

7th European IFSA Symposium

First announcement and call for papers

7-11 May 2006 Wageningen, The Netherlands

International Steering Committee

- Jacques Brossier, INRA, Dijon, France
- Artur Cristóvão, University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, UTAD, Portugal
- Benoît Dedieu, INRA, Clermont-Ferrand, France
- Kirsten von der Heiden, Technical University Berlin, Germany
- Loes Heuff, Village Association of Myckelgensjö, Sweden
- Alex Koutsouris, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece
- Hans Langeveld, Plant Sciences Group, Wageningen, The Netherlands
- Rebecka Milestad, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden
- Colin Newsham, Rural Centre for Business Learning and Leisure, UK
- Egon Noe, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Tjele, Denmark
- Milan Slavik, Czech University of Agriculture, Prague, Czech Republic
- Luigi Omodei Zorini, Florence University, Florence, Italy

Local Organising Committee

Hans Langeveld (Plant Sciences Group)
Albert Meijering (Animal Sciences Group)
Irene Gosselink (Plant Sciences Group)
Conny van der Plas (Social Sciences Group)

Website

Full details of programme, accommodation, locations of the excursions etcetera will be posted onto the website. Registration and abstract handling will be done via the website:

www.farmingsystems.nl

Symposium Secretariat

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New visions for rural areas
Changing European farming systems for a better future

Workshops



1 | **Learning as process.**

Trying to understand one's role in the new learning demands of multifunctional land use systems, as they work with different actors and tools at different scales.

Convenors: Egon Noe (Dk), Sri Sriskandaraja (Aus) and Marianne Cerf (F).

2 | **Agriculture, rural land use and sustainable development.**

Discussing technical, organisational and strategic adaptation of farming systems that interact with non-agricultural enterprises and institutions, negotiating trade-offs between various goals as farming strives for synergy and complementarity with urban centres.

Convenors: Luigi Omodei Zorini (I), Philippe Perrier-Cornet (F) and Ken Giller (NL).

3 | **The future of farming.**

Defining what activities constitute farming, and who defines this. Discussing what farmers think of their (future) role, farming being linked to rural systems, food chains and ecological services. Describing what technical and social changes are needed to fulfill this role.

Convenors: Colin Newsham (UK), Rebecka Milestad (S) and Benoit Dedieu (F).

4 | **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in transition.**

Analysing the current transformation of pluralistic education, extension and research systems towards multi-stakeholder networks. New services, role divisions and approaches emerge following diverse objectives and motives answering new challenges.

Convenors: Kirsten von der Heiden (D), Cees Leeuwis (NL) and Milan Slavik (Cz).

5 | **Managing natural resources.**

Discussing Natural Resource Management (NRM) and linkages between land use systems and landscape functions. Evaluating land use systems, involving farmers and other stakeholders (not all living in the area, not all active in NRM).

Convenors: Chris Stoate (UK), Jacques Baudry (F) and Andrea Knierim (D).

Introduction

■ Background

Rural areas face many challenges. Driven by changes in market development, environmental legislation, climate change and social systems, farming families, researchers and policy makers need new social, technical and economic solutions to create viable rural conditions. Over the last decades, the International Farming Systems Association IFSA has been at the forefront in developing strategies for rural areas in Europe and elsewhere. The 7th European IFSA Symposium will formulate new visions and design new tools and approaches.

■ Setup of the symposium

The symposium programme includes plenary, workshop and poster sessions as well as field trips. Plenary sessions include a presentation by Pieter Vereijken (NL) on the future of European farming and a reflection on two decades of learning and participation research (to be confirmed). Special attention is given to exchange among workshops and between workshops and excursions. The symposium will be preceded by a number of master classes.

■ Submission of contributions

Contributions (methodological discussions, case studies, and experimental reports) may include oral presentations, poster communications or computer demonstrations. Farmers, advisors and other practitioners are invited to present field notes and case studies; students are encouraged to present research questions, research setup and/or results. Submission of abstracts (single A4) is done by internet. Details on the submission are given at www.farmingsystems.nl.

All accepted papers will be included in a book of proceedings provided to all participants at the start of the symposium.

■ Deadlines

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| Paper submission | 1 November 2005 |
| Author notification (paper acceptance or rejection) | 1 December 2005 |
| Submission of final versions | 15 January 2006 |
| End of registration reduced fee | 1 February 2006 |
| End of registration | 1 April 2006 |