



**Isfahan University of Technology**  
**College of Agriculture**  
**Department of Soil Science**



**International Conference on  
Human Impacts on Soil Quality Attributes  
in Arid and Semiarid Regions**

**12-16 September 2005  
Isfahan-Iran**

<http://www.iut.ac.ir/cesoil>

## **First Announcement**

### **Supporting Organizations**

IUT Soil Science Center of Excellences  
Soil Science Society of Iran  
Ministry of Agriculture (Jahad-e-Keshavarzi)  
Research Organization (AREO)  
Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)  
International Union of Soil Science (IUSS)  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)  
International Center for Agricultural Research in  
Dry Areas (ICARDA)

### **Background and Rationale**

One of the main environmental challenges, arising from growing agricultural, urban and industrial development, is the degradation of soil resources. The processes of soil degradation are closely linked through unfavorable alterations in the physical, chemical, biological and hydrological processes by human activities and mismanagement. If the consequences of these activities are not adequately addressed, the stability of soil's ecosystem for the next generation will be jeopardized. A vast area of the earth is characterized by arid and semiarid conditions. Soil quality, its role for human life and its sensitivity to human impacts in these areas is very different from other climatic zones. Intensified use due to increased population pressure has already resulted in and aggravated serious problems such as salinization, alkalization, nutrient depletion, desertification, erosion and other forms of land degradation. Thus, it is very useful to take a look at the relationship of soil and man in these areas to assess and anticipate the interdependence of soil and society.

### **Conference Themes**

- ☒ Soil degradation and sustainability as related to different land use systems and management techniques such as:
  - cultivation
  - overgrazing
  - deforestation
  - desertification
  - flooding and erosion sediment
  - surface hydrology, and
  - salinization
- ☒ Soil management regarding agro-industrial pollutants, and
- ☒ Socio-economic aspects of sustainable soil management.

### **Invitation to Attend**

On behalf of the Department of Soil Science, Isfahan University of Technology, we extend a warm invitation to all interested individuals to attend HISQA to be held at IUT from Sep. 12 to 16, 2005. The conference will provide a forum for researchers and practitioners in the field to discuss state-of-the-art issues, their latest findings, and the developments affecting soil degradation and restoration due to human impacts. The conference will include presentations by national and international scholars, and will provide an excellent opportunity for networking with colleagues in related fields. A number of leading international speakers will review and discuss current

issues within the broad area of soil management for sustainable agriculture. A mid-conference field trip will provide an opportunity for the delegates to view a variety of soil profiles and arid region landscapes.

### Conference Venue

**Isfahan** is a city you won't forget. Not only is the architecture superb and the climate pleasant, but there's a fairly relaxed atmosphere. It's a city for walking, getting lost in the bazaar, dozing in beautiful gardens and meeting people. The famous half-rhyme *Isfahan nesf-é jahan* (Isfahan is half the world) was coined in the 16th century to express the city's grandeur. There's so much to see that you'll probably have to ration your time and concentrate on must-sees such as the **Emam Mosque**, a magnificent building completely covered in Isfahan's trademark pale blue tiles; **Naghsh-e-Jahan Square**, the third largest town square in the world; the **Chehel Sotun Museum & Park**, a marvelous 17th century pavilion and a great place for a picnic; and the **Vank Cathedral**, the historic focal point of the Armenian church in Iran. Taking tea in one of the teahouses under the ancient **Bridges** is also an essential part of the Isfahan experience.

**Isfahan University of Technology** is a major and highly ranked university with

about 7000 undergraduate and nearly 2000 graduate students studying Agriculture, Engineering, and Basic Sciences. During the past 26 years, distinguished faculty and hardworking administrators have transformed this institution into a highly competitive learning and research institution that is recognized both nationally and internationally.

### Conference Language

The official language of the conference will be English. Instruction for paper presentation will be found on the webpage of the conference, or on the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular.

### Call for Papers

Papers for both oral and poster presentations will be selected and reviewed by the International Scientific Committee. All the accepted peer reviewed papers will be published in a proceeding and will also be made electronically available.

### Registration Fees

Registration fee is €300 which covers: participation in the scientific program, conference proceeding, CD, welcome reception, meals, tea (coffee) breaks, and professional field trip.

For students the registration fee will be half.

### Accommodation

- 1) University Hotel rate is €30 (single) and €40 (double) per night.
- 2) Hotel rates in Isfahan varies from €40 to €120 per night.

### Important Dates

Aug. 2004. 1st call for abstracts (extended)  
Jan 2005, 2nd call for extended abstracts  
July 2005, 3rd and final call for submission  
September 2005, Conference Opening

### Registration Form

- I intend to attend the conference
- Send me the second circular
- Family Name .....
- First Name .....
- (Prof/ Dr/ Mr./ Mrs.) (Please Circle)
- Position .....
- Address .....
- Town/City .....
- Country .....Postcode .....
- Tel (Fax) .....
- e-mail .....

#### Accompanying Person

- Name (s) .....

#### Accommodation

- University Hotel
- Hotel in Isfahan

Please send the form to: M. A. Hajabbasi,  
College of Agriculture, Isfahan University of  
Technology, Isfahan 84154 Iran.  
Fax: +98-311 391 3471  
or e-mail to: [cesoil@cc.iut.ac.ir](mailto:cesoil@cc.iut.ac.ir) or  
[hajabbas@cc.iut.ac.ir](mailto:hajabbas@cc.iut.ac.ir)