

Foreword

A new CIGR working group (Image Analysis for Agricultural Processes and Products) was launched during the last CIGR International Conference in September 2008 in Brazil. The aim of this group is to work together with existing Sections of CIGR to increase the collaboration between institutions, enterprises and individuals in the field of image analysis.

This working group is devoted to encourage research, exchange of information, discussion and any other type of co-operation between industry and academia in the development and testing of software and hardware components and the creation of reference materials related to the use of image analysis methods in agricultural and biosystems engineering.

Thus our objectives are:

- * To meet recent demands of process monitoring in agricultural production, during storage and processing of raw materials

- * To develop objective, sensitive, and reliable optical tools for receiving analytical data in a non-destructive way.

During 2008, the governing board, constituted by Prof. Manuela Zude (Germany), Prof. Thomas Banhazi (Australia) and myself (Spain) has been working hard to attract interested scientists and enterprises to join this working group. In addition, we heavily promoted our 1st International Workshop on Computer Image Analysis in Agriculture, that is being held in Potsdam.

At present time, our working group has 142 members from 12 countries and 4 continents. Moreover, we have developed a web page (<http://www.atb-potsdam.de/CIGR-ImageAnalysis/>) and are determined to continue expanding the scope of our working group.

I would like to express my gratitude for the excellent work undertaken by the local organising team of this workshop, led by Prof. Zude. We all know how difficult it is to establish a new Working Group and organising an International Workshop (involving many individuals and Institutions) is not an easy task either. Thanks also to our host, the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering Potsdam-Bornim, and to all our sponsors (CIGR, EurAgEng, ASABE, IVIA and SARDI). We simply could not organise this meeting without their continuous support.

All the preliminary effort has been made, so now it is time for you to make this meeting fruitful. Enjoy the company of other international experts, share your knowledge, start new co-operative projects and update your current understanding of the Image Analysis field. However, in the process please do not forget to enjoy Potsdam and this wonderful

country of Germany. In summary, I wish you (on behalf of the Working Group and the Workshop organising committee) a very productive and enjoyable time during our 1st International Workshop on Image Analysis!

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