International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

July 2026

Newsletter 145

"...to serve - on a world-wide basis and through its members - the needs of humanity by fostering mutual understanding, improvement and rationalisation of sustainable biological production systems while protecting nature and environment and managing landscape through the advancement of engineering and allied sciences..."

Contents

The Relay Continues: Reflections from Torino's World Congress

As we look back on the CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress 2026, held in Torino, we do so with a profound sense of gratitude, pride, and optimism. What we experienced over those three remarkable days exceeded our expectations and reaffirmed the strength, vitality, and collaborative spirit of the international agricultural and biosystems engineering community.

Welcoming more than 650 participants from 60 countries, along with an equally impressive number of oral and poster presentations, was both inspiring and humbling. Together, we celebrated what became the largest agricultural and biosystems engineering conference ever organized in Europe. More importantly, we witnessed the enthusiasm of a community committed to developing engineering solutions for sustainable food production, climate resilience, digital agriculture, natural resource management, and the many challenges facing society today.

For us, this Congress represented the culmination of several years of planning, preparation, and teamwork. From the beginning, our goal was not simply to organize another scientific conference. We wanted to create a meeting where researchers, educators, students, industry leaders, and policymakers from every continent could come together to exchange ideas, establish new collaborations, and inspire one another. Seeing lecture halls filled with lively discussion, poster sessions buzzing with conversation, and colleagues reconnecting after years apart confirmed that this vision had become a reality.

Hosting the Congress in Italy carried special significance. During CIGR's more than one hundred years of history, this was only the second time that Italy has hosted its flagship international congress. As Italians, we felt both honored and humbled by the confidence placed in us by CIGR and EurAgEng. Organizing this Congress together demonstrated what can be achieved when two leading international organizations work toward a common vision. The extraordinary participation from every region of the world confirmed that our community values opportunities to meet in person, exchange ideas, and strengthen the friendships and professional relationships that sustain scientific progress.

One of the messages we hoped participants would carry home was the image of scientific progress as a relay race. None of us advances knowledge alone. Each generation receives a baton from those who came before, enriches it through discovery, innovation, and collaboration, and then passes it to those who will follow. Throughout the Congress, we witnessed this relay unfold in every presentation, every discussion, every question from a student, and every conversation among colleagues. We believe one of our greatest responsibilities is to encourage and mentor the next generation of agricultural and biosystems engineers, who will ultimately carry this far beyond what our generation can achieve.

Although the Congress featured an outstanding scientific program, we believe that some of its most enduring outcomes will emerge from the conversations that took place outside the lecture halls. New friendships were formed, long-standing collaborations were strengthened, and countless ideas were born over coffee breaks, shared meals, and spontaneous discussions. If every participant returned home with a new collaborator, a fresh research question, or renewed inspiration, then the Congress truly fulfilled its mission.

Torino proved to be an exceptional host city. The Politecnico di Torino, together with the historic Castello del Valentino, provided a unique setting where scientific excellence met cultural heritage. We hope that our guests not only enjoyed an outstanding technical program but also experienced the warmth, history, and hospitality that make Torino such a special place.

An event of this magnitude is only possible through the dedication of many individuals and organizations. We extend our sincere appreciation to CIGR, EurAgEng, AIIA, the Politecnico di Torino, the University of Torino, our institutional partners, sponsors, volunteers, students, speakers, session chairs, reviewers, and every participant whose commitment made this Congress such a success. We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to Prof. Fedro Zazueta, Secretary General of CIGR and Chair of the Scientific Committee.

As we conclude this unforgettable experience, we invite every member of our community to remain actively engaged. Conferences are much more than opportunities to present research—they are places where ideas are

exchanged, challenged, refined, and transformed into action. The challenges facing agriculture and food systems are too complex for any one institution or country to address alone. They require collaboration, openness, and a shared commitment to innovation.

While the Torino Congress has ended, its legacy is only beginning. We now look forward to continuing this journey together at future CIGR events, including the 2028 CIGR International Conference in New Delhi, India, and the 2030 CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress in Belgium. These meetings will build upon the momentum created in Torino and continue strengthening the global network of agricultural and biosystems engineers.

As delegates departed Torino, they carried with them not only new knowledge and professional contacts but also a renewed sense of purpose. The success of the CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress 2026 belongs to every person who contributed to it. Together, we celebrated today's achievements while laying the foundation for tomorrow's innovations.

The relay continues, and the baton is now in all of our hands. Let us carry forward with responsibility, enthusiasm, and the spirit of collaboration that defines our international community.

By Prof. Remigio Berruto and Prof. Patrizia Busato
Co-Presidents, CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress 2026

CIGR President Sorensen Invited to visit China

In May 2026, I visited China upon invitation from Dr. Yubin Lan, Director and lead scientist of the National Center for International Collaboration Research on Precision Agricultural Aviation Pesticides Spraying Technology (NPAAC), South China Agricultural University (SCAU). The visit included participation in the 13th International Conference on Precision Agricultural Aviation, held at the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center, as well as an academic visit to South China Agricultural University. The conference brought together leading international researchers and experts in precision agricultural aviation, agricultural robotics, autonomous systems, intelligent application technologies, and digital agriculture.

As President of CIGR, the visit provided an important opportunity to strengthen international collaboration, promote scientific exchange, and discuss future research partnerships in agricultural engineering and digital agriculture. During my stay, I met with researchers from SCAU and NPAAC, visited research facilities, and participated in discussions concerning future cooperation in agricultural automation, UAV-based operations, and smart farming technologies.

A key part of the visit was my delivery of two invited keynote presentations: **Intelligent Ecosystems for Agricultural Aviation (22 May 2026)**, and **Unmanned and Automated Farm Technology (25 May 2026)**. Together, the presentations addressed the rapid digital transformation of agriculture and the growing role of integrated autonomous systems in developing more productive, sustainable, and resilient farming systems.

The first presentation highlighted the challenges facing global agriculture, including increasing food demand, pressure on natural resources, climate change, land degradation, and labor shortages. It was emphasized that digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and advanced sensing systems provide opportunities to increase productivity while simultaneously reducing resource consumption and environmental impacts. A central message was that agricultural aviation is evolving from isolated technologies toward interconnected ecosystems that combine drones and UAVs, ground-based autonomous machines, sensors and IoT devices, artificial intelligence and machine learning, loud-based decision support systems. Such ecosystems enable real-time data sharing and coordinate decision-making across multiple farming operations. Rather than viewing UAVs as independent technologies, future agricultural UAVs should be understood as part of integrated data-driven production systems. Examples were presented demonstrating how UAVs can support route planning and operational coordination for autonomous ground vehicles in agricultural environments. Information from UAVs can trigger targeted interventions by larger aircraft or autonomous field machinery, creating coordinated and efficient management systems. The presentation also examined emerging UAV ecosystem applications, including crop health monitoring. forest inventory and disease detection, livestock grazing management, and environmental observation and governance. A key conclusion was that **"the future is not smarter UAVs—but intelligent agricultural ecosystems."** Challenges remain regarding regulation, interoperability, data standards, and workforce skills.

The second keynote focused on autonomous farming technologies and the transformation of agricultural mechanization. The presentation emphasized that technological efficiency alone does not guarantee sustainability. Future farming systems must integrate technological innovation with environmental stewardship and agroecological principles. The goal should be system redesign rather than simply replacing existing labor and operations with autonomous machines. Examples were presented of contextual artificial intelligence systems designed to enhance autonomous machine awareness by integrating multiple camera views into a collective perception system. Such technologies can improve safety for humans, machinery, crops, and livestock operating in complex agricultural environments. The presentation stressed how advanced algorithms, remote sensing, and field-coverage planning techniques can optimize autonomous machine operations. Research results demonstrated improvements in working efficiency, reduced fuel consumption, and lower non-productive travel distances through optimized route planning and machine coordination.

The movement toward autonomous agriculture is being driven by several converging factors: labor shortages, rising labor costs, artificial intelligence developments, advances in navigation technologies, improved sensors and machine vision, and increased availability of agricultural data. Despite rapid progress, several barriers remain: high investment costs. technical complexity. connectivity limitations in rural areas, data security concerns, and need for technical skills and training. Successful implementation therefore requires not only technology development but also supportive infrastructure, education, policy frameworks, and business models.

The conference highlighted strong international research efforts aimed at developing more sustainable and intelligent agricultural systems. Discussions with researchers at SCAU and NPAAC further confirmed the importance of international partnerships in addressing common global challenges related to food production, environmental protection, labor shortages, and climate resilience. From a CIGR perspective, the conference reinforced the importance and role of CIGR as a facilitator of strengthening global collaboration among researchers, universities, industry, and policymakers. The future of agricultural engineering will depend increasingly on integrated ecosystems that combine autonomous machines, artificial intelligence, advanced sensing technologies, and data-driven management systems to support productive, profitable, and sustainable agriculture.

Professor Claus Aage Grøn Sørensen
President, CIGR

2026 Fellows Inducted to iAABE

The Induction Ceremony for the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (iAABE) Fellows was held during the XXI CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress in Torino, Italy. Election as an iAABE Fellow is among the highest professional honors in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and recognizes individuals who have attained international distinction through sustained excellence in research, education, innovation, leadership, outreach, and service to the profession. Following a rigorous nomination and peer-election process conducted by the Academy's existing Fellows, the 2026 inductees joined a distinguished international body of engineers and scientists whose careers have made lasting contributions to the advancement of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and to improving the quality of life worldwide.

Prof. Tammi Brown-Brandl

Eminent for pioneering research in precision livestock farming and animal environment systems, Dr. Tami Brown Brandl has advanced engineering solutions that enhance animal welfare, environmental management, and production efficiency worldwide. Her distinguished leadership and research have significantly influenced scientific understanding and practical applications across swine, cattle, and poultry production systems.

Prof. Jayas Digvir

Digvir S. Jayas is world renowned for his research on preserving grains and developing energy-efficient drying systems. Over the last 30+ years, he has integrated principles of engineering and biology to revolutionize our understanding of grain storage and made major contributions to improving the practice of grain drying and storage throughout the world.

Prof. Lujia Han

Professor Lujia Han is internationally recognized for her pioneering contributions to agro-biomass recycling and valorization. She has successfully led international education and research collaborations with leading universities in the United Kingdom and the United States, while providing distinguished leadership and scientific service that have significantly advanced Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in China and internationally.

Prof. Guanhua Huang

Internationally recognized for advancing knowledge of soil water dynamics and solute transport, Prof. Dr. Huang GuanHua has significantly improved irrigation modeling, salinity control, and crop water management in arid and semiarid regions. He has also trained numerous graduate researchers and published extensively in leading agricultural and biosystems engineering journals worldwide.

Prof. Madan Jumar Jha

Prof. Madan Jha is a distinguished educator and researcher recognized for his vision, dedication, and outstanding contributions to Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering. His impactful teaching, innovative research, and leadership in hydrological sciences have advanced the profession while providing significant practical benefits to society, environmental sustainability, and water resource management.

Prof. Ami Kaleita

Dr. Kaleita has pioneered information technologies for precision conservation, design of monitoring systems and utilizing data in hydrologic modeling/decision support systems for sustainable food production. She is an enthusiastic educator and committed to student excellence and providing exemplary leadership as Chair of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at Iowa State University.

Prof. Minzan Li

Professor Li Minzan is distinguished for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of agricultural sensors, automation, and intelligent systems that have supported the development of precision and smart agriculture in China. Since the early 1980s, he has provided exemplary leadership as a researcher, educator, and agricultural engineer, while contributing actively to the international agricultural and biosystems engineering community.

Prof. Francisco Rovira-Más

Distinguished for pioneering work on stereovision applied to agriculture and robotics, resulting in six US patents while at Deere and the University of Illinois, and an EU patent after two EU-funded grants on robotics. At present he is coordinating an international $5M grant merging IA, spraying automation and farm robotics.

Celebrating Excellence at the XXI CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress

The XXI CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress brought together agricultural and biosystems engineers from around the world to exchange knowledge, strengthen international partnerships, and celebrate excellence across the profession. A highlight of the Congress was the CIGR Awards Ceremony, during which the organization recognized individuals whose achievements have advanced science, engineering, education, leadership, and service at both the international and organizational levels.

Opening the ceremony, incoming CIGR Incoming President Stéphane Godbout reminded participants that the awards recognize far more than past accomplishments. The recipients serve as role models whose dedication, innovation, and commitment inspire future generations of engineers to address global challenges in sustainable food production, environmental stewardship, and rural development.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Awards recognized outstanding leadership in organizing the XXI CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress and long-standing dedication to CIGR.

Prof. Remigio Berruto

Recognized for exceptional leadership and distinguished service as co-President of the XXI CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress in Turin, Italy. Remigio Berruto advanced international collaboration, strengthened ties between CIGR and EurAgEng, and provided longstanding contributions to agricultural and biosystems engineering through dedicated service, professional leadership, and support of CIGR activities worldwide.

Dr. Patrizia Busato

Recognized for exceptional leadership and distinguished service as co-President of the XXI CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress in Turin, Italy. Patrizia Busato strengthened international collaboration in agricultural and biosystems engineering through dedicated service to CIGR, active support of scientific exchange, organizational leadership, and sustained contributions to advancing the global engineering community.

High Merit Award

The High Merit Awards honors internationally recognized contributions to Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering through research, innovation, education, and technology.

Prof. Dionysis Bochtis

Recognized for outstanding contributions to management, ergonomics, and systems engineering in agriculture. Dionysis Bochtis advanced smart farming, logistics, and decision-support systems through pioneering research in agricultural operations management, automation, and digital technologies, strengthening the efficiency, sustainability, and international development of agricultural and biosystems engineering.

Dr. Patrizia Busato

Recognized for outstanding contributions to information technology in agricultural engineering education. Patrizia Busato advanced the integration of digital technologies, innovation, and international collaboration in teaching, research, and professional development, while also providing dedicated leadership and service to CIGR and the global agricultural and biosystems engineering community.

Superior Merit Award

The Superior Merit Award recognizes lifetime achievement, honoring individuals with more than five decades of sustained contributions to science, technology, education, industry, outreach, and international cooperation.

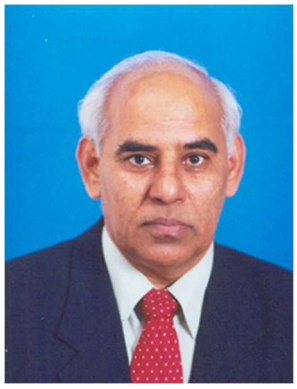
Mr. Yoshisuke Kishida

Recognized for visionary leadership in advancing agricultural mechanization worldwide through the Agricultural Mechanization in Asia, Africa and Latin America (AMA) journal. Yoshisuke Kishida fostered international exchange of knowledge, promoted innovation in agricultural engineering, and strengthened global collaboration among researchers, educators, and practitioners across developing and developed nations alike.

Prof. Axel Munack

Recognized for outstanding leadership and pioneering contributions to agricultural engineering, particularly in automation, precision agriculture, and standards development. Axel Munack advanced international cooperation through decades of distinguished service to CIGR, scientific excellence, and sustained efforts to strengthen research, education, and innovation in agricultural and biosystems engineering worldwide.

Prof. Gajendra Singh



Recognized for distinguished contributions to agricultural engineering education, soil and water conservation, and sustainable rural development. Gajendra Singh advanced agricultural mechanization and resource management through influential research, academic leadership, international collaboration, and dedicated service to CIGR and the global agricultural and biosystems engineering profession.

Distinguished Leadership and Service Award

This award recognizes exceptional long-term leadership and dedication to CIGR.

Prof. Peter Schulze-Lammers

Recognized for outstanding and sustained service to CIGR through decades of dedicated leadership as Member of Technical Section III since 1989, Secretary General from 1989–2005, and Senior Auditor since 2016. Peter Schulze-Lammers played a pivotal role in strengthening CIGR's international organization, continuity, governance, and global professional collaboration.

Honorary CIGR Vice-presidents

Honorary CIGR titles recognize distinguished leaders whose sustained service strengthened CIGR and the international engineering community. This Award is given to individuals that have been long term members of CIGR Governance and provided leadership to a CIGR Technical Section

.

Honorary Vice-president: Prof. Claudio García

Recognized for outstanding leadership and distinguished service to CIGR as Chair of Section I, Land and Water Engineering. Claudio García advanced sustainable irrigation, water management, and agricultural systems engineering through influential research, international collaboration, academic leadership, and dedicated service to the global agricultural and biosystems engineering profession.

Honorary Vice President: Prof. Tomas Norton

Recognized for outstanding leadership and distinguished service to CIGR as Chair of Section II, Structures and Environment. Tomas Norton advanced livestock housing, environmental control, precision livestock farming, and data-driven agricultural systems through influential research, international collaboration, academic leadership, and sustained contributions to the agricultural and biosystems engineering profession worldwide.

Honorary Vice President: Dr. Jiannong Xin

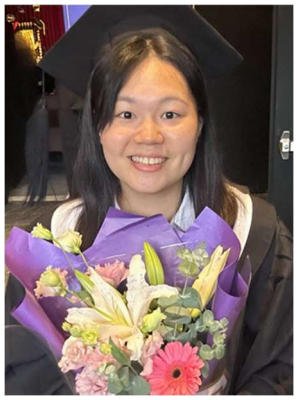
Recognized for outstanding leadership and distinguished service to CIGR as Chair of Section VII, Information Technology. Jiannong Xin pioneered information delivery systems and internet-based platforms for farmers and agricultural stakeholders, helped organize the World Conference on Computers in Agriculture, and advanced global collaboration, education, and knowledge exchange in agricultural and biosystems engineering.

Honorary President Title is Conferred to Prof. Seishi Ninomiya

Prof. Seishi Ninomiya is Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo and one of the world's leading pioneers in plant phenomics and agro-informatics. Originally trained in plant breeding, he broadened his research to integrate agricultural science with information science, becoming an international leader in the application of image analysis, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, drones, IoT, and big data to agriculture. His pioneering work has helped transform plant phenotyping from labor-intensive observation into a high-throughput, data-driven discipline that supports crop breeding, precision agriculture, and climate-resilient food production.

A distinguished leader within CIGR, Prof. Ninomiya served as a member and later Chair of Technical Section VII (Information Technology) from 2011 to 2019, has been a member of the CIGR Executive Board since 2014, and served on the CIGR Presidium from 2020 to 2026, including his term as President of CIGR. Throughout his leadership, he championed the application of information and communication technologies in agriculture, advancing internet-based information systems, remote sensing, and digital technologies while promoting their transfer to farmers and practitioners. His efforts strengthened international collaboration and knowledge exchange, helping position CIGR at the forefront of digital transformation in agricultural and biosystems engineering.

Tzu-Ling Wang Receives the 2026 CIGR Armand Blanc Prize



The International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR) is pleased to announce that **Tzu-Ling Wang** has been selected as the recipient of the **2026 CIGR Armand Blanc Prize**, one of the organization's most prestigious recognitions for emerging researchers in agricultural and biosystems engineering.

The award was presented during the **CIGR–EurAgEng 2026 World Congress** in Torino, Italy, in recognition of Wang's outstanding paper:

"Integrating Temporal Dependence and Seasonality: A Transformer-Based Framework for Joint Production and Price Forecasting in the Egg Industry."

The Armand Blanc Prize honors the memory of **Professor Armand Blanc**, who served as President of CIGR from 1950 to 1962 and whose vision helped shape the international agricultural engineering community. Established to encourage excellence among young professionals, the prize recognizes exceptional research conducted by authors who are **30 years of age or younger** and who present their work at a CIGR World Congress or International Conference. The award is based not only on the scientific quality and originality of

the research but also on the author's ability to clearly communicate its significance to the international community.

Competition for the Armand Blanc Prize is highly selective. Candidates submit an extended abstract prior to the congress, after which finalists are chosen by the CIGR Awards Committee in collaboration with the conference organizers. Final evaluation includes both the written submission and the oral presentation delivered during the congress. Over the past three decades, recipients of the Armand Blanc Prize have gone on to establish distinguished careers in academia, research, and industry, making the award one of the most respected recognitions for early-career scientists within the global agricultural and biosystems engineering community.

Wang's award-winning research demonstrates the growing potential of artificial intelligence to support agricultural decision-making. By integrating transformer-based deep learning techniques with models that capture both temporal dependence and seasonal variation, the research provides a sophisticated framework for simultaneously forecasting egg production and market prices. Accurate forecasting of these interconnected variables can improve production planning, strengthen supply chain management, reduce economic uncertainty, and enhance the resilience of the egg industry in an increasingly dynamic marketplace.

The innovative nature of this work reflects the rapid advances occurring at the intersection of artificial intelligence, data science, and agricultural systems engineering. It also exemplifies the type of forward-looking research that CIGR seeks to encourage through the Armand Blanc Prize.

CIGR extends its sincere congratulations to **Tzu-Ling Wang** for this outstanding achievement. The Commission also recognizes the contributions of the faculty mentors, reviewers, and Awards Committee members whose dedication ensures that the Armand Blanc Prize continues to identify and celebrate the next generation of leaders in agricultural and biosystems engineering.

Celebrating Innovation at the 2026 CIGR International Undergraduate Student Competition

The CIGR International Undergraduate Student Competition continues to inspire the next generation of agricultural and biosystems engineers by recognizing innovative student projects that address real-world challenges through science, engineering, and creativity. Established to encourage undergraduate participation in the global engineering community, the competition provides students with an opportunity to showcase original work while highlighting the essential role of faculty mentors in developing future engineering leaders.

Open to undergraduate students enrolled in agricultural, biological, biosystems engineering, and closely related programs, the competition invites submissions from around the world. Students present projects completed during their undergraduate studies through a concise written description and a three-minute video. Entries are evaluated by international experts based on technical quality, originality, innovation, relevance, and potential impact on agricultural and biosystems engineering. Projects are submitted in one of seven technical areas corresponding to the CIGR Technical Sections, reflecting the broad scope of the profession—from land and water management to information technology.

The competition recognizes outstanding achievements with Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards in each technical area. The seven Gold Award recipients become finalists for the prestigious Platinum Award, the highest distinction of the competition. The Platinum Award recognizes a project that demonstrates exceptional innovation, technical excellence, and potential for meaningful global impact. In addition to international recognition, the Platinum Award provides full support for the winning team to attend the CIGR World Congress, where the award is presented before the international agricultural and biosystems engineering community.

A distinctive feature of the competition is its recognition of the critical role played by faculty advisors. By honoring outstanding mentorship alongside student achievement, CIGR acknowledges that excellence in engineering education depends upon dedicated educators who inspire creativity, guide technical development, and

encourage students to pursue innovative solutions to global challenges.

2026 Platinum Award

The 2026 Platinum Award was presented to Fathurrahman Yazid Tabrani and Ardhika Rizky Ramadhan for their outstanding project, "SmartFarmers: Solar Pump, 91 m Deep and LoRa-based Automatic Control System."

The project was selected in recognition of its excellence in innovation, technical merit, and its potential impact on agricultural and biosystems engineering. By integrating renewable energy with advanced sensing and wireless communication technologies, the project exemplifies the innovative thinking and practical engineering solutions that the competition seeks to encourage among undergraduate students.

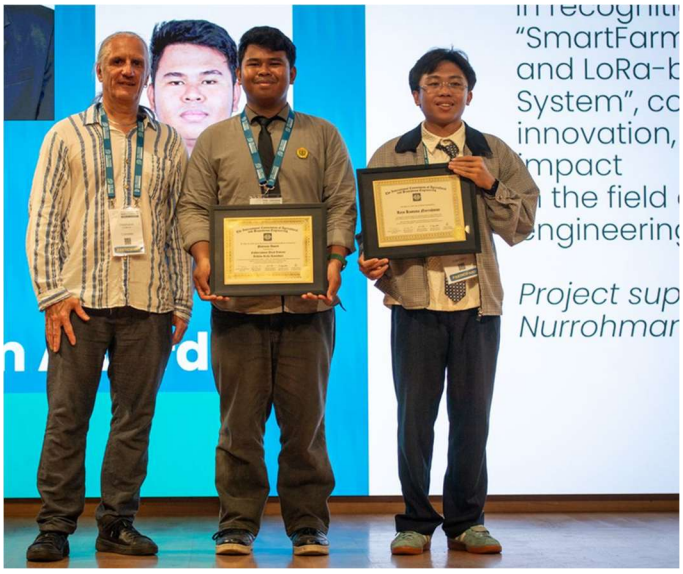
Faculty Advisor Recognition

CIGR also recognized Prof. Reza Kusuma Nurrohman with the Faculty Advisor Recognition Certificate for his dedicated guidance and outstanding support as Faculty Advisor to the Overall Winning Team of the CIGR International Undergraduate Student Competition.

This recognition honors his commitment to fostering excellence, innovation, and professional growth among undergraduate engineering students. His mentorship played an instrumental role in helping the winning team transform an innovative concept into an internationally recognized engineering achievement.

The success of the 2026 competition reflects CIGR's continuing commitment to strengthening engineering education worldwide, promoting innovation among future professionals, and fostering international collaboration. Through initiatives such as the International Undergraduate Student Competition, CIGR invests in the next generation of engineers who will develop sustainable technologies and practical solutions to address the global challenges facing agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and the environment.

Prof. Tomas Norton, Competition Chair.



EurAgEng Awards Best Conference Poster Prize in Turin 2026

During the recent CIGR-EurAgEng 2026 World Congress held in Turin, the international scientific community recognized excellence in technical communication and applied research. The Best Scientific Poster award was presented to Andrés Di Lorenzi, a young researcher from the Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (INIA, Uruguay).

The awarded work, titled "Netting-Induced Microclimate Modification Enhances Water Productivity in Citrus Orchards under Temperate Conditions," stood out for its innovative approach to efficient irrigation management under net-modified conditions. The evaluation committee highlighted both the methodological

originality of the research and its direct applicability to production systems.

This recognition is a testament to the growing impact of Latin American research in international forums such as CIGR and a source of pride for all members of our association. We extend our warmest congratulations to Andrés on this well-deserved achievement, which will undoubtedly serve as an inspiration to new professionals in the field.

Join the APFITA 2026 Conference in Taipei, Taiwan

The International Conference of the Asia-Pacific Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture (APFITA 2026) is scheduled to take place from **November 4 to November 6, 2026**, in the vibrant city of **Taipei, Taiwan**. This prestigious event will be hosted at the **Center for Public and Business Administration Education (NCCU CPBAE), A2 International Conference Hall**.

Rooted in a long tradition of regional collaboration, the federation was originally launched in 1998 as AFITA (Asian Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture). Since its historic inception, the conference has been held continuously every one or two years across the region to foster technological advancement and academic exchange in smart agriculture. While historical milestones mark this as the 15th gathering, the official event organization designates this upcoming 2026 meeting as the **16th international conference** in its history.

As a premier interdisciplinary platform, APFITA 2026 focuses on the inspiring theme, *"Foresee Global Trend in New Horizon of Asia-Pacific Agriculture."* It brings together dedicated researchers, technology experts, industry practitioners, and government agencies to address the rapid digital transformation of agricultural systems. The conference covers a wide array of cutting-edge topics, including big agricultural data, AI applications, IoT technologies, remote sensing, UAVs, blockchain for food safety, and climate change adaptation.

Important Deadlines:

- **July 31, 2026:** Deadline for long abstract submission
- **August 10, 2026:** Early bird registration deadline
- **October 10, 2026:** Regular registration deadline

This event offers an invaluable opportunity for global stakeholders to network, exchange insights, and collaborate on building smart, resilient, and sustainable agricultural systems across the Asia-Pacific region.

New Delhi to Host the 7th CIGR International Conference in 2028

The global agricultural and biosystems engineering community will gather in **New Delhi, India**, from **3–6 October 2028** for the **7th CIGR International Conference**, hosted by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**. The conference will provide an international forum for researchers, educators, students, industry leaders, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange knowledge and explore engineering solutions that will help build resilient and sustainable food systems for the future.

The conference theme, **"Engineering Innovations in Small Farms for a Food-Secure Future,"** reflects one of the most pressing global challenges facing agriculture today. Around the world, smallholder farmers play a vital role in food production while confronting increasing pressures from climate change, limited natural resources, labor shortages, and economic uncertainty. The conference will showcase how agricultural and biosystems engineering can help address these challenges through innovative technologies that improve productivity, sustainability, profitability, and resilience.

Hosted at the modern **ICAR Convention Center** in New Delhi, the conference will feature a state-of-the-art venue with a 1,200-seat auditorium, multiple technical session halls, exhibition space, poster areas, and excellent facilities for scientific exchange and networking. Located within the ICAR campus, the venue also provides convenient access to leading agricultural research institutions, international research centers, and nearby accommodations.

The scientific program will encompass the full breadth of agricultural and biosystems engineering through seven major technical areas: Land and Water Engineering; Structures and Environment; Plant and Crop Production; Energy in Agriculture; Systems Management; Bioprocessing; and Information Technology. Sessions will address topics such as precision agriculture, robotics and automation, artificial intelligence, sustainable irrigation, renewable energy, climate-smart farming, food safety, post-harvest technologies, digital agriculture, decision-support systems, and modern agricultural extension methodologies.

In addition to the technical program, the conference will feature plenary lectures by internationally recognized experts together with a wide variety of special events designed to foster innovation and engagement. Planned activities include graduate and undergraduate student competitions, startup showcases, technology demonstrations, presentations of successful engineering applications, exhibitions of emerging technologies, technical visits, and cultural tours that will introduce participants to India's rich heritage.

The conference places particular emphasis on translating research into practical solutions that directly benefit farmers. Featured topics include automation, precision resource management, renewable energy systems, post-harvest processing, digital information services, and engineering innovations that improve the productivity and livelihoods of smallholder farming systems while promoting environmental sustainability. This strong focus aligns closely with CIGR's mission of advancing engineering solutions that contribute to global food security and sustainable development.

New Delhi provides an exceptional setting for this international gathering. As India's capital, the city combines world-class conference facilities with a vibrant cultural heritage, renowned historical monuments, leading universities, and internationally recognized research institutions. Participants will have the opportunity to experience one of the world's most dynamic cities while engaging with colleagues from every region of the globe.

Under the leadership of the Local Organizing Committee and Organizing Secretary **Dr. Devinder Dhingra**, preparations are well underway to deliver a conference that combines scientific excellence, technological innovation, and international collaboration. The 7th CIGR International Conference promises to strengthen partnerships across the global agricultural engineering community while showcasing engineering innovations that will help shape a more sustainable and food-secure future for generations to come.

Leuven, Belgium to Host the Joint XXII CIGR World Congress and AgEng2030 in 2030

The CIGR Executive Board has approved **Leuven, Belgium**, as the host city for the **XXII CIGR World Congress**, to be held in **July 2030 jointly with EurAgEng**. The decision marks an important milestone as CIGR prepares to celebrate its centenary with a congress that will showcase the remarkable evolution of agricultural and biosystems engineering while looking toward the future of the profession.

Hosted by the **Faculty of Bioscience Engineering at KU Leuven**, one of Europe's leading universities in agricultural and biosystems engineering, the Congress will provide an outstanding venue for researchers, educators, students, industry representatives, and professionals from around the world to exchange knowledge and strengthen international collaboration. Modern conference facilities in the historic city of Leuven will accommodate a comprehensive scientific program featuring plenary sessions, multiple parallel technical sessions, exhibitions, poster presentations, and numerous networking opportunities.

The Congress theme will highlight the continuing transformation of agricultural engineering through innovation and emerging technologies. Technical sessions will address the discipline's most pressing challenges and opportunities, including precision agriculture, smart farming systems, robotics and automation, artificial intelligence and digital agriculture, sustainable soil and water management, integrated farming systems, smart buildings and animal welfare, advanced mechanization, circular agriculture, bioenergy, post-harvest engineering, and agricultural education in the digital era.

To maximize the long-term impact of the Congress, proceedings will be published through **CABI Direct**, with each abstract assigned to a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), ensuring worldwide accessibility and visibility. In addition, plans are underway for a special commemorative publication documenting the major innovations and innovators that have shaped agricultural engineering over the past fifty years through a collaborative effort involving leading journals in the field.

In keeping with CIGR's commitment to developing the next generation of agricultural engineers, the Leuven Congress will feature an expanded program of activities for students and young professionals. Planned events include a Young Professionals Network satellite meeting, an Agri-Hackathon, field robotics demonstrations, summer schools, technology showcases by early-career researchers, engagement with agritech start-ups, career development opportunities, and special presentations by CIGR Fellows and Emeriti reflecting on the evolution and future of agricultural engineering.

The tentative four-day program will begin with Young Professionals activities, CIGR and EurAgEng Board meetings, registration, and a welcome reception. The following days will feature keynote presentations, scientific sessions, awards ceremonies, and the Congress Dinner, followed by technical field visits highlighting Belgium's excellence in agricultural research, technology, and production systems. Planned destinations include Leuven, Ghent, Bruges, and Bokrijk.

Leuven offers an ideal setting for an international congress, combining the atmosphere of one of Europe's oldest university cities with modern infrastructure and convenient accessibility. More than 30 hotels providing approximately 1,000 rooms are available within the city, offering accommodation that range from budget-friendly to premium options.

The Local Organizing Committee is led by **Prof. Tomas Norton** and includes distinguished faculty from KU Leuven together with representatives from Belgian research institutions. The committee will continue to expand through collaboration with additional universities and organizations throughout Belgium, ensuring broad national participation in the organization of this landmark event.

As CIGR approaches its 100th anniversary, the 2030 World Congress in Leuven promises to be a memorable celebration of scientific achievement, technological innovation, and international cooperation. Building on the success of recent World Congresses, the Leuven meeting will provide an exceptional forum for advancing

agricultural and biosystems engineering while inspiring the next generation of professionals dedicated to sustainable food, energy, and biological production systems worldwide.

ICID Technical Webinar series: Smart Irrigation Management

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Greetings from the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) !

ICID strives to promote policies and programs to enhance sustainable development of irrigated agriculture through a comprehensive water management framework. ICID, as a knowledge sharing platform, is dedicated towards improving the status of Agricultural Water Management (AWM) practices including rain-fed agriculture, supplemental irrigation, deficit and full irrigation.

ICID has started a "Technical Webinar Series" on the theme **"Smart Irrigation Management "** showcasing best practices and success stories in agricultural water management. The eight webinar of this series is on the topic **"From Satellite-Based Irrigation Monitoring to AI-Driven Irrigation Intelligence "**is scheduled on **24 July, 2026** at **14:30 hrs (IST)** . **The presentation will be delivered by Shri Abdul Hakeem K, Deputy Director, BG &WSA, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad, India.** Please download the **Flyer** and for more information please visit the link: **https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/285**

We kindly request your participation in this webinar and encourage you to share this invitation with your network, including members, professionals, and young professionals, to help us reach a wider audience. The registration is free. Please register and join for the webinar by clicking the link below.

Register and join at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fFZ8s16iThao5QqvIkn9_A#/

Date: Friday, 24 July 2026
Time: 14:30 Hrs (IST)

We look forward to your active participation.

With warm regards,

Dr. R.K. Gupta
Secretary General, ICID

Business Meetings and Registration

Registration and Welcome Dinner

Opening and Keynote

Technical Sessions

CIGR Awards

Induction of iAABE Fellows

Honorary CIGR Vice Presidents



EuragEng Awards



Honorary CIGR President

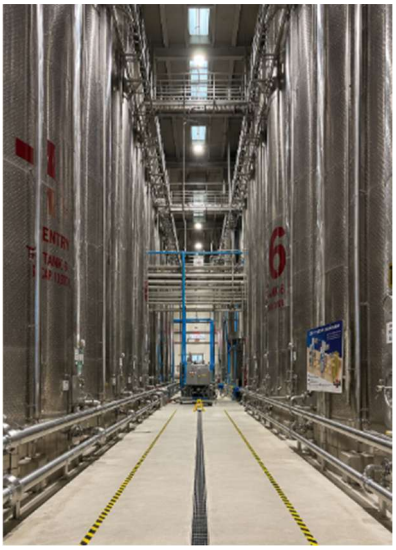
Transfer of the CIGR Presidency

Transfer of EurAgEng Presidency

Closure

Gala Dinner

Field Trips



Upcoming Conferences

ASABE Annual International Meeting, 12-15 July, Indianapolis, IN, USA

https://asabe.org/events

The **American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)** invites researchers, engineers, students, and industry professionals worldwide to participate in the **ASABE Annual International Meeting 2026**, to be held **12–15 July 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA**.

This flagship international event will bring together the global agricultural and biological engineering community to exchange scientific knowledge, present innovative technologies, and discuss solutions addressing sustainability, food production, natural resource management, digital agriculture, automation, and climate resilience. The programme will include **technical paper and poster presentations, keynote lectures, student competitions, technical tours, exhibitions, and networking opportunities**. Researchers are encouraged to submit abstracts and full papers for presentation.

AIM 2026 offers an excellent platform to strengthen international collaboration and stay informed on emerging trends shaping the future of agricultural and biosystems engineering.

The Canadian Society for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering invites you to the 2026 Annual General Meeting and Technical Conference taking place from **July 19 to 22, 2026**, at the **University of Saskatchewan** in **Saskatoon, Canada**. The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is one of Canada's leading research-intensive institutions, home to a medical school and globally recognized for its contributions to water and food security, sustainable agriculture, synchrotron science, and infectious disease research. The general theme of the meeting is "Bioresource to Wealth – A Circular Approah".

https://csbe-scgab.ca/

Ragusa SHWA (Safety, Health, and Welfare in Ag. and Agro-food Syst.), 14-16 September, 2026, Rome and Viterbo

https://www.ragusashwa.it/

16th International Congress on Agricultural Mechanization and Energy, 2-4 September, 2026, Tekirdağ, Türkiye

16th International Congress on Agricultural Mechanization and Energy (TrakAgEng 2026)

Tekirdağ, Türkiye | 2-4 September 2026

https://trakageng2026.com.tr/

ICID 26th International Congress, 12-17 October 2026 , Marseille, France

https://icidcongress2026.org/

APFITA 2026 16th International Conference of Asia-Pacific Federation for IT in Agriculture, 4-6 November, Taipei, Taiwan

APFITA 2026 is a premier interdisciplinary platform dedicated to advancing innovation and research in Asia-Pacific agriculture.

https://www.apfita.org/2026/

CIGR 2028: International Conference, 3-6 October 2028, New Delhi, India

The Indian Society of Agricultural Engineering (ISAE) was selected by the 2024 CIGR Executive Board as the organizer for 2028 CIGR International Conference. The venue of the conference will be in New Delhi, India.