

Minutes
of the
Canadian Society of Soil Science
1996 Annual General Meeting

Location: Room PE 2409, Lethbridge Community College

Dates: Wednesday July 10, 1996

Time: 8:30 AM - 12:00 (Noon)

Attendees 47

1. Call to order and welcome

The meeting was called together at 8:30 AM by President Umesh Gupta.

2. Approval of agenda

MOTION: Approval of agenda. U. Gupta/Y. Kalra CARRIED

3. Minutes of 1995 - meetings

MOTION: Approval of the 1995 AGM minutes. D. Burton/E. DeJong CARRIED

4. Business arising from 1995 minutes

5. Secretary's report

a) Meetings

Three meetings of the CSSS Council were held in the last year: one on July 28, 1996 following the business meeting in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, a mid-term meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba on February 9-11, 1996 and the final meeting on July 6 and 7, 1996 in Lethbridge, Alberta.

b) Correspondence with AIC, members and prospective members

Enquiries from members, perspective members, Council members and the Brandon Business Office as was required.

c) Future of Agriculture Conference

Attended the conference entitled "The Future of Agriculture: The 21st Century and Beyond" held in Winnipeg on June 25-27, 1996 on behalf of the CSSS.

R. Simard commented that he had heard several complaints from members regarding receipt of their newsletters and/or CJSS. He expressed concern that this had a negative effect on the societies image and was not acceptable. In response to these comments the Secretary noted that others had made similar complaints and that the Executive was taking measures to ensure that the service to members was improved and maintained in a professional manner.

Concern was also expressed over the timeliness of the circulation of 1994 and 1995 minutes. It was noted that the Annual Reports had been delayed due to difficulties in resolving financial statements. It was emphasized that it was council's intent to ensure minutes are distributed in a timely fashion.

MOTION: Approval of Secretary's Report. D. Burton/T. Mahendrappa CARRIED

6. Finance committee report

The Treasurer presented a summary of the financial position of the Society and clarified the management of the various Trusts held by the society (see attached).

Con Campbell asked in which account had the revenues for the sale of the Nutrient Cycling book been allocated. The Treasurer indicated that they were include in the Publications Fund.

Gerry Coen enquired about the funds generated by the 1989 Calgary Publications. Dave McAndrew indicated that this issue had been resolved in 1993.

Fred Bently asked whether the availability of the Proceedings of the Sustainable Land Management Workshop in Lethbridge had been advertised and indicated that if it has not it should be. He suggested that perhaps it could be distributed with other Society publications. Umesh Gupta indicated the Julian Dumanski had enquired whether surplus copies of this workshop could be distributed to interested parties in developing countries. Fred Bentley agreed that this would be appropriate.

Don Acton enquired about the expenditure of 1500 from the international fund. Yash Kalra indicated that this was a travel award to assist Berrardo van Rajj and Carlos Monreal in visiting Costa Rica and Brazil.

Regis Simard enquired whether Council had considered the distribution of newsletters and the proceedings on a diskette or via the World Wide Web. It was decided that the membership should be surveyed to determine thier preference. An informal show of hands indicated that 10 people preferred recieving printed documents, 15 preferred reciving a diskette version and 15 wished to receive this material via the World Wide Web or as electronic mail. It was also suggested that a printed version should be produced for archival purposes.

MOTION: That Council investigate, through a survey in the next newsletter, whether members wish to receive society publications (newsletters and proceedings) in electronic format. U. Simard/V. Rodd **CARRIED**

Gerry Coen enquired as to what Council planned to due about the deficit owed to the Trust Funds. Dave Mcandrew suggested that the cost of publishing the proceedings should be taken from the publications budget. It was suggested that an increase in membership fees would be appropriate in view of our deficit situation. Phil Warman indicated that if fees were increased the fee should be listed as a single fee and not as surtax for the purposes of paying down the deficit.

MOTION: Accept the Treasurer's report. G. Patterson/T. Mahendrappa **CARRIED**

MOTION: That appreciation be expressed to the Treasurer and Council for the clarification of the Financial management of the Society. F. Bently/G. Coen **CARRIED**

7. President's report

The 1995-96 was a busy year as many items related to CSSS had to be dealt with. It also included items of business carried forward from previous years which are reported below in random order.

1. **PROVINCIAL SOILS** - Under the leadership of Taumey in cooperation with other provincial representatives, some provinces have recognized the most significant soil types in their province. I personally plan to do that for P.E.I. and hopefully the remaining provinces will follow suit.

2. **CSSS PROCEEDINGS** - Thanks to the hard work of Gerry Neilsen, the proceedings

for 1994 and 1995 were completed with help in proof reading and corrections by Council members, and published. In future we should and we will strive to make certain that the proceedings are published by the end of November each year. Otherwise, some information becomes outdated.

3. GLOSSARY OF SOIL SCIENCE TERMS - Contract agreement with the CRC publishers was prepared and signed in March 1996 (signed by society and editorial personnel). The final copy of the manuscript is due at the publishers by the end of Dec. 1996.

4. CSSS PRESIDENT'S LECTURE AND TOUR - For the lecture tour I was at three universities in Vancouver, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg in Feb. 1996 and at the University of Alberta, Edmonton in July just before the Lethbridge meetings. This is an excellent way of communicating with the members and to exchange useful information. I believe it revitalizes our Society's activity in that the tour helps continue the momentum. Best of all it offered me an excellent opportunity to meet with students and learn some of their problems and at the same time to explain the benefits of joining our Society.

5. NATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK APRIL 15 -21, 1996 - I prepared and published an article in a P.E.I. newspaper and a farm magazine pointing out the causes of soil degradation and some of the measures to be taken to overcome such problems. I trust that all of us contributed in some way towards preserving the most precious soil resource given to us by nature.

6. FINANCIAL SITUATION - CSSS trust funds are being managed well. We do have a deficit in the CSSS operating account which has been carried forward for a few years and not just over the past year. I will have the treasurer explain it more fully with his recommendations.

7. CSSS - AIC AFFILIATION - On March 14, 1996, I received a copy of a letter from Roy Carver executive director, AIC to Gary Patterson in which it was indicated that CSSS has become an associate member organization of AIC. Consequently, we received an invoice in the amount of \$4,770 for membership in the AIC. The fee is based on the total membership of 318 @ \$15.00 per member.

8. INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE - The activity of this committee has been deferred because of the AIC restructuring. I will let David Lobb explain it briefly.

9. CSSS BROCHURE - Once again in spite of our best intentions and sincere efforts the brochure has not yet come out in print. In March we gave the major responsibility for getting this brochure printed to Taumey. He has agreed to take on this challenge and also to find funds for printing during this fiscal year. We thank Taumey for his hard work.

10. CSSS CONTRACT (TERMS AND EXTENSION) - Al has agreed to take on this issue and I would encourage everyone to provide input with regard to your own experience with the CSSS business office. Since this letter is prepared in the first week of June, it is not possible to be up-to-date. A serious decision on this matter will be taken when the Council meets early in July in Lethbridge.

11. CJSS EDITORIAL ACTIVITY - The terms of two associate editors were extended to a second term and Doug Maynard of Canadian Forest Service, Edmonton has been appointed as the new associate editor. A. Mermut of Saskatoon is the new incoming editor. Our thanks to all for the hard work of the editor, Steve Sheppard, and all the associate editors and congratulations to the new appointees.

Bill McGill has resigned as the associate editor and the work has begun to find a replacement. The Council and the Society thanks all the outgoing associate editors and the current editor for their services to the Journal and Society.

12. RESOLUTION FROM THE JULY 1995 CSSS MEETINGS IN QUEBEC CITY

Resolution - The recent decisions in the name of budget restrictions and longer term trends on the part of the federal government are endangering or have a high potential for endangering the long term health and viability of Soil Science in Canada.

In response to the resolution a few soil scientists were contacted to establish a task force to analyze the health of Canadian Soil Science. To date however, no volunteer/s have been found to take a lead role or to work on a committee. Dr. Al Fedkenheuer, the former President, had written a very appropriate letter in this regard expressing concern related to the topic of the resolution to the Director, CLBRR. In a reply dated July 21, 1995, Dr. Asselin assured us that the management and staff of CLBRR shared the concerns expressed by Dr. Fedkenheuer on behalf of the soil scientists and had forwarded copies of his letter to Dr. G. Dorrell, A/DG, CFR. In an earlier letter dt. March 7, 1995 Dr. Asselin had already indicated that the 1995 budget will affect the whole of the AAFC's Research Branch and the expenditures will have to be reduced by 19% by April 1, 1997. It was generally felt that since the federal governments's cuts are so massive that it is difficult for any department or specialization to escape the impact.

The Canadian Forage Council sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture expressing concern about the reduction in forage research. In essence, the Minister replied that every effort would be made to continue the forage research. There has been no concrete action as a result of this letter.

The resolution was presented in good faith and every one supported it but no concrete proposal was put forward. The question now is what can we do in realistic terms which will produce a positive response. The CSSS council and for that matter the CSSS will take any reasonable action if the success will seem obvious. I do realize that time is of essence and certain positions/program have already been eliminated.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The past year has been full of challenges and a tremendous learning experience. I had excellent cooperation from the CSSS Council and members. From time to time, I drew from the members for advice and counsel. A note of thanks is extended to all those who assisted me in carrying out the activities of our society. Because of the council and the members, my past year as the CSSS president proved to be a most enjoyable and memorable experience. I wish the incoming president Yash Kalra every success during his term.

MOTION: Move acceptance of the President's report. U. Gupta/E. Woodrow
CARRIED

8. CJSS editor's report

I am pleased to make the following report of activities for the Canadian Journal of Soil Science, covering Volume 75 and up to 1996 May.

Submissions and Papers Published: In 1995 we published 56 regular papers, 3 historical papers, 1 mini-review, 5 conference proceedings papers, 9 short communications and one set of abstracts. Submissions of new manuscripts were down this year to 77, whereas there were 97 in 1994 and the 5 extra conference papers. A few years ago, we had a special ad hoc committee of CSSS set up to look at the operation of CJSS, in response to some low submission numbers. We have to keep looking at our operations, but at the same time with a small journal such as CJSS we have to expect large fluctuations. As of 1996 June 1 we have 40 regular submissions and 8 accepted Proceedings submissions.

Reviews: CSSS has solicited review papers on "Scaling issues in soil science" and "Nitrogen dynamics in potato production". I agreed to consider for publication a review on

ammonia emissions from agricultural systems. I have solicited papers for our mini-review section on the topics of forensic pedology, release of microorganisms in soil, geotextiles/geomembranes and nitrogen losses from plants. A mini-review was published in 1996 on some archeological work being done in Mexico where they use routine soil analyses to locate hearths, dump pits, etc. The one on release of microbials has been submitted in draft. The Authors of the other mini-reviews still all promise progress, but it has been painfully slow. Only two mini-reviews have been published to date. Ideas and offers of manuscripts welcome, this is one area where we can enliven soil science and CJSS.

Letters-to-the-Editor: John Hall does a review of statistics usage in CJSS each year, and provided a Letter-to-the-Editor on a specific topic. In 1996, one letter disputed some of the comments made in one of the anniversary historical review articles, and another pointed out inconsistent use of SI units in the journal. A third will address the dilemma of funding cuts. Letters are a potent way to communicate. They provide something in the journal that may not be available through on-line and interlibrary services, and so are good business.

Cover Images: Cover images began in 1994. My objective has been to use images that show aspects of soils that we do not often think about: soil mesofauna, soil in art, agriculture on postage stamps, 'dirt doctors' in the literature, soil as contamination-remediation reactors. In 1996, we will have some images that are linked to papers in the issue. I am amazed that Authors do not see the opportunity here: there has been only one volunteered image so far! The invitation is open to all.

Author Options: Only two Authors have asked for double blind review. None have asked for expedited handling at cost. Very few offer names of Reviewers. The plan was to re-evaluate these options as we got some experience. They have cost us nothing in time or money, so I suggest we keep them a while longer just to show Authors we are adaptable.

Response Time to Authors: Our statistics on response time have not changed a lot year to year, mostly because we do not have a lot of control over mail and our voluntary Reviewers. I have several times asked AEs to do a review instead of wait for a tardy Reviewer. We still need to improve reply times, and I recommend the new Editor set out expectations right from the start. In 1993, we decided to tell Authors in the receipt-of-manuscript letter what the average reply time has been. We hoped this would give them realistic expectations and reinforce with AEs the need for speed. In fact, it has markedly increased the number of calls and email I get asking for progress reports. Maybe we should mention it is an arithmetic mean of a strongly skewed distribution! (All enquiries are transferred immediately to the AE and we try to reply to the Author within 24 hours.) Most manuscript delays are because of Reviewers. The AEs need to set target dates and call Reviewers when targets are missed. This probably seems intrusive to some, but by accepting the paper for review the Reviewers should realize they have accepted a responsibility for speedy reply. The AIC electronic database I hoped would help here is not useful in early detection of slow manuscripts.

Publication of Proceedings: One remedy for the numbers of submissions is our new policy to publish conference and workshop proceedings. We actively solicit proceedings, just as for other papers we think will be of interest to the readers. We have several proceedings in the works now. When we publish proceedings, they must have some form of peer review, and in the journal they must be identified as proceedings with a preface and a running title. For all the proceedings to date, the papers are handled by a Guest Editor. I ask to see the papers in their final form before publication ... perhaps this should be policy. I propose that we allow changes in the publication quality of proceedings issues if needed to make business sense. CJSS is a business unit, with strong ethics, but willing to negotiate for business.

Advertising: Another remedy to the numbers of submissions is advertising. I asked that a

new brochure be printed for CJSS, and that is underway at AIC expense. AIC puts up booths at conferences. In 1995 we did two letter-writing campaigns. On Yash Kalra's suggestion, we asked CSSS Council members and all Associate Editors (AEs) to send a blurb to any newsletters they get. The blurb told about the recent changes in the CJSS policies, format and author options. In the other campaign, I wrote letters to all the soil science and related PhD graduates as listed in Agronomy

News. This seems to have been more successful than previous campaigns because we have had several letters back either with papers, promising papers, or thanking us for prompting graduates to write papers. Letter campaigns are low cost to CJSS, although more costly in time.

Internet and Electronic Publication: AIC has set up a front page on WWW, and the journals are represented there with instructions to authors and titles of papers. We are continuing to look at electronic publication, and are now costing CD-ROM publication to either supplement or replace the hard copies. This move is essential because libraries are beginning to cancel subscriptions to hard copy journals. CJSS has experimented with electronic transfer of papers. Although we have not begun formal testing, there have already been problems with electronic transfer of revised manuscripts. The AIC office now has a scanner and the new Editor may opt to receive the abstracts of new papers by way of email.

Association with Can. Soc. Ag. Meteorologists (CSAM): This group has been looking for a journal connection, initially to publish abstracts of their meetings and then perhaps to have an AE. We have been trying to attract them to CJSS. CJSS published the abstracts this year, and the Scientific Journals Committee approved a tenth AE for CJSS to deal with Ag Met. Final approval from the Policy Subcommittee will complete the appointment. The topic fit seems natural, and many of the Ag Met departments in Canada share facilities with soil scientists and so know our 'ways'. We are seeking this association to stabilize and increase our submission numbers. It should have little effect on the relationship of CJSS to CSSS.

Vision of CJSS for the Future: The major challenge is the uncertainty about the future of print publication. Even if it survives, the competition from commercial journals and ASA journals is intense. CJSS has to be viewed as a business unit that aggressively expands its influence. This is very possible, even though it is done mostly by volunteers. However, there has to be agreement on the common goals among the controlling parties. AIC, CSSS and the Editor are the controlling parties, and the Ag Met people may join.

AIC offers economies of scale because they publish five journals, and they offer a consistent, professional managing editor role. I strongly recommend staying with AIC for publication.

The relationship between CJSS and CSSS has varied every year, probably because of the different people involved and the different projects undertaken by CSSS. It would be nice to have details set out so expectations are known all around. CJSS is a business unit belonging to AIC. Profits now support AIC, but we have an understanding that the SJC can spend the profits for the journals. The role of CSSS is as 'moral sponsor' of CJSS, and a source of editorial candidates. I like the definition of the journal we use now ... an international journal edited by the CSSS. Because of the rapid turnover of CSSS Councillors, the relationship between CJSS and CSSS needs to be either specified more fully, or the Editor be invited to the CSSS Council meetings as an Ex Officio member.

A question was raised as to whether the CJSS was looking at electronic submission and publication. Dave McAndrew indicated that back issues were being put on CD ROM and that one issue would be available on the World Wide Web.

Steve Sheppard, Editor CJSS

MOTION: Move acceptance of the Editor's report. D. McAndrew/V. Rodd CARRIED

9. Awards committee report

Awards Committee: Yash P. Kalra, James A. Robertson, and Mel D. Webber

The 1995-96 nominations/applications received are summarized below:

	Received	Awarded
Fellowship Awards	2	2
Honorary Membership Awards	0	0
Soil Science in Society Award	1	1
Annual Meetings Student Travel Awards	1	1
Students Special Awards	7	7
Conference Travel Awards	4	3
Overseas Travel Awards	6	4
Visiting Scientist Travel Awards	1	0
Short-Term Professional Development for International Soil Scientists	1	1
Book Awards	7	7

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Dr. Darwin W. Anderson, Saskatoon, SK

Dr. John A. Toogood, Edmonton, AB

SOIL SCIENCE IN SOCIETY AWARD

The 1996 award of \$2,500 will be given to Vasile Klaassen, the recipient of the 1995 award, upon receipt of an acceptable popular article.

TRAVEL AWARDS

1. CSSS Student Travel Awards

(a) CSSS Annual Meetings Student Travel Award

Mr. Alain F. Plante, graduate student at the University of Guelph, was awarded \$500 to assist with his travel to present a paper entitled "Biodegradation of land applied oily food waste and changes in soil structural properties" at the CSSS Annual meetings in Lethbridge.

(b) Special Award

In 1995, the Annual Meetings Student Travel Award was not given to any students; no one had applied. That money (\$1,000) was used to give this one-time award to the following University of Alberta students to assist them with their travel costs for an academic field trip to Northwestern U.S.A.: Ms. Vanessa L. Bailey, Mr. Jeff W.A. Charrois, Mr. Michael J. Cody, Ms Una

Dowey, Ms Cheryl F. Fletcher, Ms Jilene L. Offord, and Mr. H.J. Dick
Puurveen.

2. CSSS Conference Travel Awards

Dr. Claude Bernard (\$500) to assist in travel to the 2nd International Congress of the European Society for Soil Conservation and present a paper "Agricultural and environmental efficiency of conservation practices".

Mr. Vernon Rodd (\$500) to assist in travel to present two papers entitled "An inexpensive assembly for monitoring tile outflow and solute discharges" and "Discharge of nitrate nitrogen from apple orchards" at the CSSS Annual Meetings in Lethbridge.

Dr. Edward Topp (\$500) to assist in travel to the 2nd International Symposium on Environmental Aspects of Pesticide Microbiology, Pesticides, Soil Microbiology and Soil Quality and present a paper "Biodegradation of the herbicides atrazine and metolachlor in surface and subsurface soils".

3. CSSS Overseas Travel Awards

Dr. Martin R. Carter (\$500) to assist in travel to make a side trip (after attending a symposium on Soil Quality for Land Management) to visit research sites in South Australia.

Dr. Linnell M. Edwards (\$500) to assist in travel to present two seminars at the University of Trier and to visit other research centres in Germany.

Dr. Carlos M. Monreal (\$500) to assist in travel to Costa Rica for activities supported by CSSS to the COSTCAN project.

Dr. Mingchu Zhang (\$500) to assist in travel to make a side trip (after his visit to Huang Zong Agriculture University) to visit the cooperative research projects in P.R. China.

4. Short-Term Professional Development for International Soil Scientists

Dr. Bernardo van Raij, Instituto Agronomico, Campinas (SP), Brazil (\$1,500) to present a paper "A routine soil testing ion-exchange procedure for the determination of phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium" at the CSSS Annual Meetings in Lethbridge and to exchange ideas with Canadian soil scientists.

CSSS STUDENT BOOK AWARDS

- Ms Isabelle Breune, University of Laval
- Ms Jackie B. Heaman, University of Manitoba
- Mr. Joel Karwatsky, McGill University
- Ms Lindsay Paterson, University of British Columbia
- Mr. Alain F. Plante, University of Guelph
- Mr. Brian Simpson, University of New Brunswick
- Mr. Kelly Bruce Wiens, University of Saskatchewan

The following student received the award in 1995 but her name was received after the publication of the Awards booklet last year:

- Ms Liza Parker, University of Guelph.

Amount of money available for the Soil Science in Society and Travel Awards (\$9,000)

- \$2,500 from an anonymous donor for the Soil Science in Society Award

- \$1,500 from the Twinning Project funds for Short-Term Professional Development for International Soil Scientist
- \$1,000 from 1994-95 for the Students Special Awards
- \$4,000 from 1995-96 Travel Awards

All the money available was awarded to the nominees/applicants.

Amount of money available for the Book Awards (a maximum of \$100 for each recipient).

MOTION: Move acceptance of the Awards Committee report. Y. Kalra/T. Mahendrappa
CARRIED

10. Membership Committee Report

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT - JULY 1996

As of this meeting there are 393 'paid' members distributed by region as follows:

BC.....	46
AB.....	111
SK	57
MB.....	33
ON.....	65
PQ.....	43
NB.....	8
NS.....	10
PE.....	6
NF.....	2
USA.....	9
Foreign.....	3

'Paid' membership includes regular (273), student (63), emeritus (26), emeritus fellow (15), fellows (15) and honorary (1) members. The 393 members represent an increase of 15 from the previous year but this resulted from an increase in student members from 33 to 63. Regular membership continued its slow decline from 291 to 272.

This latter trend could represent some long term problems for the society. As a result the Western and Eastern Councillors undertook a detailed survey of 'unpaid' but data base members during the spring. Sixty-three such members were listed for the West and 51 in the East. These 104 potential members represent a possible member data base. Results from the Western Region are typical for both areas. It was not possible to locate the majority of members (34/63 in the West) who have so known posted or telephone address. These represent students who no longer attend their University. Those who have changed jobs, otherwise moved or whose mail has been returned to Doris with no known mailing address. The following recommendations also arose from the survey:

1. That the 'lost trails' (no address) members be gradually through the year indicated in the newsletter with a request that anyone knowing their address contact the business office.
2. That a proactive approach to membership be taken by the councillors and that regular (annual) contact be made with unpaid membership to indicate the Societies interest in their continuing participation as members. This applies especially to those members who can be contacted by telephone.
3. That every effort be made to contact new members by E-mail and to develop a membership package to inform members of the Society Benefits early in their membership period.

4. That every effort be made to clean up any membership problems especially receiving services (The Journal) in the first year. The most frequent new member complaint was a failure to rapidly receive the Journal they had paid for.

Gary Neilsen, Western Councillor CSSS

Taumey Mahendrappa, Eastern Councillor CSSS

A question was raised as to whether members could join on a 1/2 year basis. It was pointed out that a 1/2 year rate was passed at a previous AGM. Council was asked to reflect the Sept. 1- Dec 31. rate in the new membership forms.

MOTION: Move acceptance of the Membership Committee report.

T. Mahendrappa/G. Coen

CARRIED

11. International Liaison Committee

March 31st, 1996 marked the end of the first year of the current three-year AIC-CIDA Partnership Programme. CSSS has three projects in this programme VIETCANSOL, THAICANSOL, and SRICANSOL. VIETCANSOL and SRICANSOL are in their 'start-up phase', Phase I, and THAICANSOL is in its 'consolidation phase', Phase II. A forth project, a continuation of COSTACAN, has received short-term funding. General information on the projects was presented at the Lethbridge meeting in the form of factsheets, brochures and posters. A very brief description of the projects is given below.

Detailed information on the projects is available from the CSSS Project Coordinators or the CSSS International Liaison. A new AIC International Programme Coordinator is scheduled to come on board in July following the departure of Joanne Charnetski.

Considerable efforts have been made to strengthen the coordination and improve the communication between the CSSS Project Coordinators, CSSS Council and AIC. Terms of Reference for Communication between AIC's International Agricultural Development Committee and AIC's Member Organizations regarding the International Agricultural Development Programme were developed. An E-mail discussion group has also been established to improve communications. CSSS currently does not have representation on IADC, but it is hoped that will change in the upcoming year.

A report was prepared by the International Liaison on CSSS' involvement in AIC's International Agricultural Development Programme and has been submitted to CSSS Council. This report includes several recommendations for consideration by Council.

VIETCANSOL

CSSS Project Committee: Don Acton (coordinator), Glenn Padbury

Partner Organization: Vietnam Soil Science Society (VSSS) at the National Institute for Soils and Fertilizers (NISF), Thai Phien (coordinator)

Objectives: 1) Maintain and enhance annual crop production on the sloping lands of northern Vietnam; 2) To determine the potential benefits of intercropping fruit trees in annual cropping systems; 3) To determine the most effective means of increasing levels of soil organic matter and the fate of nitrogen in annual cropping systems; 4) to develop a capability to combine land resource information with knowledge gained from research and demonstration activities as a means for targeting future programs; and 5) to facilitate professional exchanges between members of the CSSS and VSSS and other organizations as required, and to encourage VSSS members to participate in staff development workshops and related activities.

Status: In this, the first year of the project, two sites have been selected and the characterization of physical and human resources initiated. Participating farmers and target audience have been identified and programs to train the participating farmers and target

audience has been undertaken. Farm-scale experimental demonstration have been developed at the two sites.

THAICANSOL

CSSS Project Committee: Vasile Klaassen (coordinator), Marie Boehm, Darwin Anderson

Partner Organization: Soil and Water Conservation Society of Thailand (SWCST); Chaiyasit Anecksamphant (coordinator)

Objectives: To maintain and enhance agriculture production on sloping lands by implementing extension training and a demonstration program in conservation management and farming systems for sustainable agriculture in Northern Thailand.

Status:

Chiang Rai site: Although 1995 is the fourth year of the Chiang Rai site, the farmers still cultivated their land for field crops such as corn, upland rice, peanut, soybean and ginger. From the socioeconomic survey, it was found that the yield of the crops started to decline, this due to the reduction in growing areas of the field crop as the intercropped fruit trees are bigger and the canopy of the trees started to cover most of the growing area.

The farmers still see the benefit of all conservation measures in reducing soil loss and runoff and they hope that in the next 1 or 2 years after they can harvest the fruits, they will gain more income for the fruits. One of the significant impact which can be seen from the project site is the environment around the area looks better, as most of the area is covered by trees.

Chiang Mai site: The new site in Chiang Mai was started in early 1995. The site is located in Tambon Sa Moeng Tai, Amphur Sa Moeng, Chiang Mai Province, about 50 km northwest of Chiang Mai town. It covers an area of 150 rai (24 ha), which is cultivated by 21 farmers from Buak Chan village, who are of the "Hmong" hill tribe. The topography of the area is hilly to very steep with the slope of 20-75%. The altitude is about 1,100 m above msl. The soil is deep, moderately fertile to low fertile. According to the steep slope of the area, erosion can be noticed all over the place. After several meetings with the farmers, conservation plan has been decided with the approval of the farmers.

Conservation structures in the project area consist of hillside ditches, access track and hedgerows of leucaena and pigeon pea. The farmers are encouraged to use the alley ways for cropping, most of them grow corn and upland rice with the mixture of flowers and vegetables such as carrots and cabbage. Farmers have also been encouraged to integrate fruit trees such as mangoes and liches into their fields.

The results from the first year at Chiang Mai site shown that: 1) the farm income on the farmers in the project area is about 35% higher than the farmers near by; 2) the farmers in the project area are very appreciative of the conservation measures as they can reduced soil loss and water runoff significantly; and 3) the farmers are interested in getting more technologies from the project, such as how to plant the fruit trees, good cropping system, etc.

Another important aspect of the benefit from the project is the staff of the Department of Land Development using the project sites as a training field for the Thai farmers and officers from other countries.

SRICANSOL

CSSS Project Committee: Tee Boon Goh (coordinator), Bob Eilers

Partner Organization: Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka (SSSSL), Asoka Senarath (coordinator)

Objectives: 1) to establish mechanisms to facilitate professional development and

organizational linkages; 2) to coordinate programmes to identify and promote land use practices that are compatible with soil/land capability; 3) to provide opportunities to introduce the international community to the project; 4) to introduce youth component for extension and networking with the rural community towards uniform and modern practises at the primary production level; and 5) to produce Handbook of Sri Lankan Soils in the Wet Zone, updating the information published by the SSSSL in 1972.

Status: The Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka and the Canadian Society of Soil Science entered into a twinning project which officially commenced in April 1995. Activities for the project commenced on or around September 1, 1995. It would appear that the percent achievement of the 1st year's milestones to date is in the region of 40-50%. This is no doubt, in part caused by the 4-month delay in commencement of duties. Overall, progress is deemed to be marginally acceptable.

COSTACAN

CSSS Project Committee: Carlos Monreal (coordinator), David Lobb

Partner Organization: Asociacion Costaricense de la Ciencia del Suelo (ACCS), Floria Bertsch (coordinator)

AIC's International Agricultural Development Committee funded a special project in Costa Rica to produce the proceedings of the 3rd meeting of RELACO, the LatinoAmerican Network of Conservation Tillage, on "The sustainable use of soil in sloping areas: the role of conservation tillage systems" held in San Jose last December. Sixteen presentations were made by researchers from nine countries. There were 35 foreign and 40 Costarican conference participants. CSSS is reviewing and editing the proceedings in cooperation with ACCS. This short-term project is maintaining a productive relationship between ACCS and CSSS.

Carlos Monreal will be making two presentations at the II Congreso Nacional de Suelos at the X Congreso Agronomico Nacional this July in San Jose. Carlos has received partial funding from CSSS' Twinning Project Fund in addition to a CSSS International Travel Award and support from ACCS. While in Cost Rica Carlos will be finalising last year's proceedings project and carrying out a feasibility study on Phase II of COSTACAN.

MOTION: Move acceptance of the International Liason Committee report.
D.Lobb/P.Warman **CARRIED**

12. AIC representative report

Much AIC's activities in the past year have been in response to its "Visions for the Future: an Action Plan" which was developed over the previous two years and finalized in September.

Under its new structure AIC consists of Full Member Organizations and Associate Member Organizations. FMOs receive AIC's full range of services and full voting privileges on the AIC Board of Directors. FMOs pay a per-member fee of \$75. All nine provincial institutes have sought full member status. The nine remaining organizations, including CSSS, have sought associate member status. Based on a 5:1 formula, AMOs pay a per-member fee of \$15. AMOs receive only basic services from AIC and only have partial (one vote for each 5 AMOs or greater part thereof) voting privileges on the Board of Directors. Currently, two Directors are elected by the AMOs to sit on the Board. All members of the Member Organizations can participate fully on AIC's committees and task forces and in its programmes.

At its 1995 AGM in Quebec CSSS voted to seek AMO status for 1996 only, with a more permanent decision to be made at its 1996 AGM in Lethbridge. This matter was discussed in three Newsletter articles over the last year and will be discussed at this year's AGM prior

to voting on the related motions.

Mick Price (CSAM) and David McKenzie (CSAS) were elected last July by the AMOs to represent them on the Board of Directors for the 1995/96 year. Terms of Reference have since been developed for the election of the AMO Directors. In brief, the AMO Directors will hold office for two years in overlapping rotation with the normal term of office beginning January 1st. For this year, the election took place in June. The nominee with the most votes will serve a term from August 1, 1996 to December 31, 1998 and the nominee with the second most votes will serve from August, 1996 1 to December 31, 1997. An E-mail discussion group was established to facilitate communication between the AMOs and to disseminate information from the National Council through the AMO Directors to the AMOs.

Following the completion of the fundamental restructuring of AIC, a review of AIC's committees was undertaken. Committees have been reviewing their Terms of Reference in light of the new structure and 'vision'. The Board of Directors will be examining this, the final element of its restructuring, in Lethbridge.

In response to AIC's new fiscal reality a number of administrative changes have been made. AIC's staff has been reduced and AIC has moved its office. Its new office is located at Suite 1112, 141 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J3.

AIC has begun to offer several new services to better meet its new demands. AIC has established a World Wide Web home page (URL:<http://www.aic.ca>) and is accessible by E-mail at office@aic.ca (for general office and National Office business), journals@aic.ca (for scientific journals business) and news@aic.ca (for National Report, communications and conference business). AIC has begun publishing the National Report which replaces Agriscience. This document is distributed to AIC's Member Organizations to provide them with information that they can communicate to their members through their newsletters. The National Report is available to individuals through AIC's home page or by subscription.

In the restructuring of AIC the Scientific Societies Coordinating Committee was lost. Discussions of an organizational body to replace SSCC are ongoing. The proponents of this new organization, tentatively called the Canadian Association of Scientific and Technical Agricultural Societies (CAS&TAS), have developed a mission statement and a strategic plan which is under review.

Although it has taken a few years for AIC to be restructured and refocused, it appears that considerable positive results have been gained. No doubt there will be some additional growing pains as some of the remaining details get sorted out, but the vast majority of the work has been done.

MOTION: Move acceptance of the AIC Representative's report. D.Lobb/C. DeKempe
CARRIED

The following Notice of Motion was circulated to all members in the newsletter:

NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING AFFILIATION WITH AIC

The Agricultural Institute of Canada provides a national focus for professionals in Canadian agriculture and related sciences. CSSS has been affiliated with AIC since 1932. CSSS has benefited from: representation on AIC National Council; representation on AIC committees such as journals, the International Agricultural Development Committee; and coordination of national responses to current and emerging issues in Canadian agriculture. AIC also facilitates the production of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science; the annual meeting of CSSS, when it is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of AIC; and the involvement of CSSS and its members in international programmes (CSSS coordinates 3 of the 7 current CIDA-AIC projects). These endeavours have been successful because of a strong

association between CSSS and AIC.

The newly structured AIC consists of Full Member Organizations and Associate Member Organizations. Full Members Organizations pay a fee of \$75 per member. Associate Member Organizations pay a fee of \$15 per regular and retired (under 75 years of age) society member. The fees collected by AIC will go towards the fixed costs of operating AIC and the basic services offered to Member Organizations. The services being offered to both Full and Associate Member Organizations include: networking; external relations and awareness; internal communications and coordination; membership services; journals; international programmes; and contract services. FMOs receive additional services and benefits, and have full voting status on AIC National Council, whereas AMOs have partial (1/5) voting status.

At our AGM in Quebec CSSS decided to seek Associate Member status within the restructured AIC for 1996. To cover the required organizational fee, CSSS members were requested to voluntarily pay a \$15 fee with their 1996 membership renewals. The Society covered this fee for those members who chose not to pay.

In the past CSSS paid an organizational fee of \$20 to AIC for each regular member who was not a member of AIC (about one half of CSSS members). This usually amounted to \$3000 annually. However, this amount of budgeted funds is insufficient to cover the current organizational fee of \$15 per regular member (all CSSS members) which comes to a total of about \$4500.

At this year's Annual General meeting in Lethbridge CSSS members will vote on the continuation of its affiliation with AIC and method of generating the required organization fee. Council proposes the following motions:

MOTION 1: That the Canadian Society of Soil Science continue its affiliation with the Agricultural Institute of Canada as an Associate Member Organization, and as a condition of this affiliation, an organizational fee shall be paid to AIC.

It was noted that bylaws state that a simple majority (50% +1) is required to pass this motion.

D.Lobb/L. Bailey

CARRIED (three abstentions)

MOTION 2: That the membership dues of regular members be increased \$5.

D.Lobb/C. DeKempe

Amendment to the motion

That the fee increase be raised to \$10. D. McAndrew/E. deJong

Amendment accepted.

Motion CARRIED

NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING VOTING PROCEDURES

The following motion has been put forth in response to concern about the current voting procedures of CSSS. As noted in the motions regarding AIC, only members present at the AGM are permitted to vote. Consequently, only 10 to 20% of the membership are involved in making important decisions such as our affiliation with AIC. Furthermore, the members in attendance often do not reflect the breadth of disciplines within our membership. Proxy voting would allow a CSSS member to designate another member to vote on their behalf at the AGM or to submit their vote to the Secretary to be recorded at the AGM. This motion only applies to changes in the Rules and Bylaws of the Society, not 'motions from the floor' or elections.

MOTION 3: That the Rules and Bylaws of CSSS be amended to permit proxy

voting by members on all matters pertaining to the Rules and Bylaws of the Society.

Tabled

12. ISSS Report (Christian De Kimpe)

The International Society of Soil Science (ISSS) is reorganizing in response to external and internal pressures:

- the structure has not been changed since the creation of the Society, some 70 years ago. New trends and needs were accommodated for in the existing format, but this did not reinforce the structure,
- ISSS has become a full member of ICSU (the International Council of Scientific Unions),
- it is realized that soil science, and the major organization representing soil scientists at the international level, need more visibility on the international scene,
- there are over 40 000 soil scientists around the world, but only about 7 000 are members of ISSS,
- the financial situation of ISSS does not allow it to initiate large projects.

Most of the budget is used for the publication of the Bulletin.

The Standing Committee on Structure and Statutes has proposed a new structure for the Society, and it was discussed at two meetings of the ISSS Council. According to the proposal, ISSS would become a federation of national soil science societies, or when none exists, of societies representing the interests of soil scientists. Under the proposed scheme, when a national society adheres to ISSS, all the members become also members of ISSS.

Scientific information sharing, through the Bulletin and the organization of world congresses of soil science will remain a large part of the activities. However, ISSS intends to increase the use of electronic information: each member society will receive an electronic copy of the Bulletin, and will be responsible for distributing the information to its members, probably being more selective on the use of the official ISSS languages. In the case of CSSS, the information could possibly be integrated in our Newsletter.

Of course, there is a cost for a society to join ISSS. The membership fee will be negotiated between ISSS and each individual country, based on the number of members and the wealth of the country. At this stage, it is not possible to foresee the amount of the fee.

Implementation of the new structure requires initially its adoption by the ISSS present members. A vote will be organized in the fall or early next year. If the new structure is adopted, it will be forwarded to all national societies who will be requested to organize a vote regarding affiliation with ISSS.

If a national society decides not to affiliate, it will be possible to join as individual members, but this is not the preferred route. Canadians could not join through SSSA: affiliation will be on a national basis. Obviously, joining as individual members will be more costly because of the need to cover extra expenses such as the mailing of the Bulletin.

What are the advantages of joining ISSS? A greater visibility on the international scene, the opportunity for contacts with more colleagues from around the world, the opportunity of participating in the World Congress of Soil Science, and more openings for international activities.

More information will be available in the future and will be provided through the CSSS Newsletter.

MOTION: Move acceptance of the ISSS report. C.DeKemp/D. Anderson CARRIED

13. AIC Foundation (Murray Miller)

The AICF was incorporated in 1988 and was granted tax-exempt status as a charitable organization by Revenue Canada in 1989.

Its objectives are:

- to promote educational programs aimed at improving public understanding of agriculture and its importance to a safe, affordable food supply
- to fund the assembly, analysis and distribution of factual information on agricultural issues
- to fund scholarships in agricultural disciplines
- to facilitate specific donor-designated projects
- to support activities by universities that improve students' knowledge and understanding of the agricultural industry and its importance to the economy and the environment
- to fund research on matters affecting agriculture

The AICF is managed by a Board of Governors comprising representation appointed by each member organization. Initially AIC, each Provincial Institute and all Scientific Societies were member organizations.

The CSSS was affiliated with AICF from its beginning until 1993. Dr. Fred Bentley was our representative on the Board of Governors and served on the executive committee. Because of concerns with the development and management of the Foundation, Dr. Bentley recommended in 1993 that the CSSS withdraw as a member of AICF. In 1994, CSSS President Bruce Macdonald asked me to serve as a non-member contact with the Foundation. As such I have received minutes of all executive and Board of Governor meetings.

I have been impressed with the development of AICF under the leadership of President Dan Rose.

I therefore recommend that:

CSSS again become a full member of AICF and appoint a member to the Board of Governors.

Murray Miller

In 1979 CSSS pulled out of the AICF over organizational concerns. Murray Miller maintained contact with the foundation. Murray Miller suggested that the Foundation was on firmer footing and that CSSS should consider rejoining the Foundation. Phil Warman questioned whether the previous mismanagement had been addressed. Murray Miller felt confident that the previous problems had been dealt with. It was noted that Foundation members were paid no expenses other than travel. Fred Bentley pointed out that the Scientific Societies had been expected to join and contribute \$1000 to the foundation. CSSS had been one of the first to join. Other Societies joined but did not contribute to the Foundation. Fred Bentley suggested that it would be in order for the CSSS to contribute \$1000 but stress that this would be voluntary.

T. Mahendrappa expressed concern that the foundation excluded forestry.

L. Bailey indicated that AICF was not only looking for money but also ideas. In response

to previous concerns the scholarship offered by AICF may be expanded to include students from disciplines other than Ag. Economics.

It was noted that AICF supported the Agrologist in Residence Program were a noted agrologist visits with students on campus for one week.

MOTION: Move that CSSS become a full member of AICF and appoint a member to the board of AICF. M. Miller/F. Bentley CARRIED (1 apposed)

13. Lethbridge Conference Committee Report

Total attendance at conference was 154, at the banquet 136 and 35 went on the post conference tour. It was noted that AIC provided \$700 in seed money. CSSS did not provide any seed money. Both the banquet and the tour were able to cover expenses.

MOTION: Move acceptance of the Lethbridge Conference Committee report.

J. Dormaar /D. Burton

CARRIED

14. 1997 and 1998 Conference Reports

1997 -

1998 - The dates for the above conference have been agreed by all provincial institutes and scientific societies as July 5-9, 1998. The venue will be the University of BC Conference Centre, Vancouver, BC.

MOTION: Move acceptance of the 1997 and 1998 Organizing Committee reports.

D. Burton /G. Patterson

CARRIED

15. Resolutions for 1996

It was noted that a Resolutions Committee had not been struck prior to the AGM. It was indicated that this committee should be struck before the beginning of the conference and make its existence and composition known to attendees early in the conference.

Be it resolved that members of CSSS extend appreciation and thanks to:

a) The members of the 1996 Organizing Committee and in particular J. Dormaar, for their efforts in planning and carrying out a most successful and educational conference both in terms of technical sessions and social programs.

b) The Officers of the CSSS for their dedication and the effective manner in which they carried out the business of the Society. In particular we recognize the retiring council members A. Fedkenheuer, Past President and G. Neilsen, Western Councillor.

c) The CJSS Editor and Associate Editors, in particular S. Sheppard and the retiring Associate Editors () of their efforts over the past years.

MOTION: Adopt the above resolution. D. McAndrew/P. Warman CARRIED

17. Election results

b) Elections of Officers to the CSSS Council

Ballots were prepared for the election of the President-Elect and the Western Councillor and mailed to all of the 366 paid members. After the ballots had been sent it was discovered that the ballots did not indicate the date by which they should be returned, it was decided that a second set of ballots should be sent out with a letter indicating the date ballots were due. Members were asked to sign the outside of the envelope in which the ballots were returned to allow validation of the member's eligibility to vote.

Ballots were received by the Brandon Business office and forwarded to the Secretary on June 11, 1996. On June 12, 1996 the ballots were counted by a committee consisting of David L. Burton, Tee Boon Goh and Brian Wiebe. All of whom were members of the Society in good standing. The results of this count were as follows:

President-elect
Beauchamp, E.G.....104
Warman, P.R.....82

Western Councillor
Izzaralde, C.....66
Landsberg, S.....109

Spoiled Ballots 41

A total of 16 envelopes were unsigned and were therefore counted as spoil ballots.

MOTION: Move that the ballots be destroyed. A. Fedkenheuer/M. Miller CARRIED

18. Installation of new President

Umesh Gupta passed the gavel to Yash Kalra. Yash Kalra thanked members for their support.

19. New business

MOTION: Herb Reese and a suitable alternative be appointed as auditors for the Society for the upcoming year. G. Coen/A. Fedkenheuer CARRIED

20. Adjournment 11:35 AM