

Lars J. Munkholm

It is summertime in the Northern Hemisphere – this means for many of us that it is time to recharge the batteries after a busy semester and/or field work season. Holidays play a key role in this respect – but it is also high season to get recharged professionally via meetings, workshops and conferences. The recently held ISTRO branch conference in Croatia is prime example of this where about 100 participants from 25 countries met and discussed "*Sustainability challenges in agroecosystems*" (see report below). Upcoming meetings in Nigeria and Iran are other examples.

Next year, the 21<sup>st</sup> ISTRO Conference in Paris, September 24-27, 2018 will be a key opportunity for you to get updated on Soil and Tillage Research. This ISTROINFO includes updates on the conference (see below). Our young members should pay special attention to the opportunity of getting an ISTRO scholarship to attend the conference, as detailed below. ISTRO will again support four scholarships for the ISTRO conference; the Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship is open to young researchers from any country and the three other scholarships are open to young researchers from all countries except those classified as being "high-income."

The ISTRO conference will also be the time for changes in the ISTRO board. The President-elect becomes President and newly elected members are included in the Board. The elections will – as usual – be conducted electronically before the 2018 conference. This time there are 2 open ordinary Board positions and President-elect position (see below).

To ensure that you are eligible for scholarships, to vote and participate in the organization please ensure that your membership fees are up-to-date. *Branches* needs also to pay attention to this. If you are unsure about your membership status; simply email Treasurer Steve Prior (Steve.Prior@ars.usda.gov) and ask.

## ⌘ Nominations for President-elect

The opportunity to host the 2024 ISTRO conference is now open. As members may already be aware of, the main ISTRO conference is held every 3 years. The 21<sup>st</sup> conference will be held in Paris in 2018,

and the 22<sup>nd</sup> in Dublin in 2021. Those interested in holding the 23<sup>rd</sup> conference in 2024 should nominate for ISTRO President-elect (and thus serve on the ISTRO board). In the first instance, they should contact contact Secretary-General Blair McKenzie ([Blair.McKenzie@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:Blair.McKenzie@hutton.ac.uk)) or Assistant Secretary-General Lars Munkholm ([lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk](mailto:lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk)) to discuss their interest.

## ⌘ Nominations for Board positions

Nominations for two Board positions of 6 years and are now 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 an ISTRO Board 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 1 November 2017. Please use the email address [blair.mckenzie@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:blair.mckenzie@hutton.ac.uk) for this communication.

Depending upon the number of nominations received, the current ISTRO Board members will identify four potential Board candidates. A ballot will be prepared and distributed to members in good standing around 1 December, 2017. ISTRO members elected to these positions will assume their new positions following the 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial Conference in Paris, France in September 2018.

General requirements for Board members are to serve for a period of 6 years (2018 – 2024), to be available to attend pre- and post-conference Board meetings as well as a mid-congress Board meeting at the location of the 2021 and 2024 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, 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](mailto:Blair.McKenzie@hutton.ac.uk)) or Lars Munkholm ([lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk](mailto:lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk)).

Note that at the last ballot, Dr Ranjan Bhattacharyya was elected for 3 years to cover for the transfer of Dr Jean Roger-Estrade from board member to President. Dr Bhattacharyya is eligible to stand in this ballot.

## ⌘ Scholarships for ISTRO Conference 2018

### Four Scholarships to participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> ISTRO Conference in Paris, 24-27 September 2018.

The ISTRO Board has again approved scholarships for young researchers who are ISTRO members to attend the triennial ISTRO conference. Young is defined under the age of 40 on 24 September 2018. We are sponsoring four scholarships to support attendance at the 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial ISTRO conference from 24-27 September 2018 in Paris, France. Scholarship candidates must be current (i.e. dues up-to-date) members of ISTRO themselves and be nominated by a current member of ISTRO and not previously been awarded a scholarship.

All scholarships will be valued at up to 2,000 Euros. Travel should be a lowest cost (economy) fares. The Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship is open to young researchers from any country. The scholarship will be awarded to an applicant who has demonstrated superior research accomplishments.

The other three scholarships are open to young researchers from all countries except those classified as being "high-income." Excluded high-income countries can be found in the XL spreadsheet at: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>. These scholarships will also be awarded to applicants based on academic merit and research accomplishments taking into account the location of the young researcher at the time of application and on the geographic spread of applicants.

Nominations including supporting material documenting their research activities (e.g. two recent journal or conference publications), a

curriculum vitae listing education and all publications, presentations and teaching activities, and the Abstract for a paper to be presented at the 2018 ISTRO Conference must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary- General (Lars Munkholm) by December 31, 2017.

The scholarship selection committee comprises three elected members of the ISTRO Board (who are not office bearers). After the selection, all applicants will be informed by the Assistant Secretary-General who will also notify the Conference Organizers to help make the final arrangements. Applications should be emailed to Lars Munkholm: [lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk](mailto:lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk)

Note: Without exception, applicants must be current ISTRO members and meet the age criteria.

## ⌘ ISTRO Conference 2018



Just to remind you of the ISTRO Conference 2018 to be held between Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. The conference has got a great logo and a conference website will be launched in a few weeks. The language of the conference will be English. The organizers have selected these conference topics.

1. Soil conservation
2. Soil compaction and structure remediation
3. Soil ecology and Ecosystem services
4. SOC sequestration and management

5. Biogeochemical processes in soils
6. Advances in soil structure characterization
7. Tillage and smart farming
8. Tires, tillage and seeding equipment design
9. Design and assessment of soil tillage strategies

**Field trip** on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> (Fontainebleau Castle, Tillage equipment exhibition, Arvalis experimental centre).

#### **Important dates:**

Deadline for early bird registration: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

Deadline for abstract submission: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

Notification of abstract acceptance: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018

#### **Early bird fees:**

ISTRO members: 500€; non-ISTRO members: 600€;

PhD students: 200€

## ☞ Meeting report: CROSTRO/CEDESTO Conference

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Scientific Conference "*Sustainability challenges in agroecosystems*" was jointly held as a Central Europe Division of ISTRO initiative (CEDSTRO) by CROSTRO (Croatian Soil Tillage Research Organization), Czech branch of ISTRO and HUISTRO (Hungarian branch of ISTRO) under the auspice of ISTRO (International Soil Tillage Research Organization), and many others supportive institutions, from June 19-21, 2017, Osijek, Croatia.

More than 100 people attended the conference. The participants came from 25 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and USA).



The main theme of the conference "Sustainability Challenges in Agroecosystems" was chosen to highlight the increasingly important role of multidisciplinary approach to issues of sustainability of agricultural production in changing agroecological conditions.

At the conference, 58 papers were presented within the topics: 1. Sustainable land management, 2. Coping with climate changes in plant production, 3. Good agriculture practice and food safety, 4. Precision agriculture, mechanization and renewable bioenergy, and 5. Facilitation of integrated crop protection.

A field trip was organized after the scientific part of Conference on the third day. A visit was made to a family farm "PG Knežević" (where a traditional Croatian breakfast was served), Nature Park Papuk: Locality "Jankovac" (a guided conducted tour) and Nature Park Papuk: Locality Rupnica (Basalt columns).



The objective of the joint scientific conferences held as CEDSTRO initiative was discussed and stated as follows:

- promotion, development and growth of interest and knowledge about soil tillage science,
- exchange ideas and experiences,
- dissemination of modern approaches of technology application in agroecosystems,
- encouraging a more intensive association in scientific research frameworks.

The following joint triannual conferences will be held in the other CEDSTRO countries (Czech Republic and Hungary).

For more information on the conference:

<http://www.hdpot.hr/index.php/conference/conference-2017>

President of Organizing Committee

President of CROSTRO

Prof. dr. sc. Danijel Jug

## ⌘ Meeting report from Nigeria Branch and other part of Africa

The ISTRO branch in Nigeria and other part of Africa are actively involve in many activities.

**Nigeria Branch:**The main planned activity is to present Volume 2 of the Nigerian Journal of Soil Tillage Research during the 2017 ISTRO-Nigeria Symposium (see details below). The volume is made up 15 full research papers which are currently in press for publication.

Some members of ISTRO-Nigeria Branch participate actively as Members of Nigerian Institution of Agricultural Engineers (A division of Nigeria Society of Engineers). The institution is also organizing a conference to be hosted by the South East Region of the institution (see details in upcoming events).

**Activities in other part of Africa:** The Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering and its partners will host its Annual Conference in Nairobi. The objective of the conference is to provide a forum for the private, public and academic sector stakeholders to meet and explore business opportunities through networking and exchange of experience and knowledge (see upcoming events).

## ⌘ 2017 ISTRO Nigeria Symposium

The ISTRO Nigeria Branch has also concluded arrangement to organize her 3<sup>rd</sup> Branch Symposium between September 4-7, 2017 at the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria. The main theme for the Symposium is "Adapted Tillage

Practices for Sustained Ecology". The sub-themes include:

1. Tillage and Land Use for Mitigating Soil Degradation
2. Conservation Agricultural Technology
3. Soil Dynamic in Tillage and Traction
4. Soil Management for Sustained Environment
5. Emerging Technologies for Soil Tillage
6. Bio-energy for Sustained Ecology.

The Keynote Address speaker is Engr. Prof. A. P. Onwualu, African University of Science and Technology, Abuja, Nigeria.

Authors are invited to submit full length of their research work for presentation at the Symposium to the email address: [istronigbranch@gmail.com](mailto:istronigbranch@gmail.com) or contact Dr. J. O. Olaoye, Technical Secretary, ISTRO Nigeria Branch, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria, ([jolanoye@unilorin.edu.ng](mailto:jolanoye@unilorin.edu.ng)) for further details. Paper submission ends July 28, 2017.

## ⌘ The 15<sup>th</sup> National Iranian Soil Society Congress

The 15<sup>th</sup> Iranian Soil Science Congress welcomes soil scientists and researcher from all over the globe. It will create a stage for exchanging the latest research results and sharing the advanced research methods in soil and environmental issues. The congress will be held on August 28-30, 2017 in Isfahan , Iran.

Conference topics include:

1. Soil, environmental hazards, floods, ground subsidence and dust .
2. Chemistry and soil fertility and plant nutrition
3. Role of chemical fertilizers, bio-organic
4. Physics and soil and plant water relations
5. Soil biology and biotechnology
6. Soil and water contamination
7. Soil and climate change
8. New technologies in soil science
9. Soil, drought and water efficiency
10. Conservation and sustainable soil management

11. Soil genesis and classification, evaluation and land use planning
12. Management and sustainable utilization of soil and water resources in Zayandehrud River basin.

More information regarding the traveling preparations and visa processes is available at <http://iscoweb.iut.ac.ir/en/content/visiting-iut>

## ⌘ 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. The meeting will be held on August 30-31, 2017 in Ireland. More than 30 persons have registered for the meeting at the moment but there is room for more. If you are interested in participating, please register as soon as possible by sending an e-mail to Nick Holden ([nick.holden@ucd.ie](mailto:nick.holden@ucd.ie)).

More information available at: <https://www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/file/3226/meeting-on-visual-evaluation-of-grassland-soil-in-ireland-august-2017>

## ⌘ Announcement

### Infiltration data

The International Soil Modeling Consortium (ISMC) is seeking support in developing pedotransfer functions to estimate parameters in infiltration equations (e.g. Philip equation but also other equations and parametrizations) from infiltration experiments. They would need original infiltration data (cumulative infiltration versus time) and the corresponding soil properties (e.g. texture, carbon content, bulk density) including soil structural properties or taxonomic information if available. Any metadata describing the experimental data in more detail are also welcomed. Data may stem from lab scale, plot, field and catchment scale experiments. The plan is to establish a database of these data that will be submitted to a data journal

(e.g. Earth System Data Science). Please note that data contributors would be included as co-author on the manuscript.

Please see more details here: [https://soil-modeling.org/message-board/general-remarks/647402032?b\\_start=0#124876026](https://soil-modeling.org/message-board/general-remarks/647402032?b_start=0#124876026)

Or contact Mehdi Rahmati, [mehdirmti@gmail.com](mailto:mehdirmti@gmail.com)

Harry Vereecken, [h.vereecken@fz-juelich.de](mailto:h.vereecken@fz-juelich.de)

## ⌘ Upcoming Meetings and Events

### August 2017

7<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Conservation Agriculture. August 1-4, 2017 in Rosario-Santa Fe, Argentina  
Webpage: <http://congresoapresid.org.ar/en/>

OrgaTrop 2017 - International Conference on Organic Agriculture in the Tropics. Augst 20-24, 2017 in Gajah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
Webpage: <http://web.faperta.ugm.ac.id/orgatrop2017/>

Wageningen Soil Conference: Soil science in a changing world. August 27 - 31, 2017 in Wageningen, The Netherlands:  
Webpage: <http://www.wur.eu/wageningensoilconference>

### September/ October 2017

6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter “Healthy soils for sustainable agriculture: the role of SOM”. September 3–7, 2017, Rothamsted, Research Harpenden (United Kingdom)  
Webpage: <http://www.som2017.org/index.php?id=13531>

Degradation and Revitalisation of Soil and Landscape. September 10 – 13, 2017 in Olomouc, Czech Republic.  
Webpage: <http://ekologie.upol.cz/v4conference>

NIAE UMUDIKE 2017 - International Conference. October 3-6. 2017 in Umudike, Abia State at

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture  
Umudike (MOUUAU), Nigeria.

Webpage:

<http://www.niae.net/conference/index.php/umudike/2017>

2<sup>nd</sup> Global Soil Biodiversity Conference

October 15-20, 2017, Nanjing, China

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

## November 2017

Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering Conference 2017. The Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering and its partners will host its Annual Conference under the theme "*Engineering and Technology for Agriculture Transformation in Africa*" in Nairobi, Kenya, on November 19-21, 2017.

Webpage: <http://afroagengnairobi2017.org/>

## August 2018

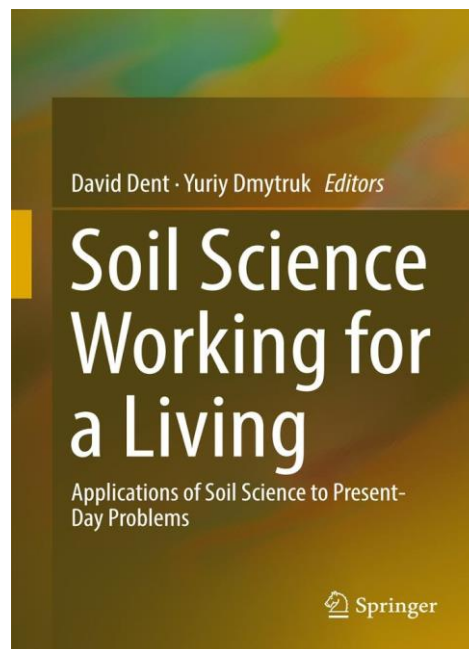
21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) on the theme: "Soils to feed and fuel the world". August 12-17, 2018 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Webpage: <http://21wcss.org/>

## 🔗 New Book

**Soil Science Working for a Living: Applications of soil science to present-day problems**

**Editors: Dent David and Dmytruk Yuriy**



This book discusses gritty issues that society faces every day: food and water security, environmental services provided by farmers, almost accidentally, and taken for granted by everyone else, the capability of the land to provide our needs today and for the foreseeable future and pollution of soil, air and water. The chapters are grouped in four main themes: soil development - properties and qualities; assessment of resources and risks; soil fertility, degradation and improvement and soil contamination, monitoring and remediation. It is a selection of papers presented at the Pedodiversity in Space and Time Symposium held at Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine, 15-19 September 2015.

More information about this book:

<http://www.springer.com/cn/book/9783319454160>

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