



East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies

East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies

Newsletter 14

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ESAFS Office in Korea

The 9th International Conference of the East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies (ESAFS9)

Main Theme: Soils as a Convergent Technology in Tandem with Human and Ecosystem Health

Organizer: The Korean Society of Soil Science and Fertilizer

Date: October 27-30, 2009

Venue: Seoul Olympic Parktel Hotel



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Program

Date	Programs
October 27 (Tue)	Opening ceremony, Plenary and Invited Lectures, Welcoming Reception
October 28 (Wed)	Symposia I (Plant Nutrition and Human Welfare)
	Symposia II (Asia-centric Soil Informatics)
	Symposia III (Soil Engineering and Technology for Human and Ecosystem Health)
	Symposia IV (Soil Degradation: Challenges to Sustainable Life and Environment)
	Symposia V (Soil Biology as a Catalyst for Bridging Production and Human Well-being)
	Symposia VI (Paddy Soils: Better Performances for Human and Ecosystem Health)
	Symposia VII (Climate Change: Impacts and Future Paradigm for Agriculture, Human and Ecosystem Health)
	Symposia VIII (National Soil Testing Consortium Conference) Symposia SSEH (Soil and Environmental Health)
October 29 (Thu)	Field Tours
October 30 (Fri)	Field Tours

Organizing Committee

- ☉ **Dr. Chung, Doug Young** (Chair of Organizing Committee: dychung@cnu.ac.kr)
- ☉ **Dr. Yang, Jae E.** (Secretary General: yangjay@kangwon.ac.kr)
- ☉ **Dr. Kim, Kye-Hoon** (Chair of Scientific Program Committee: johnkim@uos.ac.kr)
- ☉ **Dr. Kim, Won-Il** (Chair of Conference Operation Committee: wikim@rda.go.kr)
- ☉ **Dr. Ha, Sang-Keun** (Chair of Technical Tour Program Committee: ha0sk@rda.go.kr)
- ☉ **Dr. Hong, S. Young** (Chair of Public Relation Committee: syhong@rda.go.kr)
- ☉ **Dr. Zhang, Yong-Sun** (Deputy Chair of Organizing Committee: zhang@rda.go.kr)

Activities of Member Societies

The Soil Science Society of Bangladesh (SSSB)

Dr. S. M. Imamul Huq (Preseident), Jalal Uddin Md. Shoaib (Secretary General)

Department of Soil, Water and Environment, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-100, Bangladesh

1. Seminar organized by Soil Science Society of Bangladesh during 2005-2009

Sl. No.	Seminar topic	Presenter
1.	Application of Geographic Information System (GIS) in soil resource management, 2005	J. U. Shoaib Chief Scientific Officer Soil Resource Development Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh
2.	How speciation analysis can help to understand the arsenic uptake?, 2005	Professor Dr. Jorge Feldman Aberdeen University, Scotland, UK
3.	Soil Contamination with special reference to Arsenic and towards future research for remediation. 2006	Professor Dr. S. M. Imamul Huq Director, Bangladesh-Australia Centre for Environmental Research, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
4.	Biogas programs: A solution to growing fuel and fertilizer crisis in rural Bangladesh, 2006	Dr. Md. Shahidul Islam Advisor, Bangladesh Fertilizer Association
5.	Extent of land degradation in Bangladesh and need for intervention, 2007	Dr. A. T. M. Farid Former Director Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute
6.	Meeting the challenges of global food crisis, 2008	Dr. Zahurul Karim Former Executive Chairman Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council

Note; No. 2 seminar was jointly organized by Department of Soil, Water and Environment, Dhaka University. No. 3 and 4 seminar were jointly organized by Soil Resource Development Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh

2. Active subscribed member of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and World Association of Soil Water Conservation (WASWC). President along with other two life members of SSSB participated

in the 18th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) held in USA (2006). SSSB President also attended Pre-Congress Meeting of 19th WCSS held in Brisbane, Australia (2008).

3. SSSB awarded honorary life membership to Professor Dr. Ravi Naidu of the University of South Australia for his contribution in research regarding ‘Arsenic contamination of ground water in Bangladesh and its transfer to soil-plant system’
4. Publication of Journal (Bangladesh Journal of Soil Science), 4 issues of 2 volumes has been published during 2006-2008. Current issue is now in press.
5. Website under preparation for hosting.
6. Arranged 12 Executive Committee (EC) meeting and 2 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
7. Development of Inter institutional relation



Activities of Member Societies

The Chinese Society of Soil and Fertilizer Sciences (CSSFS)

1. In 2008, committee board members meeting of CSSFS was held on 2/29、6/19、11/25.
2. The 7th symposium of soil and fertilizer academic exchange between Mainland China and Taiwan was held at Jiuhua Mountain Villa, Beijing, on 20-28 Sept., 2008. 24 members of CSSFS participated in the seminar, and 14 scientific papers were published.
3. The seminar on non-point pollution from agriculture was held on 24, Nov. 2008, sponsored by CSSFS and Agricultural Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan.
4. The seminar of ‘The strategies of applying soil fertilizers against the Earth warming and grain steady’ and ‘annual members’ conference were held on 12, Dec., 2008 in Soil and Environmental Sciences Dept., National Chung-Hsing University, Taichung City.
5. The CSSFS was authorized by Agricultural grain administration to hold one workshop of sound application of organic fertilizer and declaration of sound fertilization under the project of sound fertilization on 22, Dec., 2008. The workshop was designed for the officials from each county and municipal government, and from peasant associations.
6. In 2008, the CSSFS was authorized by Agricultural grain administration to execute three projects of ‘Enhancement of fertilizer management’, ‘Sound fertilization’ and ‘Popularization of domestic organic fertilizers’, and to publish three handbooks including ‘Analysis of soil chemical properties’, ‘Analysis of organic fertilizers’, and ‘Sound fertilization of organic farming’.



Picture 1. Dr. P.M. Huang, a Prof. Em. from University of Saskatchewan, gave a speech about the impacts of physicochemical-biological interactions on metal and metalloid transformations in soils during the annual member's meeting of CSSFS.



Picture 2. The chairman of CSSFS, Dr. J.H. Chen, gave a speech in 7th symposium of soil fertilizer academic exchange Mainland China and Taiwan at Jiuhua Mountain Villa, Beijing.



Picture 3. The picture showed the conference room in the workshop of sound application of organic fertilizer and declaration of sound fertilization. This workshop was for the professional officials from each county in Taiwan.

The Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS)

Singh, Anil Kumar

President, Indian Society of Soil Science, NASC Complex, D.P.S. Shastri Marg, Todapur, New Delhi-110012, India (Email: aks_wtc@yahoo.com; (O): 91-11-25848364; (F): 28548366)

1. Annual Conference and General Body Meetings

The Annual General Body Meeting is an important business meeting open to all categories of members of ISSS, and it is held as part of the Annual conference each year. Issues concerning election of Council members, finance, fixation of membership subscription, annual review of the programs, amendments to rules, general policy guidelines, etc. are taken up in these meetings. It is a matter of great pride that the Annual Conventions of the Society have been held without a single break ever since the inception of the Society. The Society honors the contributions made by its members in the form of Honorary Membership, Fellowships, Awards, Memorial Lectures etc.

2. Milestones

- Founded on 22 December 1934 in Calcutta.
- First Annual Convention held on 3 January 1935 in Presidency College, Calcutta.
- Publication of the Journal of the Indian Society of Soil Science started in 1953
- Silver Jubilee Celebrations held in 1959.
- International Symposium on Soil Fertility Evaluation held during 9-14, February, 1971, New Delhi.
- Twelfth International Congress of Soil Science held during February 8-16, 1982 This Congress was the first one ever to be held in Asia and that too in a developing country.
- Golden Jubilee Celebrations held from 7 to 10 December 1984 at New Delhi.
- Diamond Jubilee Celebrations held from 28 Nov. - 1 Dec., 1994 held at New Delhi.
- Publication of the ISSS Newsletter started in 1996
- International Conference on “Managing Natural Resources for Sustainable Agricultural Production in the 21st century” held from 14-18, Feb., 2000.
- Textbook on Fundamentals of Soil Science brought out by the ISSS in 2002.
- International Conference on Soil, Water and Environmental Quality held from 28 January – 1 February 2005.
- Co-sponsor of the 4th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture held from 4-7 February 2009
- Platinum Jubilee Celebrations are to be held from 22-25 December 2009.

Activities of Member Societies

The Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition (JSSSPN)

Takuji Ohyama¹ (Society President), Yasuo Harada² (Society Secretary)

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1. Reforming to a General Corporation

JSSSPN is now reforming from a public-service corporation to a general corporation, because the law checking the academic society has been changed in December 2008. Therefore, we need to change the management system and the articles of the society. In the old law the board of directors had the responsibility for the management of activity, and the board should report the activities of the society to a council for their approval. However, in new corporation system, the council will be abolished.

2. Annual Meeting and Conference in 2009

The society organizes the annual meeting in which about 400 oral presentations and 200 poster presentations are delivered by society members. The annual meeting 2009 was held in Kyoto University from 15-18 September. Oral presentation (10 min presentation, 5 min discussion), poster presentation and symposium were done on 15-17, September. We had four symposia in this year. 1) Evaluation of the ammonia release from agricultural practice and its environmental effects. 2) Responses of plants to mineral stress. 3) Mechanism of the changes in soil fertility in rotated paddy fields, and its long term management. 4) Phosphorous from the aspects of socio-cultural soil science. Dr. Roger S. Swift, the president of IUSS (Professor of the University of Queensland, Australia) was invited to the Meeting and gave a special lecture “Carbon sequestration by soils, including biofuels and biochar”. We welcome foreign researchers for presenting papers in the annual meeting.

3. Textbook Publication: Guidelines and Textbook for Soil Education—Teaching Soil Materials to Support Environmental Education

There are several committees in the JSSSPN society. Soil Education Committee (Prof. Tadashi Fukuda) has been contributing to soil education, such as soil observation for children and citizens for over 10 years. This year, the committee published a textbook entitled “Guidelines and Textbook for Soil

Education–Teaching Soil Materials to Support Environmental Education” for school teachers, who are interested in teaching soils in science and environmental education. Also the committee gives lectures on the soil in primary schools. For its prominent activities, the committee members (Dr. Teruo Higashi, Dr. Kenji Tamura, Dr. Hideaki Hirai and Dr. Tadashi Fukuda) were honored by Ministry of MEXT in 2006.

4. Journal Publications

The society publishes two journals, Soil Science and Plant Nutrition (SSPN Journal website; <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0038-0768&site=1>) (Chief editor: Dr. Masanori Saito) and Japanese Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition (Nihon Dojo Hiryo Gaku Zasshi - in Japanese) (Chief editor: Dr. Takashi Kosaki). In ISI Journal Citation 2008, the Impact factor of SSPN is 1.152, and the ranking is 25/49 in Agronomy and 18/31 in Soil Science. We welcome submission to SSPN from foreign researchers, especially from ESAFS member countries. The Japanese Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition vol. 79, No. 6 was a special volume which reviewed the recent advances from 2005 to 2008 in soil science and plant nutrition mainly by the society members.

5. Organizing and Attending Meetings

The society often organizes international meetings in the related fields, e.g. International Society of Soil Science (Kyoto, 1990), International Plant Nutrition Colloquium (Tokyo, 1997), International Symposium on Plant-Soil Interactions at Low pH (Sendai, 2004) and so on. It actively participates in and collaborates with the International Union of Soil Science etc.

In the intermediary meeting of IUSS held in Brisbane in 2008, Dr. Kikuo Kumazawa and Dr. Kazutake Kyuma were elected as new Honorary Members of IUSS. In addition, Dr. Kazuyuki Inubushi, Dr. Ryusuke Hatano, Dr. Takashi Kosaki, and Dr. Ho Ando will be chairmen or vice chairmen in the next IUSS officers, starting 2010.

6. Future Events

The society will co-organize the 1st Asian Conference on Plant-Microbe Symbiosis and Nitrogen Fixation on 20-24 September, 2010, and Nitrogen 2010 (International symposium of nitrogen nutrition and metabolism in plants) on 26-30 July, 2010.

7. Awards

JSSSPN commended the following members for their prominent accomplishments.

- The 53th JSSSPN Award (2008); Dr. Masanori Saito, Dr. Isao Hasegawa, Dr. Teruo Higashi

- The 13th JSSSPN Technological Advancement Award (2008); Dr. Norio Yasuda, Dr. Minoru Yamauchi
- The 26th JSSSPN Progress Award (2008); Dr. Hiroko Akiyama, Dr. Yuriko Kobayashi, Dr. Yuichi Saeki, Dr. Takafumi Mizuno, Dr. Jun Wasaki
- Japanese Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition Award (2008); Masako Takebe et al. JJSSPN, 77, p273
- Soil Science and Plant Nutrition Award (2008); Satoru Ishikawa et al. SSPN 52, p32 (2006) Darmawan et al. SSPN 52, 645 (2006)
- The 54th JSSSPN Award (2009); Dr. Toru Fujiwara, Dr. Kazuyuki Yagi, Dr. Tadao Wagatsuma
- The 14th JSSSPN Technological Advancement Award (2009); Dr. Wataru Oyanagi
- The 27th JSSSPN Progress Award (2009); Dr. Yasuhiro Ishimaru, Dr. Sonoko Dorothea Kimura, Dr. Nobuhisa Koga, Dr. Takuji Sawamoto, Dr. Keiichi Murakami
- Japanese Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition Award (2009); Dr. Masahiro Kobayashi et al. JJSSPN 77, p525. Dr. Kanae Saito et al. JJSSPN, 78, p283.
- Soil Science and Plant Nutrition Award (2009); Motofumi Suzuki et al. SSPN 55, p77 (2008)

JSSSPN is proud of its society members being honored with prestigious prizes for their distinguished activities. Former President of JSSSPN, Prof. Dr. Makoto Kimura, was honored by Association of Japanese Agricultural Scientific Societies (Japan Prize of Agricultural Science and Yomiuri Agricultural Award) in 2009. Prof. Dr. Eitaro Miwa was honored by The Nippon Agricultural Research Institute in 2008.

JSSSPN expressed its sincere mourning to Dr. Prof. Emeritus Kinjiro Kawase, President from 1972-1974, and Honorary Member of JSSSPN, who passed away on 19 September, 2007 at the age of 97. He made great contribution to the progress of JSSSPN, especially in the field of alkali soil, paddy soil and radioisotopes in environment. He published Photo Encyclopedia of Paddy Soil in Japan in Japanese and in English. He greatly contributed to the agriculture in China. Dr. Prof. Emeritus Seiichi Takagi, who passed away on 6 December, 2008. He discovered mugineic acid and contributed greatly to iron nutrition of plants. JSSSPN had the symposium to mourning him and remembering his researches.

If you wish to join the society, please contact us by fax or email to give us your postal address and other details, and the type of membership you expect. We will then contact you and send you more details about the application procedure for the society by return. Please download the application form from URL (http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jssspn/eng/applicationform_jssspn.pdf).

The Korean Society of Soil Science and Fertilizer (KSSSF)

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1. Annual Meetings and Conferences in 2005-2008

During the period of 2005 to 2008, KSSSF organized annual meetings in which about 60 oral presentations and 400 poster presentations were delivered by society members per year, on average. At the 2008 annual meeting, the society held a special symposium celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Korea Society of Soil Science and Fertilizer. In this year, we have held or will have soon the following three symposia (Table 1): “Conservation Technology of Agricultural Water Resources for the Water Deficit”, “The 9th International Conference of ESAFS”, and “Soil, Water and Agricultural Green Technology (November 10)” for the celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Soil's Day,

2. Publications

The society has two periodicals: (1) the “Korean Journal of Soil Science and Fertilizer” that is published bimonthly (4 issues in Korean and 2 issues in English annually) dealing with scientific issues at the state of the art; and (2) the “Soil and Fertilizer” that is published quarterly in the year dealing with less-scientific issues, but for a better management of soil and fertilizers by the local farmers and other end users. In this year, the Society has published (1) “Glossary of Soil Science Terms” in Korean version, (2) “Historical Footprints of Soil Science in Korea”, and (3) “Korean Journal of Soil Science and Fertilizer” volume 42 including a special issue with review papers.

3. Activities as a Member of International Societies

KSSSF has been performing an active role as a member of ESAFS. The society has held the 1997 ESAFS conference in Jeju Island, and is going to hold the 2009 ESAFS conference in Seoul. The Society is also in preparation of the 20th World Congress and Soil Science (WCSS) that is planned in 2014. In addition, as a member of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), KSSSF is willing to and able to contribute to the development of the international societies of soil science, agronomy, and environment-related fields.

Table 1. Symposia organized by Korean Society of Soil Science and Fertilizer during 2004- 2009

Year	Topic	Remarks
2005	■ Application of the Emerging Soil Researches to the Conservation of Agricultural Ecosystems	International Symposium
	■ Environmental-Friendly Agricultural Technology and Crop Production	International Symposium
	■ Management and Utilization of the Soil Resources for the Sustainable Agriculture	Symposium for Soil Day
2006	■ Aspects of Development for the Fertilizer Industry	
	■ Soil, Fertilizer and Agriculture	Symposium for Soil Day
2007	■ The 2nd Asian Conference on Precision Agriculture	International Conference
	■ Climate Change and Soil Environment	Symposium for Soil Day
2008	■ Chemical and Organic Fertilizer for the Food Production	
	■ Paddy Soils, Wetlands and Healthy People - RAMSAR International Symposium -	Symposium for Soil Day
2009	■ Conservation Technology of the Agricultural Water Resources for the Water Deficit	
	■ The 9th International Conference of ESAFS	
	■ Soil, Water and Agricultural Green Technology -10 November, 2009-	Symposium for Soil Day

Activities of Member Societies

The Philippine Society of Soil Science and Technology, Inc. (PSSST)

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1. Annual Meetings and Conferences in 2008-2009

The past two years (June 2007 - May 2009) in the existence of PSSST as a professional organization had been very fruitful and memorable. It was during this period when the Society held its annual meeting and scientific conference for the first time in Central Philippines (Visayas) and in Southern Philippines (Mindanao). On May 29-30, 2008, the 11th PSSST Annual Meeting and Scientific Conference was successfully held in Bohol Island, Central Philippines. Eighteen (18) technical papers (Senior Category - 11; Junior Category - 7) and seventeen (17) posters were presented in this conference. The 12th PSSST Annual Meeting and Scientific Conference on the other hand was held in Davao City, Island of Mindanao on May 21-22, 2009. In this conference, twenty (20) technical papers (Senior Category - 17; Junior Category - 3) and nineteen (19) posters were presented. Various awards were given during these annual activities. Both conferences were well attended by participants coming from the academe, government agencies and private entities.

2. Support for Students

The Board of Trustees of PSSST regularly conducts meetings in order to pursue its annual activities and other related projects. In spite of economic constraints, the Society was able to sustain the granting of thesis support to students majoring in Soil Science and related field. This project was started in 2002 to encourage and help sustain students' interest in this area of study. For the two-year period (2007-2009), four students from different State Universities and Colleges were granted thesis support. The total amount given per grantee is fifteen thousand pesos (Php 15,000), approximately USD 300. The grantees are required to present their thesis results in a PSSST scientific conference. Since the last two conferences were held outside the island of Luzon, each of the grantee was also provided with transportation subsidy amounting to three thousand pesos (Php 3,000), approximately USD 60.

3. Membership to International Organizations

The PSSST also continues to sustain its membership to international organizations, particularly the East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies (ESAFS), the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC), and the International Union of Soil Science Societies (IUSS). At the national level, PSSST had recently entered into a formal agreement with the Philippine Association of Agriculturists (PAA), a professional association, which is accredited by the Professional Regulatory Commission of the Philippines.

4. Open the Official Website

The 2nd edition of the PSSST Directory was printed in 2008. Copies were distributed to members through the Secretariat. The Society now has its own official website. Those interested can log on to <http://p3st.org>.

5. Future Activities

The Society's line up of future activities include the following: (1) strengthening of collaborations with the PAA and other professional scientific societies in the Philippines and abroad; (2) collaboration with the Philippine Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) for the conduct of training/symposium for FPA accredited researchers on plant nutrition and fertilizers; (3) continuance of project on the granting of thesis support for Soil Science students; (4) establishment of other PSSST Regional Chapters in the country; and (5) intensification of fund sourcing activities through solicitations in the form of advertisements, sponsorships, donations and the like to sustain various Society projects.

The Philippine Society of Soil Science and Technology, Inc. is pleased to announce that its 13th Annual Meeting and Scientific Conference will be held on March 31 - April 2, 2010 in the beautiful island of Palawan, Philippines.

The Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka (SSSSL)

1. Seminar: Land Degradation and Fertility Management in Tea Plantations

A seminar cum workshop on "Land degradation and fertility management in tea plantations" was conducted at the Tea Research Institute, Low Country Station, Ratnapura on August 18, 2008 in association with the SSSSL and Regional Scientific Committee V & VI for the Managers and Assistant Managers of tea plantations in Ratnapura, Kegalle and Kalutara districts. The objective of the workshop was to enlighten the decision makers and key players of corporate sector tea estates on the causes and present status of land degradation in tea plantations, its impact on productivity and sustainability and strategies for arresting land degradation and improving soil fertility in tea plantations.

Dr. W.M.A.D.B. Wickramasinghe (Team Leader, SRICANSOLII Project) addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of soil conservation and soil fertility improvement in tea plantations for sustainable production. He also explained the present activities of the SSSSL and their relevance to the development of the agriculture sector in Sri Lanka. Prof. R.B.Mapa, Senior Professor of Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka discussed field characterization of soil with special reference to tea growing regions. Mr. K.M.A.Kendaragama (Research Officer, Natural Resources Management Center, Peradeniya) addressed the participants on causes and issues of land degradation in tea plantations and remedial measures. The essential and practical soil fertility management strategies in tea plantations were presented to the participants by Dr. M.A .Wijeratne, Officer-in-Charge, TRI Low Country Station, Ratnapura. During this workshop, Mr. S.LD. Amarathunga (Senior Advisory Officer, TRI) and Mr. Sampath Pathirana (Research Assistant, TRI) made a presentation showing the present status of productivity of tea lands in agro ecological regions in the Low Country.

The Managers and Assistant Managers of tea plantations actively interacted with resource persons during general discussion followed by presentations of the workshop. The workshop was sponsored by SRICANSOLII Project and Hayleys Agro Products Ltd. Mr. Prasad Wijesekara, Research and Development Manager, Hayleys Agro Product Ltd. was also present and addressed the gathering. The workshop was well attended and the participation from 52 tea estates and TRI Low Country station was around 100.

2. Dr. Amarasiri, a Founder Member of SSSSL Releases a New Book - *Caring for Water*

One of our past presidents and a senior member of our society, Dr. Sarath Amarasiri, released a book on "Caring for Water" at a launching ceremony held at the Central Environmental Authority auditorium

on the World Ocean day, 8th June 2008. This book is simultaneously published in Sinhala and Tamil as well. The members of SSSSL can refer these books at the library of the SRICANSOL Resource Center. The society congratulates Dr. Amarasiri for his efforts in disseminating knowledge about caring for water for the future.

3. Midterm Technical Seminar and Field Trip in 2008

The midterm technical seminar of the SSSSL was held on the 04th September 2008 at the SRICANSOL Resource Center, Peradeniya. Dr. S.H.S.A. De Silva, President of SSSSL, delivered the welcome address and the technical seminar. Dr. P.Weerasinghe, from Grain Legumes and Oil Seed Crop Research Center, Angunakolapellessa presented a paper on "Enhancing the effectiveness of Phosphate rock through biological means". The response from the audience was very high as this is a timely title due to increasing price of chemical fertilizers. Ms. W.M.U.K. Rathnayake of Rice Research and Development Institute, Bathalagoda presented a paper on "GIS as a tool in soil fertility management". She explained how Geographic Information System (GIS) can be used to identify specific land parcels (e.g. problem soils) in the form of maps. Then she discussed the utility of GIS as a tool in a site-specific fertilizer management program in some paddy fields in Polonnaruwa.

After the technical session, members proceeded to Riverston in the Knuckles range. Members got an opportunity to observe many rare flora and fauna including some endangered endemic species found in the strictly conserved forest reserve in the Knuckles range in Sri Lanka.

4. Fertilizer Day Workshop in 2008

The fertilizer day workshop was held on the 05th December 2008, at the Pegasus Reef Hotel, Wattala, Sri Lanka. The theme for this year event was "In retrospect of fertilizer subsidy". Dr. S.H.A. De Silva, President of SSSSL, delivered the welcome address. Subsequent technical session was chaired by Dr.(Mrs) Jinadari de Soyza, Director, Horticulture Crop Research and Development Institute, Gannoruwa. Following papers were presented by Mr. R. Dharmawardana, Director, National Fertilizer Secretariat, Colombo on "Fertilizer subsidy in Sri Lanka: Present status and future challenges" and Dr. (Mrs.) Wasanthi Wickramasingha, Research Officer, Hector Kobbakaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, on "Fertilizer subsidy and its effects on the rice sector in Sri Lanka".

Finally a very informative panel discussion was held with a participation of about 100 members. After the technical session, members followed a field trip to the Baur's Fertilizer Mixing Plant, Kelaniya. The Manager explained the activities of the Plant. The workshop and fieldtrip were sponsored by Baur's Fertilizer Ltd.

5. Society Commemorate Late Dr. Somasiri

The late Dr. S Somasiri was a former Director of the Natural Resources Management Center of the Department of Agriculture and a founder member of the SSSSL. The society commemorated him during the Annual fertilizer day workshop held at the Pegasus Reef Hotel, Wattala on the 05th December 2008. Vidyajyothi Dr. CR. Panabokke delivered the commemorative speech highly appreciating the scientific contribution of the late Dr. Somasiri in the field of soil and water resource management towards the agriculture development in the country.

6. SRICANSOL II Project Activities

The SRICANSOL II Project, A twining project between Canadian Society of Soil Science and Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka. Main emphasis of this study is to develop soil management information system for different farming situations in Sri Lanka to obtain better crop productivity, thereby improve the income of the formers. This program is carrying out in 11 locations in 6 administrative districts in the country.

Selected farming situations are;

1. Irrigated Rice-Rice system in high potential area.
2. Irrigated rice-rice system in Mahawali area comprising sandy soils.
3. Rice-Other field crop system in minor irrigation area.
4. Rice-Rice system in minor irrigation area.
5. Vegetable-Vegetable system in Up country
6. Kandian home garden system

After considering constrains, beneficial Management Practices (BMP) were introduced to many farming situation. According to the observations made for four consecutive seasons, there was a tendency of increasing soil fertility and crop yields by managing the specific soil and land related problems associated with the particular farming situation. . On this basis, it was decided to continue soil fertility and crop cut surveys for three more seasons to understand the sustainability of the program.

Arrangements made to improve salinity affected paddy fields were successfully completed. Beneficial managements introduced to over come the salinity were successful. Water management to wash off salts was encouraged. Compost making technology introduced by the project has been accepted by farmers and now it has become a customary practice in farming at the many project sites. Since project activities are going on well, collaborative programs are conducted with other organizations to enhance farmer awareness.

Soil conservation and supplementary shading were encouraged in this site in Panabokke and Wattappola in Kandy (Kandian home garden system). Fruit plants and cash crops such as improved

Cardamom plants and ginger were introduced to increase the productivity. Collar pruning of coffee plants was introduced with the onset of southwestern monsoonal (Yala) rains in 2009. Demonstration on productivity improvement with adoption of soil moisture conservation and nutrient supplement using pruning material of shade as mulch and gap filling with improved black pepper rooted cuttings are in progress. In addition, the project introduced a new structure to promote vegetable cultivation in traditional forest gardens.

In general the participating farmers were happy about the interventions made by SSSSL team in all sites and the project is achieving many success stories which could be replicated in other areas with adequate care and support.

7. Farmers Visit to Rice Research and Development Institute

Farmers from Polonnaruwa, Kandy and Anuradhapura sites visited Rice Research and Development Institute, Batalagoda on October 07, 2008 to see the rice production activities and to share their views on soil and fertility management in their own fields. This program was organized by the SSSSL and SRICANSOLII Project.

8. Soil Scientist Wins the ASDA Best Scientist Award

Mr. D.N. Sirisena, Secretary, Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka (SSSSL) and Research Officer, Rice Research and Development Institute, Batalagoda won the Best Researcher of the year, 2008 award at the Annual Symposium of the Department of Agriculture (ASDA) held on September 23, 2008 at the Plant Genetic Resource Center for his contribution to Agriculture, specially to the field of soil and fertilizer.

9. Progress Review Workshop on SRCANSOL II Project Activities

One day workshop was organized and held in February 27, 2009 at SRICANSOL resources center, Peradeniya. Main objective of this workshop was to increase the awareness of the general membership about the SRICANSOL ii project activities. 86 members participated for this workshop and the members had a good opportunity to interact with the study leaders of different sites sharing their experiences in view of further improvement of project activities.

10. Annual General Meeting of SSSSL

The annual general meeting of the Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka was held on March 26, 2009 at SRICANSOL resources center. Dr. S.H.S A de Silva and Mr. D.N. Sirisena were re-elected as president and secretary for the 2009/2010 calendar year. After the AGM the members had the opportunity to participate on a field trip to the construction site of Southern Harbor. During this field visit the members

were able to explore some of the soil profiles in the southern part of Sri Lanka.

11. Canadian Partners Visit

Prof. Tee. Boon Goh and Mr. R.G. Eilers from the Canadian Society of soil science as partners of SRICANSOL II project visited Sri Lanka during the period of April 20-24, 2009 to monitor the progress made on the project activities. With the Sri Lankan study leaders they visited the study sites and able to meet farmers and obtain their success stories.

12. 2009 ITPP International Partners Meeting & AIC Conference

ITPP international partners meeting is the forum to discuss about the progress and the directions of CIDA funded partnership programs carried out in different countries. This meeting is held one in two years and this time SSSSL obtain the opportunity to host the meeting in Sri Lanka. The meeting was held during the period of July 27, to August 02, 2009 at Amaya Lake hotel, Dambulla, Sri Lanka.

Delegates from Vietnam, Ghana, Ethiopia and Canada participated in conference. The conference gave a good platform for the partner countries to share their experience and to formulate new project concepts and ideas for future partnerships. Further the delegates were accompanied for a field trip to witness the progress of the SRICANSOL II project activities.

As a whole the conference was very successful and made eye opening for new project concept for the society.

13. Future Events

- September 2009: Mid-term technical session and field trip of the society
- December 2009: Fertilizer day (Importance of increasing fertilizer use efficiency in view of high prices)
- January 2010: Young scientist day of the SSSSL
- February 2010: Workshop on development of Soil Management Information systems for better land and resource management systems.

The Soil and Fertilizer Society of Thailand (SFST)

Emeritus Professor Dr. Santhad Rojanasoonthon

President of The Soil and Fertilizer Society of Thailand

1. Organizing Academic Conference

In 2009, The SFST created the First Thailand National Conference of Soil Science and Fertilizers. This academic conference will be organized every two years by departments of soil science in Thailand universities. The First National Conference of Soil Science and Fertilizers has been held on 23-24 April 2009 at Kasetsart University, Kamphaengsaen Campus, Nakhon Pathom province.

There were about 750 participants attending in this conference, and 65 research papers were presented. The second Thailand National Conference of Soil Science and Fertilizers will be organized in year 2011 by Maejo University at Chiang Mai province.

2. Activities in 2008-2009

- Organized three academic seminars.
- Published eight issues of Journal of Soil and Fertilizers (4 issues per year).
- Organized two SFST memberships yearly during general meetings.
- Organized fifteen meetings of SFST administrative committees.
- Organized The First Thailand National Conference of Soil Science and Fertilizers with Kasetsart University and The Soil and Water Conservation Association of Thailand.
- Set up The National Conference of Soil Science and Fertilizers Fund.
- Joined two charity activities with The Association of Horticulture of Thailand and other association/society network.
- Participated The ESAFS International Conference in Japan.

The Vietnam Society of Soil Science (VSSS)

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1. Activities of the Society in the Last Five Years

- Contributing to the establishment and improvement of some important law documents such as environmental protection law, land law, forest protection law, strategy on water resources management.
- Making contribution to the strategy on fertilizer utilization, and fertilizer distribution relevantly to the different ecological zones.
- Consulting and providing to the government agencies the opponents and the results of inspection on scientific researching programs, projects, teaching courses concerning to the soils, plant nutrition, land use planning, agriculture planning in the whole country and in the provinces and cities.
- Contributing the opinions on programs: slopping land management, watershed management, integrated management of nutrients, environment protection.
- Participating in teaching for 3000 students, 700 postgraduates. The soil scientists of the society have trained for 60 PhDr, 400 masters on the fields of soil map compilation, land evaluation, fertilizer utilization, soil environment, soil improvement and transferring timely to the people the progresses of science and technology on soil and fertilizer, as well as other progresses concerned.
- Regularly arranging for the publication of information, soil science journals and other documents relevant to the activities of the society.

2. The Main Projects and Scientific Themes Established in the Last Five Years

- Establishing the model for improvement of organic degradation soils.
- Improving the degraded slopping land at Luong Son district, Hoa Binh province by Agro-forestry model.

- Surveying and evaluating the state of land degradation in SonLa province aiming to promote the measures for land protection.
- Applying the clay mineral (Bentonite) for soil improvement and raising the effect of fertilizer utilization.
- Poverty alleviation at Ba Vi district, Ha Tay province and at Quy Hop district, Nghe An province.
- Land use planning in Quang Ninh province.
- Improvement of farming system in Long An province.
- Policies and measures for rural environment protection.
- Vietnam State of land environment.
- Carrying out the soil map compilation at large and medium scale for some provinces, districts and project areas according to the FAO-UNESCO soil classification and Soil Taxonomy.
- Carrying out the wet land map compilation at scale 1 / 250,000 for Mekong river delta, eastern South region and estuaries area of Red river delta.
- Carrying out the land evaluation for some districts in CaoBang province according to the guidelines of FAO.
- Carrying out the land use planning projects for some provinces and districts.
- Establishing the program on slopping land protection.

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