HOT NEWS

ISSUE 6, 2021

WASWAC

Contents

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International Forum on Land Degradation, Soil Conservation and Sustainable Development, 2021– The Third Circular

1. INTRODUCTION

The International Forum on Land Degradation, Soil Conservation and Sustainable Development, 2021 (LASOSU2021) will be held on 21-23 August 2021 in the Grand Cypress Teda Dalian, China, to provide an avenue for scientists to discuss pressing issues on soil loss facing our profession and society. Presently a total of 259 papers have been accepted, of which 66 are submitted by the first authors outside of China. The conference will include 2 slots for Keynote Speeches, 1 slot for Focus Group Discussion, and 25 slots for Parallel Sessions.

2. SCHEDULE & VENUE

(1) Venue

All participants from the low-risk areas of COVID-19 in China are encouraged to take part in LASOSU2021 which will be held in the Grand Cypress Teda Dalian located at 205 Zhongnan Road, Zhongshan District, Dalian, China (Accessory 1). Other participants may attend the meeting via the software VooV meeting, and the participants will receive the ID and SN of the VooV meeting in early August.

(2) Meeting

Arrival at 9:00-22:00, 21 August 2021 (Saturday)

Presentations during 22-23 August 2021

(3) Programme

The general programme of the conference is shown as follows. Please refer to Accessory 2 for details.

22 August 2021	08:00-08:50	Welcoming Ceremony
	09:10-12:00	Keynote Speeches
	13:30-15:05	Parallel Sessions
	15:05-15:55	Focus Group Discussion
	15:55-17:30	Parallel Sessions
23 August 2021	08:30-12:00	Parallel Sessions
	13:30-16:35	Parallel Sessions
	16:45-17:30	Closing Ceremony

3. TYPES OF PRESENTATIONS

(1) Oral Presentation

All participants who prefer to present oral presentations are required to send the pre-recorded oral presentations to the conference team via the email xzxu2018@126.com by 31 July 2021.

(2) Poster Presentation

63 posters are anticipated to be demonstrated in LASOSU2021. The vertical size of the poster may not exceed 1.0 m × 1.5 m, and the author's institute and paper's number are essential in the poster. The posters are required to be displayed within a fixed time.

4. BOARD OF ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Presidents: Bojie Fu, Rattan Lal (USA)

Vice Presidents: Desmond Eric Walling (UK), Giancarlo Dalla Fontana (Italy), Guangqian Wang, Jianguo Liu (USA), Jinren Ni, Mingan Shao, Peng Cui, Rui Li, Winfried Blum (Austria)

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5. SUPERVISORS AND ORGANIZERS

(1) Supervisors

World Association of Soil and Water Conservation, Italian Association of Agricultural Engineer-

ing (Italy), and Soil Erosion Division of Chinese Society of Soil and Water Conservation

(2) Organizers

Dalian University of Technology, and University of Padova (Italy)

(3) Co-organizers

Institute of Soil and Water Conservation of CAS & MWR, Beijing Normal University, Huazhong Agricultural University, Xi'an University of Technology, Italian Association for Soil and Water Bioengineering (Italy), Beijing Forestry University, Tsinghua University, Key Laboratory of Process and Control of Soil Loss on the Loess Plateau, Shandong Agricultural University, Southwest University, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Yunnan University, and Shandong Division of Chinese Society of Soil and Water Conservation.

(4) Sponsors

MACCAFERRI, Beijing Tethys Technology Co. Ltd.

6. BOARD OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Presidents: Duihu Ning, Paolo Tarolli (Italy)

Members: Federico Preti (Italy), Giacomo Scarascia Mugnozza (Italy), Guanghui Zhang, Manuel Esteban Lucas Borja (Italy), Vito Ferro (Italy), Wenlong Wang, Xiangzhou Xu, Xiaoying Liu, Yu Tang, Zhihua Shi

7. REGISTRATION

(1) Check-in

The participants may check in at the Guest Hall of Grand Cypress Teda Dalian during 9:00-22:00, 21 August 2021.

Affected by the CVID-19 pandemic, international visits become unavailable, so only Chinese participants are encouraged to be registered in Dalian, all international participants are welcomed to share reports online.

(2) Traveling and Accommodation Information

Please upload the traveling and accommodation information online referring to Accessories 3 and 4. **The due dates to submit the accommodation and traveling messages are 31 July and 10**

August, respectively. The participants who have already registered online may supplement their traveling and accommodation information based on registered messages (Accessory 3). Others may register following Accessory 4. The conference team will prearrange the accommodation and collection services for the participants according to the registration information.

(3) Registration Fee

Here are the registration fees for the participants attending LASOSU2021 on site in Dalian:

Participant	Registration Fee
Regular participant	CNY ¥2300
Student or entourage	CNY ¥1500

The registration fee includes the access to conference and parallel sessions, lunch and refreshment breaks as scheduled in the conference program, and symposium dinner. The accommodation during the conference will be arranged at your own expense. Please refer to Accessory 4 for the payment method. The regular participants have the opportunity to present oral or poster presentations, and they will receive the conference manuals, representative cards, proceedings, meal vouchers, and other materials in the check-in hall on 21 August 2021.The entourages may attend the meeting and have dinners with the regular participants, but they will not receive the conference manual, representative card, and proceedings. Accessory 5 shows a template of the invitation letter for participant, which may help you to raise travel funds.

8. Why sponsor?

One platform, many connections. As a conference sponsor, you'll be able to: (i) strengthen your business and establish new clients through corporate visibility; and (ii) exhibit and distribute your marketing, business development and promotional materials. The conference will adhere to the principle of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation while discussing sponsorship matters with the sponsors. We provide promotion of your brand in the conference materials (Accessory 6). For further information, please contact Drs Yihang Li: xzxu2018@126.com, 18525405667.

9. CONTACTS

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(3) World Association of Soil and Water Conservation

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More information: *http://meeting.dlut.edu.cn/meeting/list_en.asp?id=2710&nid=1511*

Detailed Programme of LASOSU2021

Date	Time	Event	Venue
21/Aug/2021	09:00-22:00	Registration	Guest Hall
22/Aug/2021	08:00-08:50	Welcoming Ceremony	4th Floor of Banquet Hall
	08:50-09:10	Tea & Coffee break	
	09:10-12:00	Keynote Presentations	4th Floor of Banquet Hall
	12:00-13:30	Lunch Break	1st Floor of Restaurant
	13:30-15:05	Parallel Sessions	Hall A1
			Hall B
			Hall C
	15:05-15:55	Focus Group Discussion	Theatre
	15:05-15:25	Tea & Coffee break	
	15:55-17:30	Parallel Sessions	Theatre
			Hall A1
			Hall B
			Hall C
	18:00-20:00	Conference Banquet	4th floor banquet hall
23/Aug/2021	08:30-10:05	Parallel Sessions	Hall A1
			Hall A2
			Hall B
			Hall C
			Hall D
	10:05-10:25	Tea & Coffee break	
	10:25-12:00	Parallel Sessions	Hall A1
			Hall B
			Hall C
			Hall D
	12:00-13:30	Lunch Break	1st Floor of Restaurant
	13:30-15:05	Parallel Sessions	Hall A1
			Hall A2
			Hall B
			Hall C
			Hall D
			Hall E
	15:05-15:25	Tea & Coffee break	
	15:25-16:35	Parallel Sessions	Hall A1
			Hall B
			Hall C
	16:35-17:30	Closing Ceremony	4th Floor of Banquet Hall
	17:30-20:00	Buffet Dinner	1st Floor of Restaurant

Earth Day Program of Iranian Watershed Management Association

En. Mahin Kalehhouei[a] and Prof. Dr. Ali Talebi[b]
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World Earth Day is a good opportunity to raise awareness about the conservation of ecosystems in which human society can thrive. Land conservation is a necessity to achieve this goal. In 1970, in response to the environmental crisis, April 22nd (Ordibehesht 2nd, Iranian Calendar) was designated as the Clean Earth Day. Iran also joins other countries in this event and holds an Earth week all over the country every year.

The theme of this year's World Earth Day, "Land Reclamation "has been chosen. The great number of challenges and opportunities in land reclamation measures have made it the most important issue of Clean Earth Day. Therefore, the theme of this year's concept of clean earth in Iran was named as land reclamation along with increasing productivity for sustainable development. Although this year's social activities have been canceled due to the Covid19 Pandemic, the students' committee of the Iranian Watershed Management Association has acted symbolically to demonstrate the importance of the subject by considering the prevailing conditions in the country. The Watershed Management Society of Iran would like to thank the students of the Student Committee. The society also thanks Prof. Dr. SHR Sadeghi for his persistent supports and providing the opportunity to prepare this report. In the following, some pictures have been given to demonstrate a glance of the activities done for the commemoration of Earth Day in Iran.

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Provided by Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi
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Let crop residues rot in the field -- it's a climate win

For quite some time, farmers and researchers have been focusing on how to bind carbon to soil. Doing so makes food crops more nutritious and increases yields.

However, because carbon is converted into CO_2 when it enters the atmosphere, there is a significant climate benefit to capturing carbon in soil as well.

Too much carbon finds its way into the atmosphere. Should we fail to reverse this unfortunate trend, we will fail to achieve the Paris Agreement's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030, according to CONCITO, Denmark's Green Think Tank.

As such, it is important to find new ways of sequestering carbon in soil. This is where a team of researchers from the University of Copenhagen and the Technical University of Munich enter the picture.

In their new study, they argue for the potential of simply allowing agricultural crop residues to rot in fields.

"Fragments of dead plants in soil are often considered as fast food for microbes and fungi. But our study demonstrates that plant residues actually play a more significant role in forming and sequestering carbon in soil than what was once thought," explains Kristina Witzgall, a PhD Candidate at the Technical University of Munich and the study's lead author.

In the past, researchers mainly focused on carbon storage in the surfaces of minerals like clay. However, the new results demonstrate that plant residues themselves have the ability to store carbon, and perhaps for longer than once supposed.

This is because a number of important processes take place directly upon the surface of these plant remains.

"We demonstrate that agricultural crop residues are absolutely central to carbon storage and that we should use them in a much more calculated way in the future. Plant residues make it possible for carbon, in all likelihood, to be stored in soil for roughly four times longer than if they aren't added," states Carsten Müller, the study's co-author and an associate professor at the University of Copenhagen's Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management.

Fungi and soil clumps store carbon

To understand how plant residue sequesters carbon, it is important to know that plant tissue already contains carbon absorbed by plants from the atmosphere via photosynthesis. As plant matter rots, carbon can be transferred into the soil in a number of ways.

″Our analysis shows that plant residues, as they interact with fungi, play a surprisingly large role in carbon storage. As fungi fling their white strands around plant fragments, they 'glue' them together with the soil. The fungi then consume the carbon found in the plant matter. In doing so, they store carbon in the soil," explains Carsten Müller.

In addition to fungi, the researchers' analyses also show that the soil structure itself determines the amount of carbon that can be stored.

″When soil is glued together in large hard lumps by the stickiness of bacteria and fungi, plant residues are shielded from being consumed by bacteria and fungi, which would otherwise eat and then emit some of the carbon as CO2 into the atmosphere," says Kristina Witzgall.

She goes on to say that while carbon can be stored in soil from weeks to a thousand years, the usual duration is about 50 years.

Reducing CO2 in the future

The method of leaving crop residues like stalks, stubble and leaves to rot is not unheard of when it comes to enhancing agricultural land.

However, deploying rotten plants as a tool to store carbon should be taken more seriously and considered as a strategy to be expanded, according to the researchers behind the new study.

″The fertile and climate-friendly agricultural lands of the future should use crop residue as a way of sequestering carbon. We will also be conducting experiments where we add rotten plant matter deeper into the soil, which will allow carbon to be stored for even longer periods of time," says Carsten Müller.

If we work to create better conditions for carbon sequestration in soil, we could store between 0.8 and 1.5 gigatonnes of carbon annually. By comparison, the world's population has emitted 4.9 gigatonnes of carbon per year over the past 10 years.

All in all, the researchers' findings can be used to understand the important role and promise of crop residues for carbon storage in the future.

However, Kristina Witzgall goes on to say that a variety of initiatives are needed to increase carbon sequestration, such as crops that can absorb atmospheric carbon and the restoration of lost forests.

Story Source:

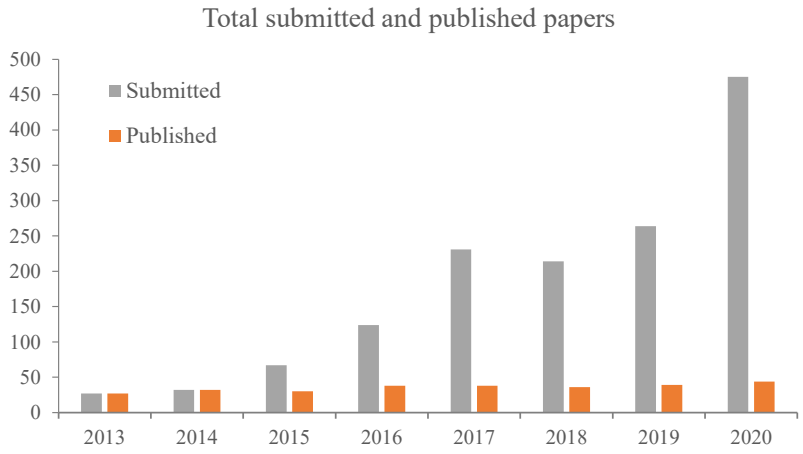
Materials provided by University of Copenhagen - Faculty of Science. Note: Content may be edited for style and length.

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/07/210712122126.htm

Updated submission data of ISWCR in June 2021

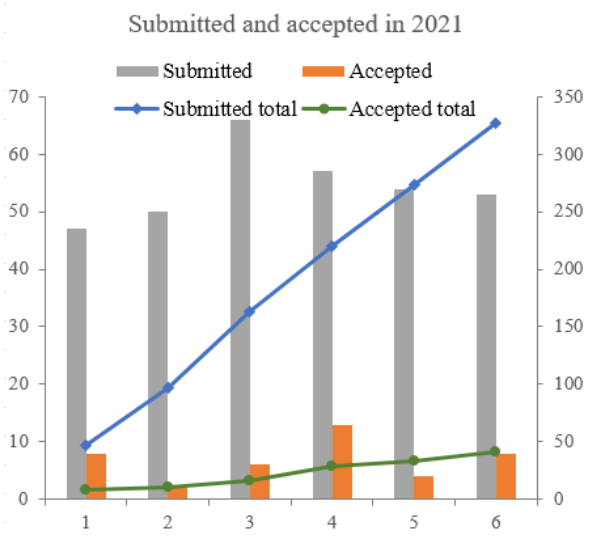
Annual Volume of Submissions and Publishing since 2013

Year	Published	Submitted
2013	27	27
2014	32	32
2015	30	67
2016	38	124
2017	38	231
2018	36	214
2019	39	264
2020	44	475



Monthly Submissions & Acceptance in the current year (2021)

Month	Submitted	Accepted
1	47	8
2	50	2
3	66	6
4	57	13
5	54	4
6	53	8



The International Soil and Water Conservation Research (ISWCR), initiated in June 2013, is a quarterly academic journal in English and publishes in Science Direct of Elsevier with open access globally. Since initiation, ISWCR has developed rapidly and established a good reputation in both international academia and publishing industry. It was indexed by Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD) in April 2015, covered by SCOPUS in January 2017, and was indexed by Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of Clarivate Analytics in October 2017. In July 2019, ISWCR was officially indexed by SCIE. The Impact factor of ISWCR is 3.770 in 2019, and 6.027 in 2020.

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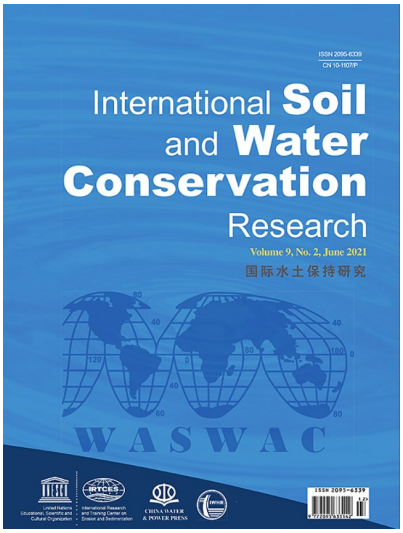

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Papers Published in the ***International Journal of Sediment Research*** Volume 36, No. 4, 2021
Pages 449-565 (August 2021)

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