



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SUGAR CANE TECHNOLOGISTS

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, AGRONOMY AND EXTENSION WORKSHOP

REUNION, 23 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

<https://www.issctagro2018.com/workshop-theme-and-topics>

THEME: “Farming for the future: improving productivity and ecological resilience in sugarcane production systems”

The joint ISSCT Agricultural Engineering, Agronomy and Extension Workshop will be held at the Hotel Le Récif, Saint-Gilles, Reunion Island from 23 to 28 September 2018. It is being hosted by eRcane and Cirad. Apart from the sugar industry (producing 75 – 80% of the sugarcane grown in the French overseas territories), Reunion is also a popular tourist destination (<http://www.reunion.fr/en/home.html>). The city hosts a variety of fashion and craft shops, hotels, restaurants and much more.

eRcane has made a significant contribution to developing sugarcane production on Reunion since 1929. It has been responsible for selecting new higher yielding varieties and conducting R&D in genetics, agronomy and associated technologies.

Cirad is the French agricultural research and international cooperation organisation working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions and operations in more than 90 countries, and in Reunion, in particular.

The Workshop will provide an exciting opportunity to discuss topics on sugarcane agricultural engineering, agronomy and extension, and the linkages between these. Delegates are encouraged to participate actively by preparing and submitting abstracts for oral or poster presentations. The Workshop will include a wide range of topics and provide the opportunity to debate some of the key challenges facing the sugarcane industries at an international scale. The envisaged sessions will include:

- Alternative fertilisers, including
 - Recycling nutrients from effluents
 - Plant nutrition and bio stimulants
 - Green manure
- Weed management, including
 - Cover crops
 - Mechanical control
- Numerical agriculture – the third green revolution, including
 - Big data
 - Decision making tools and platforms
 - Precision Agriculture (PA)
 - Drones and robotics

- Irrigation, including
 - Energy efficiency
 - Deficit irrigation
 - Evaluation, maintenance and economics
 - Measurement, monitoring and administrative systems
- Circular economy
 - Sugarcane and energy
 - Sugarcane/livestock interaction
- Farming systems
- Agricultural machinery
 - Soil conservation in plant cane and ratoons
 - Innovations (nutrition, weed control, trash management, etc)
 - Harvest, transport and cane quality
 - Planting systems
- Extension
 - Strategies and methodologies,
 - Adoption
 - Progress and challenges
 - Farming system services / Specialist contractors

Language

The Workshop will be conducted in English.

Workshop Format:

The formal programme will comprise several sessions covering specific topics. Each session will comprise a combination of oral and poster presentations and sufficient time for discussion and workshopping activities

The Workshop will include two field visits – one associated with developments in agricultural engineering, and the other more agronomy focused. A booklet of abstracts will be printed and given to the delegates. Abstracts for all contributions (oral and poster) must be submitted as per the instructions on the website by 28 February 2018.

Any queries regarding abstracts should be directed to Prof Bernard Schroeder (Bernard.Schroeder@usq.edu.au)

A template for Abstract is available on the Workshop website. This template **must** be used. Abstracts need to be submitted by the deadline date (28 February 2018) to Bernard.Schroeder@usq.edu.au

Entry Visas

Foreign (non-French) passport holders generally require a visa to enter Reunion Island. Please ensure that you specify that you need to go to **Reunion Island**. Please contact the French Consular authorities in your own country.

NOTE: Workshop delegates from **all** countries should confirm their requirement for a visa with a travel agent to avoid potential difficulties and disappointment.

ISSCT Membership

All participants must be current members of ISSCT by the start of the Workshop. Details are available on the ISSCT Website <http://www.issct.org/member.html>

Key Dates

28 February 2018: Deadline for submission of abstract(s) (oral or poster).

15 April 2018: Decisions made by the Organizing Committee on acceptance of oral presentations and posters.

5 May 2018: Deadline for booking accommodation with the Hotel Le Récif. Participants must make their own bookings.

30 June 2018: Closing date for Workshop registration.

23 – 28 September 2018: Workshop

Costs

Participants at the Workshop must meet their own costs of travel, accommodation, meals and other incidentals. A conference accommodation package has been negotiated with the Hotel Le Récif, Saint-Gilles, Reunion Island. Room rates will be approximately 726 euros (single room) and 486 euros (per person sharing a double room) for the duration of the Workshop (6 nights: In 22 Sep, out 29 Sep). Reservations must be made directly with the hotel. Please contact Etienne Gouvard Tel: +262262700102 or E-mail: Etienne.gouvard@hotellerecif.com Please remember to specify that you will be attending the ISSCT Workshop

Registration fees for the workshop will be 365 euros and will cover lunches during the workshop, the welcoming cocktail party, the workshop dinner, and the field visits.

Further information

For further information, please contact:

Workshop Organising Committee:

Daniel Marion – marion@ercane.re

Pascal Marnotte – pascal.marnotte@cirad.fr

Agronomy Section Chair and Agricultural Commissioner:

Prof Bernard Schroeder (USQ, Australia): Bernard.Schroeder@usq.edu.au

Agricultural Engineering Section Chair:

Dr Neil Lecler (Tongaat Hulett, South Africa): Neil.Lecler@tongaat.com