmental Law Institute with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The report examines seven core elements of all 50 states' wetland programs (regulatory programs, water quality standards, monitoring and assessment, restoration, public-private partnerships, coordination, and education and outreach) and outlines model approaches. http://www.elistore.org/reports_detail.asp?ID=11279

▲ **Historic Water Bodies Celebrate Quadricennial**

Next year, 2009, marks the 400th anniversary of the voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain along the water bodies that bear their names. New York has also included recognition of Robert Fulton's steamboat journey up the Hudson (1807) as part of the official commemoration. The Quadricennial Legacy Program will be rolled out over several years is intended to focus on conservation of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain. NYSDEC will develop plans to provide more waterway access, protect open spaces, improve water quality and restore signature species and habitats of these waterways. Action plans for the river and the lake will guide these efforts. Keep an eye on the Quadricennial website over the next year to keep track of the program. Among the goals is to provide a "State of the Lake" report for Lake Champlain and a "State of the River" report for the Hudson. DEC will prepare a report on the river using high-tech maps and digitized comparisons and provide Web resources and curriculum materials. <http://www.exploreny400.com/>

▲ **Samran: I would love to have you join my website. I need your type of scientist on there.**

Grand Opening of DrTom Building an Environmental Community <http://www.drTom.tv>
(Please bookmark this url)

This month is the Grand Opening of my online portal. The portal, or website, will be dedicated to providing information, provocative discussion, links to relevant sites, and videos on environmental issues, natural history of plants and animals, and conservation of biodiversity for the global community. Perhaps most importantly, the “social networking” functionality of the site makes it a sort of “facebook for ecologists”, which should facilitate your finding a volunteer or paid position, a major advisor, a field technician, a graduate student, or professionals with similar interests.

I am able to reach many more people on the web with conservation messages than I would ever be able to achieve in the classroom and I have complete control over the content on this site. I am particularly excited about the production of original short videos about the environment; we begin filming the first in this series soon in Thailand. For a detailed description of my philosophy with respect to this new venture, please read the “WHAT THIS PORTAL IS ABOUT” on the home page at www.drTom.tv.

I am also developing an online business around this venue (click on the tab that says “DrTom’s EcoStore”). In this store, you will find hundreds of items used by the nature lover, ecologist, birder, environmentalist, and world traveler. I have books on ecology and the environment, Rick Steves’ travel guides, and field guides to the birds of nearly every region or country of the world; binoculars, spotting scopes, night-vision scopes, cameras, and other optical equipment; outdoor clothing and footwear; GPS units, satellite phones, and outdoor watches; and even bird feeders. You can buy any of these items from Amazon.com as well, but I would appreciate your business and you do not pay one cent more when purchasing these items from my EcoStore. In addition, there are banner ads that take you to merchants who sell organic Fair Trade coffee, CFL light bulbs, natural cosmetics, landscaping items, adventure travel, and more.

Let me mention just a few features of this site.

1. Direct communication with other members can occur in three ways:
 - a. leave a private message in their mailbox
 - b. instant messaging for real-time, one on one conversations
 - c. chat room, where groups of people can hold a discussion or a meeting

2. “Groups” feature, which currently consists of four groups. You can choose to join as many groups, or none at all, as you want. And you can create a new group at any time:
 - a. Educators--where those interested in teaching environmental education can share ideas.
 - b. Researchers--where those of us doing field or lab research work can get feedback on our ideas, ask for help, discuss the philosophy of what we are doing, etc.
 - c. BackPackers--a group interested in hearing about research or other educational opportunities in the world, paid or volunteer. This is a great place to list internships, scholarships, and research positions.
 - d. Cornellians-for information and announcements especially for the Cornell community.

3. State of the art search engine for finding “green” links, coming soon.

4. Regular features like Book Reviews, Taxonomy Matters!, A Planet in Peril, and Featured Biological Stations.

This effort is being promoted by Buzz Technologies, Inc. and its CEO, who is an environmentalist. He is using his resources to brand “DrTom” through a variety of mechanisms. For example, the portal will be featured on a satellite television channel owned by Buzz that currently has 100 million Chinese subscribers; the channel will be launched this spring. This website will also be promoted using some sophisticated SEO techniques on the web. But to access all of the features of this richly functional site, you need to register. Joining is free and takes only about a minute.

I am extremely excited about the educational and business potential that this opportunity presents. I am hopeful that DrTom Building an Environmental Community will prove to be a valuable resource, especially in developing countries. But the content becomes richer with your help, so I strongly encourage you to contribute by writing about your favorite environmental issue or topic. My colleagues and friends from academia will be encouraged to join the portal, and to contribute material to enrich the site. Let's have some fun!

Dr. Thomas A. Gavin
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607-255-2841
Professional website: <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/people/faculty/profiles/gavin.html>
DrTom Building an Environmental Community: www.drTom.tv

▲ New portrait of the Earth



A new global portrait has been taken from space details Earth's land cover with a very high resolution. ESA, in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, recently presented the preliminary version of the map to scientists in Italy. This map, which will be made available to the public upon its completion in July, has a resolution 10 times sharper than any of its predecessors. The GlobCover product will

be the first freely available product at 300m resolution, for further information click [here](#)

▲ The Global Earth Observations System of Systems

<http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss.shtml>



The **Global Earth Observation System Systems (GEOSS)** is an inter-governmental initiative to achieve comprehensive, coordinated and sustained observations of the Earth system. It aims to improve monitoring of the changing state of the planet, increase understanding of complex Earth processes and enhance prediction of the Earth system. With a focus on access and sharing of Earth observation data and products, there has been significant advancement in the definition of interoperability standards and mechanisms for the allocation and use of data and

information products, and in the synergetic system development resulting in improved data access and data sharing. The GEO Web Portal and Clearinghouse aim to provide a single interface for access to GEOSS data and information; and GEONETCast, a satellite-based dissemination system, allows users to access real-time, global, Earth observation data and derived information.

CD-DVD

▲ "Lessons of the Loess Plateau"

We are going to start selling the DVD **"Lessons of the Loess Plateau"** relatively cheaply for 100 RMB apiece or around 15 dollars. This should cover the shipping and the price would be less for larger orders.

John D. Liu

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johnliu@eemp.org, john.liu@bbsrc.ac.uk, www.eemp.org, www.earthshope.org

APPOINTMENT

Jia Hepeng, 23 August 2007, Source: SciDev.Net

[BEIJING] The appointment of a leading Chinese scientist at the world's major agricultural research body is expected to better apply Chinese resources and expertise to the global fight against poverty. Wang Ren was this week (22 August) announced as the first Chinese scientist to be appointed director of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a major agricultural research consortium launched by the World Bank to help the poor countries. "I think my work here is like a platform, or a catalyst, to promote the partnership between international agricultural development agencies and China's agricultural research and aid," said Wang.

An entomologist by training, Wang has been the deputy director general for research at the CGIAR-supported International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines since 2000. He has also served as vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) since 1995. According to Wang, China has good expertise in practical farming, mountain development strategies and small agricultural mechanical technologies — valuable resources to help other developing countries.

China has gradually increased its international aid, especially to African countries, in recent years. However, says Wang, few Chinese aid programmes involve local organisations and experienced international aid agencies. For example, Chinese experts sent to help Nigeria increase rice output were unaware of endemic plant diseases and local varieties, so the programme failed to produce any commercially sustainable practices.

Wang believes that he can help Chinese policymakers and scientists become more aware of organisations like CGIAR and promote public-private partnerships involving the Chinese government, Chinese institutions and companies, and international organisations. Huang Dafang, a leading scientist at CAAS, says while China has had some agricultural expertise close to that in the developing world, the country is struggling to catch up with the West in many frontiers of agricultural science. "I think Wang's position at CGIAR is a chance to help explore suitable Chinese technologies and expertise to help other developing countries," Huang told SciDev.Net.

<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readNews&itemid=3845&language=1>

Related SciDev.Net articles:

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['Indefinite funding' safeguards biodiversity of rice](#)

Related links: Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

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IMPORTANT

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MEETINGS 2008

Note: For the following events, please kindly refer to the WASWC HOT NEWS for January 2008 at <http://waswc.soil.gd.cn/hotnews.html>.

- Historical and Temporary Perspectives on Rural Water Governance, July 6-11
- 3rd Global workshop, September 30-October 3, 2008
- Rainforests and Agroforestry, October 5-9, 2008

May 18-23, 2008

15th Conference of the

International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO)

Soil and Water Conservation, Climate Change and Environmental Sensitivity

The Organizing Committee is pleased to invite you to participate in the 15th Conference of the International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) to be held in Budapest, Hungary, May 18-23, 2008. Attendees will include scientists, university lecturers, policy makers, and stakeholders from public and private institutions and non-governmental organization throughout the world. Four days of oral and poster presentations and a mid conference excursion will make the conference an event to be remembered.

Conference topics include: Soil Conservation, Climate change, Land degradation, Land use change, Water management, Soil erosion, Salinization, Desertification, Soil rehabilitation and management, Socio-economic aspects of land degradation, and Legislative and Institutional aspects of soil and water conservation All interested persons are invited to give oral or poster presentations. Submission of papers require that one of the authors is registered at the Congress.

Venue: Budapest Congress & World Trade Center, H-1123 Budapest, Jagelló út 1-3.

Mailing address: Geographical Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences H-1112 Budapest, Budaörsi út 45 Hungary. isco2008@imperialroads.hu

Contact the Organizing Committee: Ádám Kertész – kertesza@helka.iif.hu Tel & Fax: 36-1 309-2686; Alexandra Kovács, szandra@sparc.core.hu, www.isco2008.com OR www.isco.org

May 29, 2008

National Seminar on Agricultural Bioethics in Indonesia

"A bioethics review on the development and application of agricultural science and technology for human welfare sustainability" is the theme of a National Seminar on Agricultural Bioethics in Indonesia on May 29, 2008 at the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources Research and Development (ICABIOGRAD), Indonesia. The seminar is organized by the Indonesian National Bioethics Commission, with the cooperation of the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD), State Ministry of Research and Technology, Ministry of Environment, Indonesian Breeding Association, Indonesia Society for Microbiology and Indonesian Society for Agricultural Biotechnology.

The event aims to obtain knowledge and information on bioethics study in the agriculture field (plant, livestock, and agricultural microbe) from agricultural stakeholders. It will also discuss the role of Indonesian National Bioethics Commission regarding science and technology development and the need for bioethics principles.

Visit <http://www.indoplasma.or.id/> or email genres@indo.net.id and idaorbani@yahoo.com for more details on this event. For more news on crop biotech in Indonesia email Dewi Suryani of the Indonesian Biotechnology Information Center at dewisuryani@biotrop.org

June 3-5, 2008

FAO will host a high-level international Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy in Rome from June 3 to 5, 2008.

Heads of State and Government and ministers will discuss the current global food situation with soaring food prices, how climate change affects agriculture, and how agriculture can contribute to reduce climate change. <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/focus/2008/1000829/index.html>

The objective of this conference is to assist countries and the international community in finding sustainable solutions by identifying the policies, strategies and programmes required to safeguard world food security.

The event will deliver the following:

- Identification of the new challenges facing world food security, supply and demand side, policies and market structure.
- A better understanding of the nexus between food security, climate change and bioenergy.

- Identification of a process for institutional action for the integration of food security safeguards into international climate-related and sustainable bioenergy agreements.
- Discussion and adoption of required policies, strategies and programmes for ensuring world food security, in particular measures to address soaring food prices.
- A Declaration on “World Food Security and required actions.”

Accreditation for journalists: [Click here](#) to download an advance accreditation form. Forms should be returned to the FAO Press Office via email (mediapass@fao.org) or regular post or courier to FAO - Press Office (KCIM A309), Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy **no later than 26 May 2008**.

Attendance confirmed:

- Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General
- Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of Argentina
- Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil
- Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France

July 3, 2008



CCF / RELU SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

Future farming in the UK: global implications for society and biodiversity

New Hall, Cambridge 09.20 – 17.10 Thursday 3rd July 2008

The symposium aims to identify likely trends in agriculture in the UK over the next 10-20 years, their biodiversity and socio-economic impacts in the UK and elsewhere, and possible mitigation measures.

Speakers

●●● ***International and national drivers of agricultural trends*** ●●●

Professor Ian Hodge (University of Cambridge)

Professor Andrew Watkinson (Tyndall Centre)

David Baldock (Institute for European Environmental Policy)

●●● **Biodiversity and ecosystem service impacts and challenges** ●●●

Dr Diana Mortimer (JNCC)

Professor Paul Armsworth (University of Sheffield)

Dr Peter Brotherton (Natural England)

●●● **Mitigation opportunities** ●●●

Professor Joe Morris (Cranfield University)

Dr Juliet Vickery (BTO)

Paul Wilkinson (The Wildlife Trusts – East of England)

●●● **10-point action plans** ●●●

Nicholas Watts (Vine House Farm)

Dr Mark Avery (RSPB)

Professor Gareth Edwards-Jones (University of Bangor)

Professor Chris Garforth (University of Reading)

For a full programme, venue details and booking form see www.cambridgeconservationforum.org.uk

Or send a £30 cheque payable to Cambridge Conservation Forum and your name, affiliation, email, telephone number and any special dietary or other requirements to Chris Smith, Natural England, Zone H, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DR. Email Christopher.Smith@naturallengland.org.uk

BOOKING AND ADVANCE PAYMENT REQUIRED

July 7-9, 2008

[EU Emissions Trading 2008](#), Brussels, Belgium

July 14-18, 2008

2nd international conference on ground bio-and eco-engineering: the use of vegetation to improve Slope Stability, Beijing, China

This Conference is the second in the series ‘**The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability.**’ The first Congress was held at Thessaloniki, Greece, from 13 – 17 September 2004. In an era where more natural hazards are occurring; soil erosion, landslides and other catastrophic events cause loss of lives and infrastructure and major environmental damage. The aim of these meetings, therefore, is to bring together scientific researchers, practitioners, geotechnical and civil engineers, biologists, ecologists and foresters to discuss current problems in slope stability research and how to address those problems using ground bio- and eco-engineering techniques.

Ground bioengineering methods integrate civil engineering techniques with natural materials to obtain fast, effective and economic methods of protecting, restoring and maintaining the environment. Eco-engineering has been defined as a long-term ecological strategy to manage a site with regards to natural or man-made hazards. Conference sessions will focus on an area where such engineering techniques are used increasingly frequently (i.e. natural and man-made slopes). Papers will be presented on slope instability, erosion, soil hydrology, mountain ecology, land use and restoration and how to

mitigate these problems using vegetation. The mechanics of root-soil interaction are of utmost importance, along with the modelling of root reinforcement and the development of decision-support systems, areas where significant advances have been made in recent years. Proceedings will be published in a special edition of an international journal. We hope that you will be able to join us at this meeting, to be held in exciting Beijing, the 2008 Olympic City!

Organizing Committee:

T. Fourcaud, CIRAD, Montpellier, France / LIAMA-CASIA, Beijing, China.

L. Jouneau, INRA Jouy / LIAMA-CASIA, Beijing, China.

Henry Lu, WASWC, Beijing, China.

Y. Lu, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China.

T. Luo, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research CAS, Beijing, China.

J. Norris, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK.

I. Spanos, Nagref, Thessaloniki, Greece.

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X. Zhang, Liama-Casia Beijing, China.

*Conference Chair and for further information, please contact:

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<http://liama.ia.ac.cn>, <http://icgbe2.cirad.fr/>

Sponsors and Partners



July 22-24, 2008

FAO Technical Workshop for the Alleviation of Poverty in the Tropics

A Technical Workshop towards the Alleviation of Poverty in the Tropics, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome will be held on **22-24 July 2008**. About 80 public, private and civil society stakeholders across the four primary interest groups in policy, science and technology, field practice and financing and donor support, and those who have influence, commitment and capacity to make a difference will be invited. The forum will be held to: 1) describe the principles of conservation agriculture (CA) and to widen attention of potentially-supportive decision makers in policy-making, science & technology, practice, and financing; 2) discuss, suggest and agree on the chief forms of interlinking decisions and action which would provide positive encouragement of, and support to, farmers to make and sustain their transition to beneficial CA systems as most appropriate to their different agro-ecological and socio-economic situations; 3) pave the way for comparable fora to develop and function at continental, national and local levels; and 4) favor the development of an inter-connected community of practice around the subjects pertaining to and the benefits deriving from conservation agriculture.

For details of the training workshop, contact Theodor Friedrich (Theodor.Friedrich@fao.org), FAO, Rome; Amir Kassam (kassamamir@aol.com), TAA, UK; and Francis Shaxson (fshaxson@gotadsl.co.uk), TAA, UK.

July 28, 2008

Changing Lands and Waters: Conservation Challenges in North America's Coastal Zones

SWCS International Activities Committee - Symposium

10:30 am, July 28

Describing

- potential effects of global climate and population pressures on coastal zones land and water resources
- how the conservation community is monitoring of the effects of real and predicted changes in coastal zones of North America

The Symposium is a result of leadership by Demetrio P. Zourarakis, Kentucky Division of Geographic Information, Frankfort, KY.



www.banana2008.com

PURPOSE

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is organizing an Africa-based conference that will focus on banana and plantain research across Africa: lessons learnt and the way forward. Fostering international partnerships is a major objective of the conference, with particular emphasis to establish the role of research in promoting future commercial activities and trade in banana, plantain and ensete. There is an urgent need to target basic and applied research that connects to existing and emerging markets. This unique conference will be the first pan-African meeting to link research to markets in an African context. Key priorities:

- Develop an African strategy for the next decade to exploit banana and plantain research

- Strengthen research partnerships to overcome production bottlenecks

- Harmonize research with production trends, emerging markets and trade networks

This conference is urgently needed as banana and plantain are key staple crops in rural households in Africa. They are also being increasingly targeted for income generation through improved linkages with the private sector. The conference also intends to foster research and trade experiences from other commodities. The result of this meeting will be to fully realize the potential of this crucial crop for poverty alleviation and wealth generation.

This conference is being organized in partnership with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Biodiversity International, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). We invite you to join us towards a successful and fruitful conference.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference will attract an audience with varied but complementary experiences in order to optimize its impact in Africa. This conference will harness experiences from scientists and stakeholders from within and outside Africa. The Scientific Committee is composed of internationally recognized experts to ensure the highest quality of speakers, presentations and papers. Open forum discussions and plenary presentations will be led by prominent keynote speakers and supported by presentations covering both scientific and commercial issues. Further interaction will be stimulated by a comprehensive poster session, field visits and demonstrations.

The conference will be hosted by Leisure Lodge Resort on a beautiful stretch of the Kenyan coast near Mombasa. The Resort is of the highest standard with state-of-the-art conference and recreational facilities. A superb package of pre- and post-conference tours is available for delegates and their families.

REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION

The aim is to maintain an affordable rate of 340 USD for registration and 102 USD per night for full-board accommodation. Registration and more information is available on the conference website:

www.banana2008.com

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Thomas Dubois
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Tel: +256 752787808
Email: t.dubois@cgiar.org
URL: www.banana2008.com

Jeffrey T. Oliver
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IITA - Headquarters, Nigeria
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Email: o.jeffrey@cgiar.org
URL: www.iita.org

November 17-20, 2008

The 2nd announcement of the FORTROP II International Conference, 17-20 November 2008, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, for your information.

Contact: *Shingo Shibata*
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Other events in 2008 from F. X. Browne, Inc. website

http://www.fxbrowne.com/html/newsletters/May_2008/news_may08.htm

[EPA Watershed Webcasts](#)

[EPA Stormwater Webcasts](#)

[PA Dirt and Gravel Road ESM Workshops](#)

[Pennsylvania River Sojourns](#)

[2008 Brownfields Conference](#)

[EPA Climate Change Webcast](#)

[ME River Management Symposium](#)

[World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2008](#)

[PA GIS Conference](#)

[National WQ Monitoring Conference](#)

[NEIWPC Annual Conference](#)

[Sustainable Infrastructure Forum for Water and Wastewater](#)

[PA Water, Sewer & Stormwater Management Conference](#)

[Society of Wetland Scientists International Conference](#)

[PA Outdoor Lighting Workshops for Municipal Planners](#)

[PA Agriculture and Environment Conference](#)

[PA Source Water Protection Workshop](#)

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[EPA Water Quality Standards Academy Course](#)

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3-2. Organization subscription (OS): is the same as the **Organization membership** but the organization wants to limit its involvement only as a **subscriber**.

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