

Cross-Institute Programme for Sustainable Soil Function

SoilCIP

Newsletter for February 2010



**** Joint proposals with Scottish MRPs ****

It is now official that SCRI and MLURI are eligible to make BBSRC applications under a joint RERAD-BBSRC funding scheme. The applications will need to fall into the LWEC or Food Security strategic priority areas and will need preliminary approval by RERAD on a timescale consistent with the Rothamsted and the SCRI sift procedures. Our Scottish colleagues are very keen to work with us on joint proposals, and I know that some are progressing well.

New NERC research programme on Macronutrient Cycles

On 9th February I attended a 'Think Tank' to help NERC plan a new cross-theme research programme on Macronutrient Cycles. £9.5M will be available for research focused on integrated C, N and P cycling. The next steps will involve capacity building workshops, the formation of a steering group and the appointment of a Director for the Programme; the advertisement for the Programme Director should be out soon. There is a planning workshop on 22-23 April 2010 that I cannot attend. It would be good to have someone there. The call for participants is at:

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/macronutrient/events/workshop.asp>

Unilever visit

Unilever's Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Group visited Rothamsted on 10th February and heard presentations about our work on Bioenergy, Pollinators, Integrated Pest Control and SoilCIP work to reduce nitrogen fertilizer over-use in China.

ISPG developments

I have been in discussion with David Hopkins, Director of Science, SCRI, about linking the next Soils ISPG to the new work packages that the Scottish Main Research Providers (MRPs), SCRI, Macaulay, SAC, etc, are preparing with RERAD. The Scottish research programmes will look rather different from ours, with policy outcomes up front, and are not as advanced. But David

and I are keen to ensure that they are complementary. We agreed that some meetings/workshops will be needed as the proposals develop. More on this as it develops.

Duncan Greenwood, CBE, FRS, 1932-2010

I am sure that you will be saddened to hear of the death of one of our most prominent soil scientists, Duncan Greenwood. I knew Duncan for most of my research career. He was an enthusiastic and strong supporter of soil science. He will be sadly missed. An obituary will appear in the BSSS newsletter later this year and one can be found at:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/whri/newsandevents/duncangreenwood/>

SIMSUG 2010 / BMSS ISO-SIG 2010 / SIBAE

The registration for SIMSUG 2010 and BMSS ISO-SIG meetings to be held in April 2010 at the University of Exeter, UK is now open. Details and forms for registration, abstracts and accommodation can be found at:

<http://www.northwyke.bbsrc.ac.uk/pages/SIMSUG2010.html>

The website also contains current information about confirmed speakers and exhibitors and will be updated on a regular basis.

SIMSUG 2010 will include:

1. BMSS Stable Isotope Special Interest Group (BMSS ISO-SIG) - 27th/28th April 2010
2. Stable Isotope Mass Spectrometry Users Group (SIMSUG) - 28th/30th April 2010

The meetings will run concurrently (28th/29th April 2010) with the management committee (MC) meeting of the COST Action ES0806 on Stable Isotopes in Biospheric-Atmospheric-Earth System Research (SIBAE).

Roland Bol (North Wyke Research)
Richard Brazier (University of Exeter)
Anna Upton (BMSS)

British Soil Physics Group

**Impacts of predicted climate change on soil water relations
28 April 2010, Swansea**

Professor Stefan Doerr has kindly agreed to host the next annual meeting at Swansea (our first venture into Wales!) on Wednesday 28th April 2010. The

title of the meeting is 'Impacts of predicted climate change on soil water relations'. We have three speakers confirmed: Profs Keith Goulding (Rres), Philippe Baveye (Abertay) and Davey Jones (Bangor). Further details will follow in due course, however if you would like to give a presentation please email [Dr Sacha Mooney](mailto:Dr.Sacha.Mooney). We again hope to have BSSS financial support for the speakers.

British Society of Soil Science

BSSS Spring Conference
Land Remediation and Reclamation: Approaches,
Applications and Challenges
Palmer Building, University of Reading, UK, 7th-9th April 2010

Remediation of contaminated land has received much research efforts in the last 20 years. Significant progress has been made in bioremediation technologies which are now widely used for cleanup of soils contaminated with organic chemicals. The work on remediation of metal-contaminated soils has faced several challenges and is yet to fulfil its promise. This conference will include key note lectures and accepted oral and poster presentations, Conference dinner (8th) and field visits to Bramshill and a metal fragmentation plant. Register [online](#).

Papers are invited within the broad theme of land remediation and reclamation/restoration areas, addressing remediation drivers, risk assessment, technical and feasibility/suitability. Papers covering environmental, economic and social sustainability aspects would also be very welcomed. Selected papers from the meeting will be put forward for publication in a special issue of Soil Use and Management. Further details available on the BSSS [website](#).

Click [here](#) for the on-line version of this Alert



IUSS Alert 58 (February 2010)

Information for and from the global soil science community

New Newsletter



The latest issue of the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Soil Science Newsletter has been released. This issue includes information on the value of historical studies to scientists, a student writing contest, symposium plans for the 2010 WCSS in Brisbane, recent books and articles, and much more. The newsletter is available on the IUSS website

by clicking on the “IUSS Newsletters” link and scrolling down to “Commission for History, Philosophy and Sociology of Soil Science” to “Number 17 – January 2010”.

Some Soils in the News



ScienceDaily is a popular science news website. Since 1995, the site has been used by students, researchers, healthcare professionals, government agencies, educators and the general public around the world. It has more than 3 million monthly visitors, and ScienceDaily generates nearly 15 million page views a month. Occasionally there are “soils” items on this news website, like, for example: Is Iron from Soil a Factor in Algal Blooms?; Spreading Antibiotics In The Soil Affects Microbial Ecosystems; From the Ancient Amazonian Indians: 'Biochar' as a Modern Weapon Against Global Warming; Changing Climate May Lead To Devastating Loss Of Phosphorus From Soil; Landfill Cover Soil Methane Oxidation Underestimated; Microorganisms Cited as Missing Factor in Climate Change Equation.



<http://www.19wcss.org.au/>

Jenni Dungait would like to know who's attending the Congress. Please e-mail Jenni if you are intending/hoping to attend: jennifer.dungait@bbsrc.ac.uk

Keith Goulding, 26th February 2010