



**International Commission of Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering (CIGR)**

CIGR

Annual Report 2018 of Section I: Land and Water

Gerrit J. Carsjens

Chair

Claudio Garcia

Vice-chair

José M. Gonçalves

Secretary



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

Section 1: Land and Water

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1. Introduction

The International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR) was set up by a Constituent Assembly on the occasion of the first International Congress of Agricultural Engineering, held in Liege, Belgium in 1930. CIGR is an international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation regrouping, as a networking system, regional and national societies of Agricultural Engineering as well as private and public companies and individuals all over the world.

CIGR contains a number of Technical Sections, each active in one particular field of Agricultural Engineering. Each section is governed by an International Section. This annual report is a report of Technical Section I: Land and Water.

2. Mission statement

The mission statement of CIGR Section 1: Land and Water is:

“... to promote the advance of the engineering science in the area of land and water use in agriculture and in rural areas, giving special attention to the conservation of resources, the preservation and re-establishment of environmental balances, and the social and economic impacts of applications in order to realize sustainable development for both urban and rural societies ...”

3. Objectives

The mission statement of Section I implies a range of objectives that contribute to the promotion of engineering science in land and water use in agriculture. These are:

- Improving the knowledge on processes leading to or affecting the quality of land and water resources;
- Developing and applying technologies for land use planning, including forecasting land use changes, and assessing land use impacts;
- Improving the knowledge of hydrological processes as affected by land use and agricultural practices;
- Enhancing knowledge of water contamination by fertilizers and agro-chemicals, and other agricultural sources, as well as assessing control measures;
- Improving technologies for higher performances in irrigation and drainage;
- Assessing environmental impacts of land and water use in agriculture;
- Developing technologies, standards and monitoring systems for wastewater treatment and reuse, and use of low quality water in agriculture.



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4. Scope

Considering the objectives defined as above, the scope of CIGR-Section I refers to the following main subject areas:

- Soil management and soil technologies;
- Soil and water conservation and soil erosion assessment;
- Agricultural and rural watershed hydrology;
- Land use planning and management;
- Rural roads and related supporting infrastructures;
- Irrigation scheduling and on-farm irrigation systems;
- Surface and sub-surface drainage systems;
- Irrigation water supply, conveyance and distribution systems;
- Non-point and point source contamination assessment and control;
- Integrated soil and water use planning;
- Integrated impact assessment of land and water development projects;
- Modern technologies in land and water engineering, including modelling, information systems, remote sensing, decision support and expert systems.

5. Activities

To achieve the objectives, several activities shall be developed by CIGR-Section I. These comprise:

- Organisation, sponsoring and co-sponsoring of seminars, workshops and conferences oriented to the objectives and scope of CIGR-Section I;
- Co-organisation of thematic special sessions, workshops or seminars on occasions of CIGR congresses;
- Collaboration in scientific committees of general themes of CIGR Congresses;
- Contributing to the e-journal of CIGR, both with papers and paper reviews, as well as to other publications of CIGR;
- Supporting the specialised working groups of CIGR of which themes fall in the domain of the Section, the respective Chair Persons becoming members of the Section Board;
- Establishing special relationships with other international societies of which field is common to that of Section I, namely the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage and the European Society for Soil Conservation, of which representatives are ex-office members of the Board of Section I;



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- Developing relations with the regional Agricultural Engineering Societies for implementing common actions; at present one Vice-President of EurAgEng is ex-office member of the Board of Section I;
- Cooperation with the Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering, with a special mention to the co-organization of 2019 Inter-Regional Conference at Rabat, Morocco.
- Implementing inter-sections activities;
- Promoting exchanges of scientific information with professionals, such as through the FAO Agricultural Engineering sites.

All activities referred above require improved effectiveness from contributions of the Board members but some need particular inputs from the CIGR Bureau. This is the case for:

- Better clarification of relationships between Congress organizing and scientific committees and the CIGR-Section Boards for more effectively achieving common objectives and improving the quality of Congress papers and publications;
- Re-examining the contributions of CIGR Sections to the E-journal of CIGR, probably considering specialized editorial boards relative to each Section domain, such as for the Transactions of ASAE;
- Providing better information and diffusion of the e-journal of CIGR to increase its circulation and its recognition by the scientific and engineering community;
- Promoting the links of the regional Agricultural Engineering Societies with the CIGR Sections; a representative of each of these societies should become either member or ex-office member of each Section Board for improved co-operation;

6. Relationships with other groups and societies

Currently, Section I co-operates with two working groups within CIGR and several external societies, working on topics related to the scope of Section I. These working groups and societies are represented within the section board by liaison members or permanent observers.

The two working groups of CIGR represented in the Section I board are:

1. The CIGR Working Group on Water Management and Information Systems
2. The CIGR Working Group on Earth Observation for Land and Water Engineering

The societies represented in the Section I board are:

1. The European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng)
2. The ICID Committee on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Crop Production
3. The European Society for Soil Conservation (ESSC)



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4. The International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES)
5. The International Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering (2IE), Group EIER-ETSHER (Groupe des Ecoles Inter Etats des Ingenieurs et des Techniciens Superieurs), based in Africa

7. Inter-regional conferences

From 1998 until 2012 CIGR Section I organized a yearly conference under the umbrella Inter-regional conference on Environment-Water (EnviroWater). In 2012 the board of CIGR Section I decided to close this Inter-regional conference series and to replace it with a new series with a new name. The umbrella title of the new series is: Inter-regional conference on Land and Water Challenges. From 2015 the Inter-regional conferences are organized each two years. A summary of some statistics of each Inter-Regional Conference on Land and Water Challenges is presented in the next table:

Conference (year)	Site, Country	Participants (number)	Speakers (number)	Papers (number)	Oral presentation (number)	Poster presentation (number)
1st (2013)	Bari, Italy	150	n/d	135	n/d	36
2nd (2014)	Beijing, China	178	n/d	56	n/d	25
3rd (2015)	Colonia, Uruguay	150	17	47	25	22
4 th (2017)	Texcoco, Mexico		4	15 + 81		
5 th (2018)	Antalya, Turkey	N/d	N/d	22	14	8

n/d: no data;

The 4th Inter-Regional Conference was co-organized with the Asociación Nacional de Especialistas en Irrigación, of Mexico, running parallel to the XVIII Congreso Nacional de Irrigación. There were 4 keynotes and the program included 81 abstracts for the Mexican irrigation conference and 15 abstracts for the CIGR Inter-regional conference.



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The next Inter-regional conference:

- 5th Inter-Regional Conference on Land and Water Challenges will be held in Rabat, Morocco, 2019.

8. Other sponsored and/or co-sponsored activities

None.

9. CIGR-journal: Agricultural Engineering International

The CIGR serves the international membership by providing a low cost, widely available journal, Agricultural Engineering International. The Section I representatives in the editorial board of the CIGR-journal is Dr. Jose Manuel Gonçalves.

10. Board meetings

The board meeting 2018 of Section I was held on April 23, Antalya, Turkey. The board meeting was attended by 5 members and one invited observer.



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Annex. Board Members (2015-2018)

Section chair

Chair:

Dr. Gerrit J. Carsjens (NL)

Land Use Planning Group

Wageningen University,

P.O. Box 47, 6700 Wageningen, The Netherlands

Tel: +31 317 484840

E-mail: gerrit-jan.carsjens@wur.nl

Vice-Chair:

Dr. Claudio Garcia (UY)

National Research Institute of Agriculture (INIA)

Andes 1365 - piso 12 CP 11100 Montevideo, Uruguay

Tel.: 598 23677641 ext 1742

E-mail: cgarcia@inia.org.uy

Secretary:

Dr. Jose Manuel Monteiro Gonçalves (PT)

Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, College of Agriculture,

Bencanta, 3045-601 Coimbra, Portugal

Tel: +351 239 802 261

E-mail: jmmg@esac.pt



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

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Regular members:

Dr. Antonio Brasa Ramos (ES)

Dep. Producción Vegetal y Tecnología Agraria,
Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros Agrónomos,
University of Castilla-La Mancha, Campus Universitario
E 02071 Albacete, Spain.

Tel: +34 967 599 200

E-mail: antonio.brasa@uclm.es

Prof. Dr. Yoshiyuki Shinogi (JP)

Department of Bioproduction Environmental Sciences

Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University

6-10-1, Hakozaki, Higashi-ku

Fukuoka 812-8581 Japan

Tel: +81-92-642-2909

E-mail: yshinogi@bpes.kyushu-u.ac.jp

Dr. Enrique Palacios (MX)

Colegio de Postgraduados en Ciencias Agrícolas (COLPOS)

Carretera México-Texcoco Km 36.5; Código Postal 56230

Campus: Montecillo, Municipio de Texcoco, Estado de México, Mexico



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

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Tel: +52-5558045986

E-mail: epalacio@colpos.mx

Prof. Taisheng Du (CN)

Center for Agricultural Water Research in China

P.O. Box 25, East Campus, China Agricultural University

17, Qinghua East Road, Haidian District

Beijing 100083, P. R. China

Tel: +86-10-62738548

E-mail: dutaisheng@cau.edu.cn; dts1975@126.com

Dr. Nicola Lamaddalena (IT)

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)

IAM.B Istituto Agronomica Mediterraneo di Bari

Via Ceglie, 9 – 70010 Valenzano (Bari), Italy

Tel: +39 0804606234

E-mail: lamaddalena@iamb.it

Prof. Dr. Forster Ndibusi (US)

Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning

College of Architecture, Texas A&M University.

3137 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-3137

Tel.: +1 979 845 1019

E-mail: fndubisi@arch.tamu.edu



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

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Dr. Atmaram Mishra (IN)

International Water Management Institute

New Delhi Office, 2nd floor, CG Block C, NASC Complex

DPS Marg, Pusa, Opposite to Todapur

New Delhi – 110012, India

E-mail: atmaramm@yahoo.com, atmaram.mishra@cgiar.org

Prof. Dr. Robiyanto Hendro Susanto (ID)

Sriwijaya University

Indonesia

E-mail: robiyanto@tidal-lowlands.org

Dr. Harouna Karambiri (BF)

International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE)

1, Rue de la Science – BP 594 Ouagadougou – Burkina Faso

Tel: +226 50492873 / +226 78758077

E-mail: harouna.karambiri@2ie-edu.org

Dr. Silvio Carlos Ribeiro Vieira Lima (BR)

Institute for Research and Innovation in Irrigated Agriculture (INOVAGRI)

Rua João Carvalho, 800 Sala 1302

CEP: 60140-140

Fortaleza, Ceará, Brasil



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

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Tel: +55 85 32681597

E-mail: silviocarlos@inovagri.org.br

Dr. Yakov Lobachevsky (RU)

All-Russia Research Institute for Mechanization in Agriculture (VIM)

1st Institutusky proezd 5, VIM

109428 Moscow, Russian Federation

Tel: 095-977-1133

E-mail: lobachevsky@yandex.ru

Honorary chairs:

Prof. Hubert N. van Lier

Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

E-mail: huub.ellyvanlier@gmail.com

Prof. Emeritus, Luis Santos Pereira

Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Lisbon University

Tapada da Ajuda, 1349-017 Lisboa, Portugal

Tel: +351 21 36 21 575 / 36 53 339

E-mail: luis.santospereira@gmail.com

Prof. André Musy



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

Section 1: Land and Water

Laboratory Hydrology and Land Improvement, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne

Bâtiment GR, CH 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.

Tel: +41 21 69 33 721

E-mail: andre.musy@epfl.ch

Prof. Yohei Sato

Prof. Emeritus, Dr. Yohei Sato

Food & Agriculture Business Innovation Organization

c/o Welseed Co.,Ltd.

A-12, Tsukuba Cnter, Inc., 2-1-6, Sengen, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-0047, Japan

Tel: +81-29-858-0809

E-mail: sato-yoh@mail2.accsnet.ne.jp

Prof. Mauro Greppi

Istituto di Idraulica Agraria, Università degli Studi di Milano

Via Celoria 2, IT-20133 Milano, Italy

Tel: + 39 02 503.16906

E-mail: mauro.greppi@unimi.it

Prof. Dr. José M. Tarjuelo

Director Regional Centre on Water Research

University of Castilla-La Mancha, Campus Universitario

E 02071 Albacete, Spain



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

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Tel: +34 967 599 200

E-mail: jose.tarjuelo@uclm.es

Prof. Dr. Guanhua Huang

Director Chinese-Israeli International Center for Research and Training in Agriculture (CIICTA)

China Agricultural University (CAU)

Beijing, 100083, P.R. China

Tel: +86-10-62737154 / 62737138

E-mail: ghuang@cau.edu.cn

Liaison members (permanent observers):

Representing the Working Group on Earth Observation for Land and Water Engineering

Prof. Guido D'Urso

Department of Agricultural Engineering and Agronomy, University of Naples "Federico II", Via
Università 100, I-80055 Portici, Naples, Italy

E-mail: durso@unina.it

WG website: http://digilander.libero.it/WG_CIGR_EO/index.htm

Representing the CIGR Working Group on "Water Management and Information Systems":

Dr. José Fernando Ortega Álvarez

Regional Centre on Water Research

University of Castilla-La Mancha, Campus Universitario



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

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E 02071 Albacete, Spain.

Tel: +34 967 599 200

E-mail: jose.ortega@uclm.es

Representing the European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng):

Prof. Nunzio Romano

Department of Agricultural Engineering, Division for Land and Water Resources Management

University of Naples Federico II

Via Universita' 100, 80055 Portici, Naples, Italy

Tel: +39 081 2539421 (direct); +39 081 2539415 (secretary's office)

E-mail: nunzio.romano@unina.it

[http: www.soilhydro.unina.it](http://www.soilhydro.unina.it)

Representing the ICID Committee on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Crop Production:

Prof. Ragab Ragab

Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8BB, UK

Tel: +44 1491 692303

E-mail: rag@ceh.ac.uk

Representing the European Society for Soil Conservation (ESSC):

Prof. Dr. José Luis Rubio,

Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificación – CIDE

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

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Universitat de Valencia, Generalitat Valenciana

46113 Moncada, Valencia, Spain

Tel: +34 96 342 41 62

E-mail: jose.l.rubio@uv.es

Representing the World Road Association (PIARC):

Dr. ir. C. F. (Rinus) Jaarsma,

Wageningen University and Research Centre, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Rinus Jaarsma passed away on 26 July 2018.

Representing the International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES):

Prof. Dr. Yoshiyuki Shinogi (JP)

Laboratory of Irrigation and Water Management, Division of Bioproduction Environmental Sciences, Department of Agro-Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture

Kyushu University

Tel: +81-92-642-2909

E-mail: yshinogi@bpes.kyushu-u.ac.jp