

CIGR CO-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

AFITA/WCCA2004:

4th International Conference of the Asian Federation of Information technology & 2nd World Congress on Computers in Agriculture and Natural Resources

4th AFITA conference and the WCCA2004 congress will be held as a joint congress from **9 to 12 August 2004** in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

The Organizing Committee of the Joint AFITA/WCCA Congress is pleased to invite all professionals involved in agricultural information technology to participate in the Joint Congress of AFITA and WCCA. The program will consist of pre-conference workshops, plenary sessions, concurrent topical sessions and poster presentations.

Subjects include but are not limited to:

- Rural development and poverty reduction/knowledge based society and its strategies & policy
- Adoption and extension
- Agricultural risk management and farm management, IPM
- Decision support system and modeling
- E-AgBusiness and production chain management
- Information resource and databases
- Grid and web services
- Field Data acquisition and recording
- GIS, Remote sensing and precision agriculture
- Food safety, food security, trace ability and quality management
- Education and distance learning
- Digital library/Knowledge representation and library science
- Water management
- Multilingual services
- Aquatic resource management
- Bioinformation
- BOF's

Registration fees are 150 US\$. For further information, consult the conference website at <http://www.afitaandwcca2004.net/> or contact the Secretariat Office, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, 112 Thailand Science Park, Phahon Yothin Rd., Klong 1, Klong Luang, Pathumthani Province 12120, Thailand. Tel: +66 2 564 6900 ext. 2238, Fax: +66 2 564 6772. E-mail Ms. Chantita Setalaphruk in the Secretariat: chantita@hydro.hpcc.nectec.or.th

Interregional Conference "Food Production and Water: Social and Economic Issues of Irrigation and Drainage"

This conference, co-sponsored by CIGR Technical Section I, will be held together with the 55th International Executive Council Meeting of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage - ICID in **Moscow, Russia**, from **1 to 8 September 2004**.

During the Conference, papers will be presented and discussed with regard for two Questions and one Special Session. Contributions will be presented under several sub-questions for each main theme. The topics for the Conference events are:

- Role of irrigation and drainage in the strategy of development and maintenance of sustainable agrolandscapes
- Present environmental and economic issues of irrigation and drainage development
- Special session Scientific and research problems of irrigation and drainage development in the XXI century

The working languages at the Interregional Conference and meetings of the ICID and its working bodies will be English and Russian, including the provision of synchronous translation. Synchronous translation in three languages, i.e. English, French and Russian, will be provided during the official opening and closing of conference and during the session of the International Executive Council of the ICID. The registration fees are 650 US\$ for participants from ICID member countries and 750 US\$ for non-members. Visas to enter Russia are required for the citizens of the majority of countries, except a number of CIS countries.

For further information contact: Dr. M.G. Chelov, Secretary General, Russian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, C/o Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Russian Federation, 1/11, Orlikov per., Moscow 107139, Russia. Fax: (7095) 207-8522, E-mail: bubera@wm.westcall.com. For further information look up the web page at: <http://www.vniigim.ru/conf/55/prospect.pdf>

International Conference "Environmentally Friendly Spray Application Techniques"

This conference will be held from **4 to 6 October 2004** in **Warsaw, Poland**, as a scheduled activity of the Research Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Pomology – PomoCentre, a 5th EC Framework Programme project (project no QLAM-2001-00402). The conference is intended to present ideas and results of research and identify relevant scientific problems, necessary research and development, standardization requirements and efficient systems for technology transfer to sustainable food production.

Topics:

- Novel spray application technology
- Performance of sprayers
- Testing and adjustment of sprayers
- Filling and cleaning of sprayers
- Nozzles, atomisation, adjuvants, spray quality
- Precision spraying, target detection, selective application
- Spray drift, buffer zones
- Dose rates determination (spacious crops)
- Non-chemical plant protection techniques
- Decision support systems in plant protection
- Risk assessment and management in plant protection
- Environmental and health consequences of plant protection
- Methodology of research on spray application

Important Dates and Deadlines:

Submission of full papers: 7 October 2004

The conference will be held in English. The conference fees are € 200/220 (before/after 1 August 2004).

For further information, please contact convenor Grzegorz Doruchowski (gdoru@insad.pl) or secretary Konopacki (pkonopac@insad.pl): Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Pomologiczna 18, 96-100 Skierniewice, POLAND. Phone: +48 46 833 20 21 Fax: +48 46 833 32 28. The website <http://www.pomocentre.insad.pl/> offers further information as well as online registration features.

International Conference on Postharvest Technology & Quality Management in Arid Tropics

This conference will be held at Sultan Qaboos University, **Sultanate of Oman**, from **24 to 26 January 2005**. The first International Conference on postharvest technology in the region, it will provide an international forum to discuss the latest technological developments and scientific innovations for reducing losses, maintaining product quality and adding value to food and agribusiness supply chains, and enhancing the competitiveness of agricultural and seafood products in the Gulf Region and Oman in particular.

The major themes of the conference include:

- Pre-harvest factors affecting postharvest quality and losses
- Postharvest handling systems and ergonomics
- Optimal refrigerated and controlled atmosphere storage systems
- Drying and packaging technology
- Postharvest treatments to maintain quality
- Focus on seafood postharvest
- Quality and supply chain innovation
- Food traceability and safety management
- Postharvest economics, market access & other emerging issues
- Education and training in postharvest technology & quality management

Important Deadlines:

Submission of full paper: 30 August 2004

For further information, contact: Assoc. Prof. Linus U. Opara & Assoc Prof. Shyam S. Sablani, Department of Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering, College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, P.O. Box 34, Al-Khod, Sultanate of Oman. Fax: +968

513 418 Tel: +968 515 238. Email: linus@squ.edu.om and shyam@squ.edu.om.

33rd International Symposium "Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering"

Co-sponsored, among others, by CIGR, this symposium will be held from **21 to 25 February 2005** in **Opatija, Croatia**. "Actual Tasks on Agricultural Engineering" have been held for 32 years now, gaining in international standing in recent years thanks to the co-sponsoring by CIGR, EurAgEng, and AESEE. The official languages of the symposium will be English and Croatian.

The aim of the Symposium is to present the latest scientific results on all aspects of research, design and development work in the various disciplines of agricultural engineering. Papers dealing with the following topics, or with other aspects of agricultural engineering, are invited:

- Farm mechanisation
- Power and machinery
- Ergonomics
- Energy in agriculture
- Soil and water
- Pre-harvest technology
- Crop harvesting
- Post-harvest technology
- Livestock buildings and equipment

Author instructions are available at the web address given below, and they can be sent by fax or e-mail upon request. Abstracts in English and not exceeding 500 words should be submitted by 15 September 2004. The proceedings are indexed and abstracted in leading international databases. The registration fee of 100 € (minus 20 % for CIGR, EurAgEng, and AAAE members) covers proceedings and farewell banquet.

Key dates

Submission of abstracts	15 September 2004
Notification of paper acceptance	1 October 2004
Submission of full papers	1 December 2004
Registration deadline	15 December 2004

For further information, look up <http://www.agr.hr/aed> and contact the Symposium Secretariat: Faculty of Agriculture Agricultural Engineering Department, Svetosimunska 25, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia. Tel.: +385 1 2393819 Fax: +385 1 2315300 E-mail: skosutic@agr.hr

OTHER ACTIVITIES

7th International Conference on Precision Agriculture

The 7th International Conference on Precision Agriculture and Other Precision Resources Management will be held from **25-28 July 2004** at the Hyatt Regency in downtown **Minneapolis, MN, USA**. It provides a forum for presentations on the current status of precision agriculture research and applications worldwide. There will be oral and poster presentations and exhibits, as well as opportunities for

discussion and exchange of information in various aspects of precision agriculture.

Conference themes include:

- Crop quality
- Natural resource variability
- Geostatistics/sampling
- Precision management
- Engineering technology
- Remote sensing