

Cross-Institute Programme for Sustainable Soil Function



SoilCIP

Newsletter for July 2009

Soil Biology and Biochemistry

SoilCIP members Phil Brookes and Steve McGrath, along with retired staff David Powlson and David Jenkinson, are responsible for 6 of the top 10 cited articles in *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*: numbers 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 10. A terrific achievement.

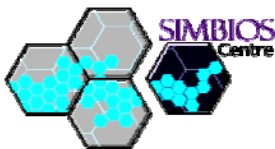
http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/332/description#description

House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee Securing food supplies up to 2050: the challenges faced by the UK

This report reviews the UK and global situation. Ian Crute and Bill Clark were among the experts who provided submissions. One of the suggestions is that Defra reinstate studentships in applied research areas related to food supply.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmenvfru/213/213i.pdf>

SoilCIP invited speakers at BSSS sponsored workshop



Micro Soil:



Integrating Biological, Physical and Chemical techniques
for the study of soil micro-habitats

University of Abertay, Dundee
16th - 17th of September 2009

Invited speakers

Sampling bacteria at microhabitat scale, **Dr P. Hirsch**, Rothamsted Research UK,
Integrating techniques: Statistics and spatial heterogeneity, **Prof. M. Lark**, Rothamsted Research.

For further information, please contact Dr. Wilfred Otten, w.otten@abertay.ac.uk .
Registration is available at: <http://simbios.abertay.ac.uk/workshop/>



UKCP09 released

The Projections show three different scenarios representing high, medium and low greenhouse gas scenarios – and this can help to demonstrate the importance of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).

The types of climate information provided are:

- observed climate data (20th and 21st century historical information about temperature, precipitation, storminess, sea surface temperatures and sea level)
- future climate projections (for temperature, precipitation, air pressure, cloud and humidity)
- future marine and coastal projections (for sea level rise, storm surge, sea surface and sub-surface temperature, salinity, currents, and waves).

<http://ukcp09.defra.gov.uk/>

North Wyke Research Science Strategy Meeting (27-28th July)

Objectives

- To provide an opportunity for staff to engage in dialogue about science developments at North Wyke Research
- To explore directions and opportunities for future work, including constraints and how they might be overcome
- To consider team-working and staff development implications of new science directions, in context of merger with Rothamsted and external collaborations

A summary of key points and actions will be circulated in due course.

Jobs at the UK Biochar Research Centre

We have a collaboration agreement with the newly-formed UK Biochar Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh. The Centre has the following vacancies. The deadline for applications is 6th August, but this will extend to one month after the print advert in New Scientist appeared (together with on-line ads in NS and Nature).

Details and on-line application at:

<http://www.jobs.ed.ac.uk/vacancies/index.cfm?fuseaction=vacancies.searchform>

Saran Sohi will also be pleased to discuss the jobs with anyone interested:

saran.sohi@ed.ac.uk

Job in NZ (apologies, but the links do not work)



POST DOCTORAL SCIENTIST – NITROUS OXIDE RESEARCH

We are seeking a post doctoral scientist to undertake research on nitrous oxide exchange processes from soils involving nitrogen inhibitors, at a range of spatial and temporal scales in programmes that are undertaken by the Global Change Processes Team.

You should possess, or about to complete, a PhD in soil or environmental science, in such areas as biochemistry, microbial ecology or environmental engineering. You should have both strong analytical capabilities and familiarity with the instrumentation used in the measurement of trace gas concentrations. An interest in pastoral agricultural management systems in New Zealand would be an advantage.

Landcare Research is New Zealand's foremost environmental research organisation, providing solutions and advice for sustainable development and the management of land-based natural resources. Our Global Change Processes team conducts world-leading research to understand the processes regulating the exchange of greenhouse gases between the terrestrial biosphere and the atmosphere, and to identify viable mitigation options that will reduce net emissions.

The position is for a fixed term of two years, and based at our offices on the Massey University campus at Palmerston North, New Zealand.

For further information please visit our website at www.landcareresearch.co.nz/jobs, where you will find a position description and an online application form. All applications must be received online through the Landcare Research website. For specific enquiries, you may contact Dr Surinder Saggar by email SaggarS@landcareresearch.co.nz.

Applications close 15TH August 2009.

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



IUSS Alert 51 (July 2009)

Information for and from the global soil science community



Soil Science. Edited By A.E. Hartemink, A.B. McBratney and R.E. White. Earthscan Reference Collections 2009. 1800 pages. ISBN 9781844076468. This four-volume set, edited by leading experts in soil science, brings together in one collection a series of papers that have been fundamental to the development of soil science as a defined discipline. Some of the papers were first published many years ago, but they remain classics in their fields and retain their relevance to the understanding of current issues. The papers have

been selected with the assistance of an eminent international editorial board. The set includes a general introduction and each volume is introduced by a new overview essay, placing the selected papers in context. The range of subject matter is considerable, including traditional subjects such as soil genesis, physics and mineralogy, applied disciplines such as soils and hydrology, land degradation and plant nutrition, as well as more contemporary

topics such as soil pollution, land use and environmental change. Overall, the set provides students and teachers, confronted with thousands of journal articles, book chapters and grey literature stretching back over nearly a century, with a ready-made selection of and commentary on the most important key writings in soil science. It will be an essential reference for libraries concerned with earth sciences, environmental studies, agriculture and forestry.



Soil and Culture. By Landa, Edward R.; Feller, Christian (Eds.). Springer, 2009, Approx. 500 p., Hardcover. ISBN: 978-90-481-2959-1. Soil has been called the final frontier of environmental research. The critical role of soil in biogeochemical processes is tied to its properties and place—porous, structured, and spatially variable, it serves as a conduit, buffer, and transformer of water, solutes and gases. Yet what is complex, life-giving, and sacred to some, is ordinary, even ugly, to others. This is the enigma that is soil.

Soil and Culture explores the perception of soil in ancient, traditional, and modern societies. It looks at the visual arts (painting, textiles, sculpture, architecture, film, comics and stamps), prose & poetry, religion, philosophy, anthropology, archaeology, wine production, health & diet, and disease & warfare. Soil and Culture explores high culture and popular culture—from the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch to the films of Steve McQueen. It looks at ancient societies and contemporary artists. Contributors from a variety of disciplines delve into the mind of Carl Jung and the bellies of soil eaters, and explore Chinese paintings, African mud cloths, Mayan rituals, Japanese films, French comic strips, and Russian poetry. This is a non traditional volume which will serve the soil science community well while also reaching a broader earth science community such as geologists and geographers, as well as in the arts and social science communities.



Soils, Society & Global Change. EU JRC, 2009. This book highlights how our ability to manage soils plays an important role in global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity reduction, food and water security, and economic and social progress. It explores policy and legal challenges, knowledge management issues, and the crucial role of soil in the successful implementation of the global environmental conventions. The book concludes with the Programme for Action which includes a number of proactive recommendations on how global policies can be improved to protect soil as a resource.



www.iuss.org

Kit Macleod, 23rd July 2009