



The XIth ESA Congress in 2010 in Montpellier (France)

As decided during the IXth ESA Congress in 2006 in Warsaw, the 2010 ESA congress will be held in Montpellier (France) probably during the last week of August. At this occasion ESA will come back to France, twenty years its creation in 1990 in Paris. I was there with a lot of enthusiasm for a scientific society to promote Agronomy across Europe, and I am proud that my town has been selected to host the XIth congress which will start a new era for ESA after the Rethinking of ESA process which will be closed at the Bologna congress in 2008.

Montpellier has one of the largest concentration in the world of scientific staffs and students in agronomic and environmental sciences and we want to use this opportunity to organise an International Scientific Week around the ESA congress combining, in congress or post-congress events, the following objectives :

- demonstrate the scientific coherence, ambitions and contribution of Agronomy as a science and therefore the importance of ESA for European research;
- work with other disciplines on the definition of new frontiers in interdisciplinary research, especially with Integrative Plant Biology, Soil and Hydrology Sciences, Ecology and Plant Protection, Economy and Social Sciences, Computer and Artificial Intelligence sciences...;
- make a scientific contribution to the burning questions of 2010 with regards to agriculture and its contribution to sustainable development and natural resource management. In addition to climate change and energy crops which will be the core of the 2008 Bologna congress, it is likely that the co-existence of food and non food uses in farming systems or the design of “ecologically intensive” cropping systems will be two of these burning questions in 2010;
- discuss with farm advisors, technical institutes, stakeholders and decision makers how Agronomic Research can be made more operational to contribute to sustainable development;
- attract more students and young scientists to work on the type of questions and with the type of approaches we develop in our research (this can lead to the organization of a post congress international training school and to a specific session on a European Master and PhD curriculae in Agronomy in Europe);
- increase the audience and membership of ESA towards developing countries, especially in the Mediterranean basin and in Africa with which Montpellier has strong relationships;
- increase the audience and membership of ESA towards horticultural researchers especially vineyards production, the Languedoc-Roussillon region being one of the largest vineyard in the world and it faces strong agronomic challenges.

As you see there are many (probably too many) ideas for this event but it is still time for ideas and discussions on the scope and organisation of the 2010 ESA congress in Montpellier. If you have suggestions, ideas or questions please don't hesitate to send an Email to wery@supagro.inra.fr. The scientific and organisation committees will be installed by the end of 2007 and they will have to take important decisions before the end of 2008 in coordination with the ESA board and division chairs.

Jacques WERY
For the XI ESA Congress Committees