

Leading Edge, supported by the Society for Engineering in Agriculture and the Australian Centre for Precision Agriculture, provides a local and worldwide window on engineering and PA research.

SEAg 2009 – Agricultural Technology in a Changing Climate

Noted overseas and local agricultural engineers will present practical solutions to many of the emerging issues associated with climate-challenged sustainable food production at the 2009 CIGR International Symposium of



NCEA Director Erik Schmidt.



SEAg president Dr Thomas Banhazi.

the Australian Society for Engineering in Agriculture.

The three-day event to be held at the Chifley at Lennons in Brisbane on September 13–16, 2009 has already attracted Belgian, South African and South Korean speakers who will address the theme: *Agricultural Technology in a Changing Climate*.

Symposium co-convenors are NCEA Director Erik Schmidt and SEAg president Dr Thomas Banhazi. The co-hosts are SEAg and Engineers Australia with the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR) as co-sponsor.

The scientific program will include plenary sessions, parallel oral sessions and poster sessions. Topics will include:

- Irrigation, water and environmental management;

- Post-harvest technologies and processing;
- Structures, equipment and environment;
- Power and machinery;
- Precision agriculture and livestock management;
- Plant production and handling; and,
- Information management.

Erik sees this symposium as an ideal forum for ag engineers, service companies and primary producers to meet and exchange views.

“We live in challenging times and adapting to change is essential for all sectors of the world economy,” Erik said.

“Agriculture in particular is under enormous pressure from a changing climate both in terms of weather, labour and resource availability and the economy.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT NOW AND PARTICIPATE IN SEAG 2009

Authors are invited to submit abstracts (maximum 200 words) for presentation at the 2009 SEAg Symposium and for inclusion in the conference proceedings.

Each abstract will be reviewed by the scientific committee before inviting the authors to submit the full article.

Please follow the instructions carefully to ensure that the submitted abstract will be assessed properly.

The full conference papers will be submitted to a ‘light review’ process to ensure scientific integrity and compliance with formatting requirements.

Conference participants will be invited to submit an updated version of the conference papers as a Journal article to be published in the *Australian Journal of Multi-disciplinary Engineering* published by Engineering Australia.

Our experienced ‘scientific committee’ will ensure the high scientific standard of the conference.

The closing date for abstract submission will not be extended and abstracts will only be accepted if the author has registered for the 2009 CIGR International Symposium of the Australian Society for Engineering in Agriculture.

All inquiries regarding abstracts for the 2009 CIGR International Symposium of the Australian Society for Engineering in Agriculture should be emailed to seag2009@icmsaustralasia.com

Deadline for submission of abstracts: February 15, 2009.

Notification of abstract acceptance: March 1, 2009.

Deadline paper submission: May 1, 2009.

Feedback review scientific committee: June 15, 2009.

Deadline final paper submission: July 15, 2009.

"Research, development and adoption of new agricultural technologies provide real opportunities to ensure sustainable agricultural production systems," he said.

As well, a number of associated meetings will be held in conjunction with the main symposium, including a focused workshop designed to explore opportunities for closer regional collaboration between SE Asian/Australian Agricultural Engineering societies.

Thomas is based at the South Australian Research and Development Institute and heads the symposium scientific committee of 30 distinguished researchers from 17 countries.

Australia can show the way

He believes strongly Australians can show the way on how to adapt to more variable climates.

"This is a country of great diversity with extreme agricultural challenges. Innovation has always been a prerequisite for the agricultural sector," Thomas said.

"This symposium provides a unique forum for local and international delegates to share ideas and opportunities," he said.

A short two-day post congress tour after the symposium will take local delegates and international visitors on a tour of agricultural production and processing facilities in

the south-eastern corner of Queensland.

The tour departs on the morning of September 16 and returns late afternoon September 17.

Attendees will get an overview of local agricultural industries including horticulture, intensive livestock production, viticulture, broadacre cotton, grain production and associated processing.

The tour will depart Brisbane and travel through the rich farm land areas of the Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs and will include an overnight stay on the edge of the Western Downs with the return trip through the scenic Cunningham's Gap to Brisbane.

Every symposium needs industry sponsors and this event is no different, Symposium Secretariat Event Manager Suellen Holland said.

"The exhibition and poster display will be a focus of the symposium," Suellen said. "Our daily program has been structured to maximise the opportunity for participants to visit the exhibition. Refreshment breaks, including morning and afternoon teas, will be held within the exhibition area.

As well, the exhibition area adjoins the scientific program auditorium, thus guaranteeing a high level of delegate visitation," she said.

The Conference Organising Committee has produced a 10-page symposium website which features comprehensive information and interactive links to enable early bird registration, abstract lodgement, short farm tour bookings and sponsorship site reservations.

Visit www.seag2009.com.au



Society for Engineering in Agriculture

The society contributes to the development of a strong engineering involvement in agriculture to aid economic growth and environmental sustainability for the entire Australian community.

Who can join SEAg?

Membership is open to anyone interested in the application of engineering to agriculture and related industries. This includes scientists, farmers, surveyors, technical officers, engineers, manufacturers, distributors and processors.

SEAg NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER POSITIONS

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