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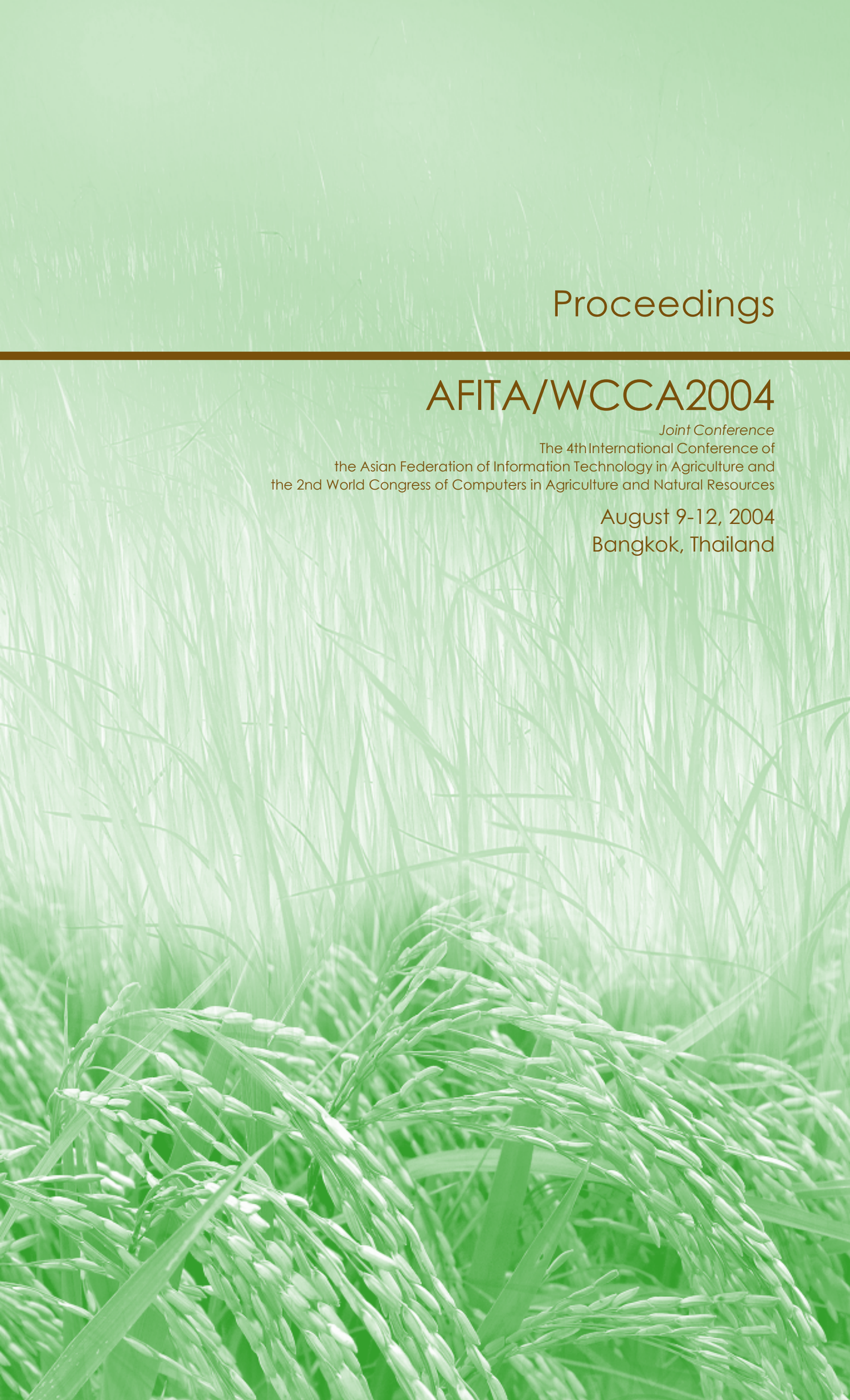

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Edited by

Fedro Zazueta
Seishi Ninomiya
Royol Chitradorn

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Table of Contents

Preface ..... **XV**

Supporters ..... **XVII**

Acknowledgements ..... **XVIII**

Rural Development and Policy

Knowledge and Use of ICT in the Agro-food Field: the Point of View of the Formative Processes **1**
Gianni Petino

On Precision Agriculture and the Construction of Agriculture Sustainable-developing Ability in China **7**
ZHENG Guo-qing, DUAN Shao-fen and Hu Hai-yan

Utilization of IT-based Services and Communication Technology Media by End-users of Agricultural Research and Extension Networks in the Philippines **13**
R.V. Maningas & S.T. Mancebo

Advanced Knowledge Management Systems for Enhanced Gender Equity in an Agrarian Economy **21**
Kurian Thomas & Rajeev Parmar

ICT Accessibility and Priorities of Small and Marginal Scale Farmers in India **27**
V.C.Patil

Status of Information Technology in Mongolian Agriculture **33**
Tserenbat Baljinnyam and Sahdev Singh

Development of the Rural Area and the Digital Divide **39**
N. Nakamura

Community-based Research as Alternative Methodology for Developing Knowledge-based Community **46**
A. Opatpatanakit

Status of ICT Applications in Agricultural Research and Development Institutions in the Asia – Pacific Region **52**
Ajit Maru, Sahdev Singh and Jean-Francois Giovannetti

E-Governance Initiatives for Effective Implementation of Micro Irrigation Projects **59**
B.Srinivasa Rao

Food Security and Sustainable Food Production in China by the Early 21st Century **65**
Mei Fangquan

Management and Network of Agricultural Information in Bangladesh **73**
M. A. Zaman

Adoption and Extension

E-mail System for Agricultural Information Exchange in Nigeria.....83
O.I Oladele

Geographic Information System and Nigeria Agriculture..... 90
O.I. Oladele

ICT Adoption - A Summary of the EFITA Questionnaires.....94
E. Gelb, P. Wagner, K. Rosskopf, C. Parker and G. Schiefer

Information Seeking Behaviour and Utilization Status of Information Communication Technology (ICT) among Extension Personnel of Akwa Ibom Agricultural Development Programme.....102
Emem B. Inyang, Antiaobong O. Ekong and Ifeoma M. Isiugo-Abanihe

Greenhouse Automation and its Viability under Tropical Conditions.....109
Peeyush Soni and V. M. Salokhe

Decision Support System, Farm Management and Modeling

Predictive Mining of Rainfall Predictions Using Artificial Neural Networks for Chao Phraya River.....117
Norraseth Chantasut, Charoen Charoenjit, and Chularat Tanprasert

Knowledge Based Decision Support System: Spare Control in Agroindustry.....123
Tavip Ansyori, Setyo Pertiwi, Kudang Boro Seminar

Agricultural Information and Farm Management Decision Support by Internet.....130
A.Kurlavicius and G. Kurlavicius

MunThaiDSS: A Decision Support System for Cassava Production.....136
Vinai Sarawat, Sukit Ratanasriwong, Korntong Puangprakon, Prakan Sringam and Attachai Jintrawet

Comparison of Actual Sugarcane Yield and Simulated Yield in CaneFert 1.0 (a Chemical Fertilizer Recommendation Software for Sugarcane Production in Thailand).....140
P. Prammanee, S. Kongton, A. Jintrawet, P. Prasertsak, C. Lairungreaung

An Integrated Web Database of Farming-systems for Farm Planning.....147
T. Nanseki, S. Honda, K. Maeyama and N. Sakuramoto

A Web-based Information Delivery System for Appropriate Technology for Reduction of Agrochemical in Northern Thailand.....154
Pitaya Suamsiri, Attachai Jintrawet, Hayato Umekawa, Ryouei Ito, Takaharu Kameoka

Wheat-Decision Support System (WDSS): A Decision Support System for Determining Wheat Potential Areas in Lombok Island.....160
Evi Gusmayanti, Setyo Pertiwi, Handoko, Idung Risdiyanto

Integrated biological Information System for a Coffee Farm.....167
Fumitaka Uchio, Tokihiro Fukatsu, Masaki Harada, Atsushi Hashimoto, Masayuki Hirafuji, Takehiko Hoshi, Nobukazu Iguchi, Hiroaki Ishizawa, Ryoei Ito, Takaharu Kameoka, Hiroya Kondou, Takashi Mishima, Masaru Mizoguchi, Yoshitaka Motonaga, Kenichi Nakanishi, Seishi Ninomiya, Masaaki OKa, Yasunori Saito, Hiroshi Shono, Hirokazu Taki

Simulating Rice Production in the Mekong River Basin Using MRB-Rice Shell.....173
Attachai Jintrawet, Prakan Sringam and Anond Snidvongs

A Study on Estimating of Sweet Corn Production Using Crop Growth Simulation Model with Satellite Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System Techniques, in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand.....179
S. Baimoung and T. Oki

Haifa Nutri-Net, a New Comprehensive Nutrigation (Fertigation) Software, Operated over the Web.....191
E.Ronen, O. Achilea and G. Elharar

E-Animal Resource Management Model Suitable for Indian Dairy Cooperatives.....198
Abdul Samad and Prashant Murdeshwar

E-AgBusiness and Production Chain Management

Factor Which Influences the Management of Shopping Mall for E-commerce for Korean Agricultural Products.....207
Hoon choi, Moon Gab Song

The Performance Analysis of Adopting Information System by Agricultural Groups in Taiwan.....214
Ching-Kai Hsiao, Chung-Te Ting, and Yi-Hsing Lin

Strategy on Cyber Marketing of Agricultural Products.....221
Lee, Cheol-Hi

Development Tendencies of Electronic Trade Platforms and Impacts on Sector Organization. The Case of the Agrifood.....225
M. Fritz, T. Hausen and G. Schiefer

Electronic Transaction Processes on Agrifood Markets: Experimental Experiences and Evaluation.....233
T. Hausen and G. Schiefer

Electronic Commerce Strategy and Business Model for Agriculture Sectors in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).....243
Bordin Rassameethes

Establishing the Antecedents for the Development of an Electronic Market in Irish Agriculture.....249
Elizabeth Morris and Dr. Fergal McGrath

Quality Management Schemes in Europe and Beyond.....258
Stephanie Krieger; Gerhard Schiefer

The applied of eCRM Definition in Agricultural Information Service.....264
Keun-Seop Shim, Weon-Sik Hahn, Hee-Ju Lee, and Jeong-Ok Kang

Information Resources and Databases

HyperMuda: An Adaptive Hypermedia Support for MUDA Irrigation Network.....271
Zulikha J., Ku Ruhana K.M., Rohaya D., Muhammad S. S.

A framework for Determining Information Requirements in Agricultural Research and Development Using Critical Success Factors and Balanced Scorecard.....279
Kamarudin Saadan

Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS).....284
Raj Paroda and Sahdev Singh

Global Knowledge Sharing in Rice Research: the International Rice Research Institute's Rice Database.....291
Mila M. Ramos

An Intelligent Retrieval System for Chinese Agricultural Scientific Literature.....298
Ping Qian, Xiaolu Su

Encyclopaedic knowledge bases for agriculture - Compendia from CAB International.....305
H.L. Crowson, T. Barter, J.A. Brunt, Q.Q. Zhang

Extensional Information Directory (VN-EID).....311
Nguyen Hong Son and Tran Than Thi Ngan Hoa

Planning the Development of Agricultural Science and Technology Information Database in China--An Introduction to the Agricultural Sci-Tech Data Sharing Project.....317
Meng Xianxue

Approaches on collecting and Integrating of Agricultural Network Information Resources.....321
Shuchun Pan

Effect of Agricultural Term Dictionary in Text Categorization of Japanese Agricultural Documents.....326
D. Horyu, T. Kiura and S. Ninomiya

eClinic: A Web-based Plant Diagnostic Clinic Management and Reporting System.....330
Kevin U. Hill, Robert G. Walker, and Pamela D. Roberts

Internet Applications Implementation and Integration for Sustainable Agriculture Outreach.....336
D.A.K. Halsey, J. Xin, A. Clark, K. Kroll

Global Information System for Tropical Fruits.....342
CHUA Piak Chwee, KHAIRUDDIN Md.Tahir

ICT in Indian NARS.....348
A.K. Jain

Effectiveness of Web portals in Agriculture: A supply Side Approach.....357
Saji Gopinath

Developing Circumstances of Agricultural Network Information Consulting and Countermeasures.....367
Zhuo wen-fei

The Analysis of Factors Affecting the Adoption of Information System by Agricultural Groups in Taiwan.....373
Ching-Kai Hsiao, Yi-Hsing Lin, and Chung-Te Ting

Design of Prototype Portals for Virtual Agricultural Communities: A South African Perspective.....379
Azwihangwisi Raphulu, Potjie Van der Walt, & Petrie Coetzee

Architecture for Building
Large-scale Web-based Agricultural Virtual Communities.....386
Jeffrey Zhu, Potjie Van der Walt, & Petrie Coetzee

An IT Based Market Information System for Improving Marketing
Efficiency of Fruits and Vegetables in India.....393
Vasant P. Gandhi

Grid and Web Services

HyDRAS: Hyper-Dimensional Regression Analysis Service on
the Internet.....403
H. Iwata, T. Miwa and S. Ninomiya

Development of a Web-based Land Evaluation System and its Application
to Population Carrying Capacity Assessment Using .NET Technology.....409
L. Ye and E. Van Ranst

A SOAP/XML Web-service for Meteorological Data Interpolation.....415
A. Imada, M. R. Laurenson, S. Ninomiya, T. Machida

ImagingSOAP: A Web Service for Distributed Imaging System.....421
Xinwen Yu, Seishi Ninomiya, Matthew Laurenson

Spreadsheet-based Distributed Data Sharing for Agricultural
Experimental Data.....428
S. Ninomiya and A. Yamakawa

Integration of Data Broker Web Services for Agricultural Grid.....433
M. R. Laurenson, A. Yamakawa, H. Meng, T. Kiura, J. Wang and S. Ninomiya

Use of Grid Computing in Hydraulic Simulation.....439
E.S. Sepúlveda, F.S. Zazueta, R.A. Bucklin and E.A. Holzapfel

Grid-enabled Prototype Virtual Atmospheric Science Laboratory for
Interdisciplinary Studies.....445
Byong-Lyol Lee, Jai-Ho Oh, In-sik Kang, Dong-il Lee, and Young-Cheol Bang

IPv6 and Loess Highland Project.....451
X. Zhu, H. Fujimori, T. Hatano, H. Shi, Y. Kido, S. Takeda, S. Fujii, S. Date, T. Okumura, H. Matsuda, F. Kang, H. Ai, X. Wei, X. He, S. Yang, Y. Liu, Y. Fukao, A. Yasutomi, K. Roy, K. Yokoyama, S. Hatano, Y. Ichiyanagi, Y. Zhou, D. He, H. Hu, T. Fukatsu, T. Kiura, S. Ninomiya, M. Hirafuji, T. Kameoka, S. Shimojo and J. Ma

Scandinavian Plant Protection System - a MetBroker Case Study.....457
M. Laurenson, T. Rafoss, S. Ninomiya and H. Magnus

Field Data Acquisition and Recording

Soil Moisture Monitoring Using Near-infrared Sensing Technique and
the Internet in a Coffee Plantation Field.....463
Ryoei Ito, Masaki Harada, Ayako Michida, Masaru Mizoguchi, Takashi Mishima, Takaharu Kameoka, Atsushi Hashimoto, Kenichi Nakanishi, Hiroshi Shono, Masaaki Oka, Hirokazu Taki, Fumitaka Uchio, Yasunori Saito, Hiroaki Ishizawa, Yoshitaka Motonaga, Takehiko Hoshi, Nobukazu Iguchi, Eiji Goto, Seishi Ninomiya, Masayuki Hirafuji, Tokihiro Fukatsu

Application of Some Sensing Techniques for Evaluating a Condition of a Coffee Tree.....470
M Oka, T. Kameoka, A. Hashimoto, K. Nakanishi, R. Itou, T. Mishima, Y. Saito, H. Ishizawa, Y. Motonaga,H. Shono, H. Taki, F. Uchio, T. Hoshi, N. Iguchi, M. Mizoguchi, E. Goto, M. Harada, S. Ninomiya, M. Hirafuji and T. Fukatsu

Development of Non-Destructive Detection Systems for Brown Shell Eggs with Blood Spots.....477
K. Nakano, M. Saito and Y. Usui

A Study on the Development of Grade Judgment System for External Quality of Cantaloupe Melon by Fuzzy Inference.....483
K. Nakano, K. Abe, T. Aida, D. Yang and C. Ao

Development of a Decentralized, Autonomous Greenhouse Environment Control System in a Ubiquitous Computing and Internet Environment.....490
T. Hoshi, Y. Hayashi and H. Uchino

GIS and Precision Farming

DokuPlant, AGROffice and WinGIS – an Integrated Solution for Farmers, the Food / Feed Trade and Industry, Certification Units and Public Institutions.....497
Walter H. MAYER

Linking GIS With FCC (Soil Fertility Capability Classification) For Soil Fertility Evaluation.....501
Vo Quang Minh, Ryuchi Yamada

GIS-Based Plant Species Suitability Mapping.....507
D.B. Hannaway, C. Daly, and A. Cooper

New Horizons in Sensor Technology for Precision Agriculture.....514
J. Boaventura Cunha

Agricultural Zoning in Thailand Using.....520
Dr. Suparn Karnchanasutham

An Eco-regional Approach to Agricultural Land Use Planning in Himachal Pradesh, India Using Geographic Information Systems.....527
W.W. Immerzeel, S. Pradhan and R.M. Bhagat

Cage Culture Potential in Open Water to Improve the Livelihood of Poor Farmers at Bhaluka Upazilla, Using GIS as a Tool.....534
Salam, M. A., M. K. Hossain, M. A. Hossain and M. M. Rashid

To Develop a Scientific Approach for In-situ Validation and Demonstration of Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) off Mangalore Coast.....540
K.V.Radhakrishnan, Roopa Rashmi N, Vanraj Chavda, Pradeep Salins and Bhavendra Y Godse

Use of Remote Sensing and GIS for Natural Resources Management in Support of Poverty Alleviation in India..... 546
S K Srivastava, S Bandyopadhayay, H C Meena Rani, V S Hegde and V Jayaraman

Reclamation Plan for the Wastelands Present in Part of Song and Jakhan River Watershed Using Remote Sensing and GIS Techniques..... 558
Bhavendra Godse, Hina Pande and Poonam Seth

Application of Remote Sensing for Assessing Shrimp Farming Development: A Case Study at Haiphong, Vietnam.....565
Dao Huy Giap, Yang Yi, and Amararatne Yakupitiyage

A Study of Erosion and Accretion along Gulf of Khambat,Gujarat Coast Using Remote Sensing and GIS.....574
Charatkar. S. L, Mitra. D, Biradar, R.S., and Radhakrishnan, K.V.

Real Coded Genetic Algorithm for Assimilating Remotely Sensed Evapotransiration Data Using a Soil-Water-Atmosphere-Plant Model. A methodology.....583
Y. Chemin, K. Honda and A.V.M. Ines

A Multi-agent Evaluation for Crops Suitability Modeling Using GIS.....589
Sutat Dansagoonpon and Nitin K Tripathi

Investigation on Role of Human in Trend of Expansion of Saline Land Using Satellite Data in Chahafzal-Ardakan (Yazd-Iran).....596
A.R.Khavaninzadeh, S.A.Dashti, S.G.Khajeddin

To Access the Changes in the Visual Attributes of the Agriculture, Using Remotely Sensed Data and the Techniques of Remote sensing And GIS.....601
Dheeraj Sharma, Pham Viet Hoa

Education and Distance Learning

Development of Agricultural Information CD-Title -Stressing on Internet and How to Handle Trouble Shootings.....607
Hoon choi, Deok Hyeon Kim, Seong Hyun Lee

Professional Updating for Agricultural and Forestry Engineers in a Virtual University Campus.....614
Luis A. Gurovich

An Educational Visual C++ Program Aid for Understanding Tractor Performance.....618
A. Al-Janobi and S. Al-Hamed

Knowledge Level and Utilization Divide of Information Communication Technology (ICT) between Conventional and Long Distance Students in a Limited Information Resource Environment.....624
Antiaobong O. Ekong and Emem B. Inyang

Development of Agricultural Information Network in China and its Effect and Function on Chinese Agriculture.....631
Zhang Lianhong, Xu Limin, Dai Aimei

Library Science and Knowledge Representation

A Study on Circulation of Literature Information on Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and Concentrated Management System on Copyright in Korea.....635
Kil-Seob Lee, Seung-Hee Sung and Jae-Hyuk Park

The Impact of Communication Networks or SEAWIC (The Southeast Asian Weed Information Center) on Community Development in Indonesia.....642
Widharto

Construction of Knowledge Management System in Agricultural Research Institutions.....651
Li Sijing

Acquatic Resource Management

Shrinfo - Shrimp Research Information Gateway for Thailand.....657
Yang Yi, Sahdev Singh and Vinij Tansakul

A Web-enabled Research Database for Experimental Data on Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture.....665
Dr. Yang Yi and Dr. Sahdev Singh

eNACA: A Digital Knowledge-Sharing Strategy for Aquaculture.....670
Simon Wilkinson, Sih Yang Sim, Yoothana Suansook

Application of GIS for Land Evaluation of Watershed Aquaculture Development in Thainguyen, Vietnam.....676
Dao Huy Giap, Yang Yi, and James S. Diana

Wireless and Sensor Network

Long-term Monitoring System Using Field Monitoring Servers.....685
T.Fukatsu, M.Hirafuji, T.Kiura, A.Imada, and S.Ninomiya

Full-wireless Field Monitoring Server for Advanced Sensor-network.....692
M. Hirafuji, T. Fukatsu and Hu Haoming

Developing Wireless Application Protocols for Virtual Communities of Practice a South African Perspective.....698
Harma.Motsi. Potjie Van der Walt, & Petrie Coetzee

Agricultural Information and Decision Support on Smartphone.....704
Allan Leck Jensen and Iver Thysen

Traceability System for Agricultural Products Using RF-ID and Mobile Phones.....710
Koji SUGAHARA and Shigehisa OMATSU

Workshop

GIS for Participatory Land Use Planning in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam.....715
N.H.Trung L.Q. Tri, M.E.F. van Mensvoort and A. Bregt

Information Services in Rural China Field Surveys and Findings.....723
Zhong Yongling

Regional Prospects and Initiatives for Bridging the Rural Digital Divide.....729
Alexander G. Flor and Malcolm Hazelman

Digital Opportunities (0s and 1s) - Emerging as a Positive Force for Fostering Agricultural Growth, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Resource Use in India.....735
Madaswamy Moni and N.Vijayaditya

AgriBazaar.com.my: Malaysia's Answer to Bridging the Rural Digital Divide and Beyond for the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Sector.....751
Arifin Abdul Latif and Norlidza Mohd Yassin

Posters

The Restricting Factors and Suggestions to the Development of Agriculture Information Technology Industry in China.....759
Duan Shao-fen, Zhang Yu-ting, Li Wen-jun and Zheng Guo-qing

The Java Package for Developing Plant Growth Models, Disease and Pest Forecasting Models.....765
K. Tanaka and M. Hirafuji

Modeling of Frictional Characteristics of Seeds.....769
I. N. Polyak and Z. Csizmazia

Integrating Information Matching System for Agricultural Asset Trade.....775
Mei-Mei Huang, Shu-Huei Chen, York Yaw-Chung Liaw, Chao-Fong Tsu

The Integrated Agrotourism Information Service in Taiwan.....781
Min-Chung Yang, Shu-Huei Chen, York Yaw-Chung Liaw, Jane Lin

The Development of Internet Applications in Agriculture in Indonesia, and its Problems: The Role of Centre for Agricultural Data and Information.....788
Muhammad Tassim Billah

Applications of Weather Database for Farmer's Decision Making.....794
Jae-Hoon Shin

A Web Base Contralized Ultrasound Processing and Image Database System for Hanwoo in Korea.....799
H .C. Kim, K. S. Seo, Y.H. Choy, K.J, Jeon, C.J. Jeong, C.Y. Kim, S.H. No

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) Imperative for Updating Agricultural Production System and its Economy.....805
A. M. Puste and D.Basu

Use of Remote Sensing and GIS Technology in an Agriculture Case Study in the Coastland of Central Viet Nam.....815
Pham Viet Hoa

Establishment of Cattle Traceability System Using RF-ID.....822
K.S. Seo, S.D. Kim, J.G. Lee, B.W. Kim, O.K. Sohn and M.H. Baek

Some Tools for Agricultural Education which Display the Database of Field Servers and Legacy Weather Data Loggers with MetBroker.....828
T. Mishima, R. Ito, T. Kameoka, A. Hashimoto, K. Nakanishi, M.Takahashi, K. Asada, M. Rahman, M. Mizoguchi, E. Goto, H. Shono, M. Oka, H. Taki, F. Uchio, Y. Saito, H. Ishizawa, Y. Motonaga, T. Hoshi, N. Iguchi, S. Ninomiya, M. Hirafuji, T. Fukatsu

Exploring e-Learning System for Agricultural Extension in Rural Korea.....834
Yong-Been Cho, Duk-Byeong Park and Chun-Im Oh

Education and Distance Learning.....839
Aromolaran, Aderonke Morenike

Map Analysis Program for the Philippine's Higher Education Institutions and Programs.....846
C.M. Pascual, P.M. Pasion, C.T. Ragual and C.V. Calimlim

Risk Mapping of Groundwater Nitrate Nitrogen (NO_3-N) under Intensive Cropping Systems.....861
C.M. Pascual, M.C.S. Baga and D.P. Valencia

X-Ray Fluorescent Spectroscopic Analysis of Tomato Leaf.....874
A. Hashimoto, T. Niwa, R. Mizanur, K. Nakanishi, T. Kameoka, T. Kumon and K. Hosoi

Analysis on Color Appearance Space for Fruits during Post-ripening.....880
Y. Motonaga and T. Kamata

Agricultural Information Resource Development and Management for the Rural Area in Guangdong.....886
Yelu Zheng and Zhong Wang

Preface

Recently, the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has taken important role in agricultural sector for sustainable management, planning including learning process. Also, ICT has been a key to efficient information utilization in order to increase competitiveness of agricultural products.

This year is a very good year that the second World Congress of Computers in Agriculture and Natural Resources and the fourth Asian Federation of Information Technology in Agriculture have joined together. Moreover, Thailand as one of an agricultural country, is horably selected to be the host of such significant event.

The AFITA/WCCA 2004 conference provides forums for agricultural related professionals to exchange information and experience in applications and developments in the use of ICT. The contributions from various countires will allow a broadened perspective for all attendees and to promote wide range of the use of ICT in agriculture and natural resources.

Finally, on behalf of the organizing committee, I hope that this conference will be a step towards collaborative efforts to bring digital opportunity to all contributors.

Sumet Tantivjkul

Organizing Committee Chair

Preface

This 2004 joint meeting between the World Congress on Computers in Agriculture and Natural Resources (WCCA) and the Asian Federation of Information Technology for Agriculture (AFITA) is a historical event that brings together cooperating organizations into a single coordinated effort for the benefit of agricultural professionals working in Information Technology.

This and future Congresses have the goal of creating a forum where professionals from all over the world can exchange experiences and create channels of communication that result in international professional and scientific collaboration in agricultural information technology.

This congress covers a wide array of topics. These include new applications of well established and understood technologies to innovative and entrepreneurial application of emerging technologies in addition to issues related to policy and knowledge dissemination.

Collaborating organizations include AFITA, the European Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture (EFITA), the Pan American Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture (PanAFITA), the Society for Engineering in Agricultural, Food and Biological Systems (ASAE).

Lastly, the program committee would like to recognize all supporting institutions. Their commitment has made this joint congress possible.

Fedro S. Zazueta

Program Committee Chair

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- American Society of Agriculture Engineers (ASAE)
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- Rural Development Administration (RDA), Korea
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

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