

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location of the venue

The meeting will take place in the Château du Pont d'Oye, Habay-La-Neuve.
The castle is situated at 40 km from Luxembourg City, 15 km from Arlon and 10 km from Martelange.

How to get there

By car:

The castle is easily accessible via the highway E411 Brussels-Luxemburg.
Take Exit 29 and continue along the N87 for 2 km.
Free parking is available for meeting participants.

By train:

The castle is near the railway line Brussels-Arlon. A shuttle bus will ferry participants from the Marbehan Railway Station to the conference venue between 9 and 10 am and 17:30 and 18:30 pm.



STEREO SCIENTIFIC MEETING

"AGRICULTURE AND VEGETATION AT A LOCAL SCALE"

20 September 2005
Habay-La-Neuve, Belgium

REGISTRATION

Participants must register **before 9 September 2005** as the number of participants is limited. Participation is free of charge.

For registration and additional information, please contact:

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Please note: **There will be no confirmation of your registration.**

Participants wanting to stay overnight can book a room at the Chateau (www.chateaudupontdoye.be) or at the hotel "Les Ardillières du Pont d'Oye" (www.lesforges.be/fr1/1.asp).

BELGIAN SCIENCE POLICY



INTRODUCTION

In 2001 year, the Belgian Government launched the programme "STEREO: Support to the exploitation and research of earth observation data".

The objectives of the programme are:

- Maintaining and expanding the Belgian scientific expertise
- Developing of operational products and services
- Supporting the user
- Valorising and promoting Belgian know-how

Research in the programme revolves around following three themes:

- Agriculture and local vegetation
- Cartography and land management
- Study of coastal regions

From the start, annual meetings have been organised intended as a forum where the Belgian players in the field of remote sensing could meet and present their work.

THEME

While agriculture and the natural environment used to be considered opposed interests, European efforts lately try to reconcile them.

Half of Europe's land is farmed. Farming and nature therefore exercise a profound influence over each other. Farming has contributed over the centuries to creating and maintaining a variety of valuable semi-natural habitats. Today these shape the majority of Europe's landscapes and are home to many of its richest wildlife. Rural communities play an essential role in maintaining the environment in a healthy state.

One of the priorities of the EU's Nature Conservation Policy is to create a European ecological network of special areas of conservation, called NATURA 2000, and to integrate nature protection requirements into other policy domains, such as agriculture.

The EU is committed to improving the rural environment and wants to stimulate agricultural practices preserving the environment and safeguarding the countryside through its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): as of 2000, farmers must comply with environmentally sound good farming practices as a condition for benefiting from European support.

Remote sensing plays an important role in those policies. As early as 1988, the EC's MARS (Monitoring of Agriculture with Remote Sensing) project started, designed to apply emerging space technologies for providing independent and timely information on crop areas and yields in support of CAP.

MARS only focused on agricultural production, but earth observation techniques together with other spatial information may provide the CAP, the European Environment Agency (EEA), and the farmers also with operational agri-environmental indicators to assess the state of the agricultural environment.

Earth observation data are also being used for precision agriculture, sustainable agriculture, forest management, and monitoring of quality of life in urban environment.

New sensors and new technologies will have a significant impact on agri-environmental management and policies in the near future.

This year's meeting will centre on agriculture, forestry and community forestry, and the agri-environment on a local scale.

To put the research within STEREO in perspective, the presentations by Belgian scientists will be bookended by European invited speakers.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

8.30 Registration

9.30 Welcome
(Belgian Science Policy)

AGRICULTURE

9.40 Acreage estimation using radar imagery
(Francesco Holecz, SARMAP)

10.10 SAR image processing for crop monitoring
(Anne Orban, Dominique Derauw and Christian Barbier, CSL)

10.35 Crop type mapping and growth monitoring thanks to a synergistic use of SAR and optical remote sensing
(Pierre Defourmy, UCL)

11.00 Coffee break

POMOLOGY AND FORESTRY

11.15 Early detection of biotic stress in fruit orchards using statistically based hyperspectral analysis
(Stephanie Delalieux, Jan Van Aardt, Wannes Keulemans and Pol Coppin, KULeuven)

11.40 Services for Urban Green Monitoring using Remote Sensing (SUGRES)
(Eléonore Wolff, ULB and Tom Op 't Eyndt, GIM)

12.05 Very high resolution satellite imagery: a tool for information about forest environment
(Julien Radoux, UCL and David Samoy, I-Mage)

12.30 Lunch

AGRI-ENVIRONMENT

14.00 European Agriculture and Remote Sensing: changes and perspectives
(Jacques Delincé, JRC, Ispra)

14.30 Monitoring of the Walloon agricultural state with remote sensing
(Bernard Tychon, ULg)

14.55 Integration of traceability and geographical information for the development of farm advisory systems and the control of agro-environmental measures
(Robert Oger, CWRA and Dominique Buffet, CWRA)

15.15 Coffee break

15.30 Land cover, land use and agri-environmental indicators developed during the IRENA Operation
(Paul Campling, SADL/KULeuven)

16.00 Monitoring of the Walloon agricultural state with remote sensing: project management and benefits for the department of agriculture
(Alain Istasse, DGA)

16.30 ESA Earth Observation exploitation programmes
(European Space Agency)

17.00 Conclusions
(Jean Marot, Cabinet of the Walloon Minister for Agriculture)

The official language of the meeting is English.

Participants can submit abstracts for poster presentations by 11 July 2005.

