

Cross-Institute Programme for Sustainable Soil Function

SoilCIP

Newsletter for September 2009



Defra's Soil Strategy

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/sap/index.htm>

This was launched on 24th September while I was on holiday. An interview with Andy Whitmore was broadcast on Radio 4 but a BBC TV interview with Andy was not used; other news (e.g. the new Aids vaccine) took precedence. Did anyone else give any interviews?

Kathryn Allton, the new BSSS Executive Officer, was very active and secured more media coverage through a press release put out through Science Media Centre. Some of the points made in the press release were quoted by John Vidal in his article in The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/sep/24/topsoil-farming-defra>

The Financial Times also gave some coverage: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6cd3129c-a93c-11de-9b7f-00144feabdc0.html>

Collaborations with the Scottish MRPs

BBSRC and RERAD are about to announce their support for collaborative responsive mode grant proposals between Scottish and English research centres. We should be talking now to see how best we can collaborate, with plenty of one-to-one discussions between researchers once the full announcement is made. I look forward to seeing some more strong England-Scotland collaborations built on those already existing.

PhD proposals to start in 2010

A call for Oct 2010 studentships will be issued shortly:

- Proposals must be on the **new form** on the web which includes a summary of expected costs
- They must be aligned with ISPG and BBSRC strategy – this is essential and will be scrutinised
- There must be an (interesting) abstract and the area of science (only one if possible) identified
- An individual can only be named as supervisor or co-supervisor on one advertised project. If your authorisation as a supervisor/co-supervisor has not

- yet been agreed, please ensure that the form is in the system (i.e. has been sent to the PGSC)
- There will only be 5-6 allocated studentships this round (including quota and CASE). There will also be a call for a Nottingham Lawes Trust studentship at the same time and, maybe, Reading Lawes Trust studentships as well
 - If you are suggesting a CASE studentship, the CASE partner must have agreed in principle to the arrangement.
 - Proposals will be sifted by the Centres first and go to PGEC on 6 November, so **proposals to me, please, by Oct 31st**. It is unlikely that more than 2 proposals will be accepted for advertising from any ISPG.

British Society of Soil Science and Irish Society of Soil Science joint meeting

The British and Irish Soil Science Societies held a joint meeting at Teagasc, Johnstown Castle near Wexford in Ireland from 9-11 September. I counted 6 SoilCIP presenters: 5 oral and one poster, but I might have missed some joint authors on posters. It was a very profitable and convivial meeting, from which I hope some new collaborations will emerge to add to the strong existing links. The organizers hope to have enough good offered papers for a special edition of Soil Use & Management.

ISPG2

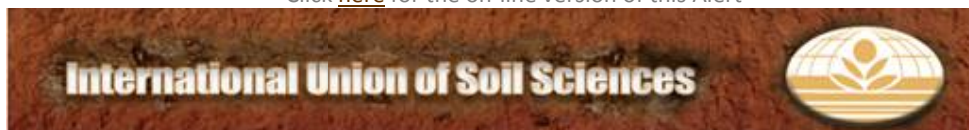
At a meeting in London yesterday, BBSRC outlined its plans for the next round of ISPGs. You will hear much more very soon but the main thing to note is that outline ISPGs are wanted by the end of next June 2010. Peter Shewry is hurriedly organizing a meeting of HoDs and Centre Directors to discuss ideas.

Pedometron

The new Pedometron is out at: <http://www.pedometrics.org/pedometron/Pedometron27.pdf>

and some pictures from Pedometrics 2009 are at: <http://www.pedometrics.org/pm/?p=351>

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



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Information for and from the global soil science community

19th World Congress of Soil Science - Call for papers now open



The 19th World Congress of Soil Science will be held in Australia, 1-6 August 2010 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The

conference theme “Soil Solutions for a Changing World” provides a tremendous opportunity for a broad range of presentations – we urge you to share your research, experiences and knowledge in Brisbane. Papers must be submitted by 31 October 2009 to be considered. Registration for the 19th World Congress of Soil Science will open on 31 August 2009 www.19wcss.org.au

Keith Goulding, 30th September 2009