



International Society for Horticultural Science

COMMISSION on **Irrigation and Plant Water Relations (CMIR)**

**Working Group «Water Relations in Woody Crops»**

**- ISHS Working Group F07 -**

The scientific committee for the **5th International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops** is currently formulating the Conference Program. Many excellent paper abstracts (oral and poster) from different countries have been submitted. Eight keynote speakers addressing themes of the conference have accepted the invitation to present. If you still wish to submit an abstract we hereby **extend the deadline by 2 weeks (14th March 2006)**. We look forward to your participation in the conference. Further information about the conference are published on <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/irrigationsymposium> or by looking for this meeting (August 28 2006) in <http://www.ishs.org/calendar/index.htm>. Links to travel, accomodation and tourism can be found at this web site. For further information contact [irrigation.symposium@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:irrigation.symposium@dpi.vic.gov.au).

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**Working Group «Water Supply and Irrigation»**

**- ISHS Working Group V03 -**

Dear Colleagues,

The last Working Group Newsletter (Number 7) was sent to you by the former VO3 chair, Dr Yvon Dumas, in December 2003. As you well know, in February 2004, the WG VO3 moved from the Vegetables Section to the new Irrigation Commission (CMIR) chaired by Dr Isabel Ferreira. During this period, the WG's and the CMIR chairperson have worked together to give the new Commission a structure and clear goals.

The VO3 proposal has mainly focused on the improvement of communication with the WG members and the possibility to have some feedback as well. The idea is to better know WHAT research/project the WG members are carrying out and WHO is responsible for these jobs. At the moment, only the name and the address of the WG members are included in the WG member roster. It is too few to stimulate the discussion among WG members. In the period from mid 2004 until the end of 2005 we tried to organize a WG research database to be linked with the member list. The main difficulty we encountered was related to providing support to compile and maintain such a database. Sponsorship and/or in-kind support from the chairperson's Institutes was not forthcoming. Moreover, a skilled IT person to build a SQL database would be required and is currently not available. Alternatively, a simple Excel or Access database could be built with some basic information and simple search options. I

would appreciate your feedback about this idea: Do you agree? Do you find it interesting and useful? Could you support the WG in some way? Please let me know your comments and suggestions about this topic ([battilani@consorzioicer.it](mailto:battilani@consorzioicer.it)).

In the framework of the CMIR activities, we have suggested that a shortened version of the WG's Newsletters be published in *Chronica Horticulturae*. The aim is to encourage involvement in the WG activities, strengthen links between WGs (e.g. Plant Nutrition) and across commissions or sections (e.g. Water Relations of Grapevines) and stimulate other ISHS members to develop relationships with the Water Supply WG and their researchers. In addition, many researchers we know in this topic are not members of the ISHS. It was proposed to organize a WG forum, eventually open to other people, but we had the same difficulties described for supporting the database.

In the last two years, the WG was involved in the IXth Symposium on the Processing Tomato, held in Melbourne (Australia) ([www.worldtomatocongress.com.au](http://www.worldtomatocongress.com.au)). The proceedings will be published in *Acta Horticulturae* in the next months (editor Bill Ashcroft).

The Water Supply and Irrigation Working Group is involved in the organisation of the **Vth International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops** (Australia). The 2006 Symposium convener is Dr. Ian Goodwin (see WG message above in this letter).

The WG is involved as well in the organization of the Xth International Symposium on the Processing Tomato that will be held in Hammamet (Tunisia) in June 2006 (Conveners Dr Abdellatif B'chir and Dr Sophie Colvine) ([www.worldtomatocongress.com](http://www.worldtomatocongress.com)).

Nowadays, clean freshwater is a limited resource and its use for crop irrigation is in fierce competition with the demand for household consumption as well as with the need to protect the quality of aquatic ecosystems as outlined in the European Water Framework Directive. This is a general problem particularly in peri-urban areas with intensive vegetable production and in most Mediterranean and new member states in the southeast of the EU. With the introduction of the 'fork to farm' principle and the more and more commonly use of product standards as the EUREPGAP, vegetable farmers need to be able to control product quality accordingly – like primary producers in other industries. However, in most European countries water for irrigation is abstracted from surface water, and the quality is therefore rarely under the farmers control. Moreover, national and local government are under pressure to increase significantly the reuse of treated urban waste water in agriculture. The new RTD framework program (EU 7<sup>th</sup> FP) will be focused mainly on the sustainable use/reuse of water and on the food safety: produce high quality fresh vegetables or their industrial derivatives using poor quality water resources will be the challenge for the next future. The WG VO3, and the CMIR, could be the “melting pot” where meet potential partners to reach the critical mass required to build an EU RTD proposal: let better know each other!

Best regards

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Dear Colleagues,

The chairperson of this Commission, the vice-chair, Prof Arturo Alvino, and the chairpersons of the two WGs (see above) have been in contact to discuss the activities of CMIR and its WGs.

For the WG F07, the main aspects discussed related to the organization of the **coming symposium to be held this September**.

For the WG V03, the discussion was focused on developing tools to better know the WG members' activities and to improve communication ("cooperation tool"). A WEB site will be implemented. Progress on this task will depend on your own contributions (see above).

The symposia focusing on the central topics of this Commission (Irrigation of Horticultural Crops) is held every 3-4 years with about 150 participants. The last symposia were (see annex):

- Maratea, Italy, 1989 - Acta Hort 278.
- Almeria, Spain, 1992 - Acta Hort 335;
- Chania, Greece, 1996 - Acta Hort 449;
- Lisbon, Portugal, 1999 - Acta Hort 537;
- Davis, EUA, 2003 - Acta Hort 664;

The IV<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops, held at Davis (California), USA, and convened by Dr Richard Snyder ([rlsnyder@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rlsnyder@ucdavis.edu)) involved the following WGs: Water Relations of Woody Crops (F07), Water Supply and Irrigation (V03) and Water Relations of Grapevines (I02) from the Section on Vine and Berry Fruits (SEVI). Proceedings from last Symposium were published by December 2004 as *Acta Horticulturae* 664, edited by R. L. Snyder (682 pp). A total of 85 papers including some invited papers were published after being revised by two reviewers each.

My main focus now is on the next symposium to be held in Mildura (North Victoria, Australia). It is our next excellent opportunity – and there are not many – to exchange ideas and results in this challenging field of water management in irrigation and its relationship to micrometeorology, soil science, ecophysiology and plant production.

Let's meet there!

Maria-Isabel Ferreira

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List of Symposia and Workshops related with the topic “Irrigation and Water Relations” mainly organized by the working groups (WGs) now included in the *Commission on Irrigation and Water Relations* (CMIR).

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Keywords used: *irrigation, water relations, water supply.*

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**(I) Symposium on Water Supply under Glass and Plastics**

Geisenheim, Germany. Conveners H.D. Hartmann., W.U. von Hentig.

**Acta Horticulturae 35.** Editors H.D. Hartmann, W.U. von Hentig. Publication date: 1 January 1974. ISSN 0567-7572. Number of articles: 16. Volumes: 1.

**(II) Symposium on Water Supply and Irrigation**

Bet Dagan, Israel. Convener K. Schallinger.

**Acta Horticulturae 89.** Editor H.H. van der Borg. Publication date: 1 December 1979. ISSN 0567-7572. Number of articles: 30. Volumes: 1.

**III International Symposium on Water Supply and Irrigation in the open and under Protected**

**Cultivation**, Wageningen, Netherlands. Convener J.F. Bierhuizen.

**Acta Horticulturae 119.** Editor W.A. Wagenvoort. Publication date: 1 December 1981. ISBN906605011X. ISSN0567-7572. Number of articles: 45. Volumes: 1

**IV International Symposium on Water Supply and Irrigation in the Open and under Protected Cultivation**, Padova, Italy. Convener C. Giulivo.

**Acta Horticulturae 228.** Editors C. Giulivo. G. Zerbi. Publication date: 1 September 1988. ISBN9066052538. ISSN 0567-7572. Number of articles: 38. Volumes: 1.

**(V) Symposium on Scheduling of Irrigation for Vegetable Crops under Field Condition**, Maratea – Potenza, Italy. Convener A. Alvino.

**Acta Horticulturae 278.** Editor A. Alvino. Publication date: 1 June 1990. ISBN 9066051949. ISSN0567-7572. Number of articles: 93. Volumes: 2.

**(I) International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops**

Almeria, Spain. Convener J. Lopez-Galvez.

**Acta Horticulturae 335.** Editor J. Lopez-Galvez. Publication date: 1 April 1993. ISBN 0567-7572. ISSN 9066053755. Number of articles: 71. Volumes: 1.

**II International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops**

Chania, Crete. Greece. Convener K.S. Chartzoulakis.

**Acta Horticulturae 449.** Editor K.S. Chartzoulakis. A.N. Angelakis. Public date: 1 August 1997. ISBN 9066058692. ISSN 0567-7572. Nbr of articles 101. Volumes: 2.

**III International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops**

Lisbon, Portugal. Convener M.I. Ferreira Gama

**Acta Horticulturae 537.** Editor M.I. Ferreira, H.G. Jones. Publication date: 1 October 2000. ISBN 9066059133. ISSN 0567-7572. Nbr of articles: 114. Volumes: 2.

**IV International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops**

Davis, CA. USA. Convener R.L. Snyder.

**Acta Horticulturae 664.** Editor R.L. Snyder. Publication date: 31 December 2004. ISBN 9066053666. ISSN 0567-7572. Number of articles: 85. Volumes: 2.

**V International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops**

Mildura, Australia. Convener Ian Goodwin (to be held in August-September 2006).

**WG on Water Relations of Grapevines/ Section Vine and Berry Fruits**

**I ISHS Workshop on Water Relations of Grapevines**

Stuttgart, Germany. Convener E.H. Rühl, J. Schmid.

**Acta Horticulturae 493**. Editor E.H. Rühl, J. Schmid. Publication date: 1 November 1999. ISBN 9066057521. ISSN 0567-7572. Number of articles: 31. Volumes: 1.

**International Symposium on Irrigation and Water Relations in Grapevine and Fruit Trees**

Mendoza, Argentina. Convener R. Oliva.

**Acta Horticulturae 646**. Editor R.C. Vallone. Publication date: 31 January 2004. ISBN 9066055677. ISSN 0567-7572. Number of articles: 24. Volumes: 1.

**Others:**

**Section Pome and Stone Fruits**

**I International Symposium on Water Relations in Fruit Crops**

Pisa, Italy. Convener F. Loreti.

**Acta Horticulturae 171**. Editors D. Atkinson, H.G. Jones. Publication date: 1 July 1985. ISBN 9066051027. ISSN 0567-7572. Number of articles: 44. Volumes: 1.

*Vd* also

Acta Hort 487 (International Symposium on Processing Tomato & Workshop on Irrigation & Fertigation of Processing Tomato)

Acta Hort 458 (International Symposium on Water Quality & Quantity - Greenhouse)

For further details on Acta Horticulturae see [www.actahort.org](http://www.actahort.org)