ISPA Newsletter 14(9): ISPA and ECPA-PC, N Community Webinar, CR Reports, Events, Jobs and More

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International Society of Precision Agriculture

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Agreement Between ISPA and the ECPA Program Committee

The ECPA Program Committee (ECPA-PC) has become an ISPA Affiliated Organization. Future ECPA conferences will be co-organized by ISPA, the ECPA-PC, and the respective local organizing institution.

John Stafford became the President of the European Conference on Precision Agriculture Program Committee (ECPA-PC) after the first ECPA, held in 1997 in Warwick (UK). The constituted ECPA-PC was responsible for selecting local organizers and safeguarding the scientific and academic standards of the conference. Following John's retirement, coinciding with the 14th ECPA, chaired by Maurizio Canavari in Bologna in 2023, a renewal process was initiated to redesign and strengthen the ECPA-PC. The 15th ECPA in 2025 was chaired by Emilio Gil and organized by the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya under a provisional ECPA-PC. Subsequently, the renewed ECPA-PC was formally established, with Àlex Escolà as President and Yafit Cohen as Vice-President. Its membership also includes former ECPA chairs and representatives from European countries. More information is available at its new webpage (www.ispag.org/ECPA/Program_Committee).

As a next step, the ECPA-PC and ISPA agreed to establish the ECPA-PC as an ISPA Affiliated Organization, preserving the conference's academic and scientific focus while ensuring its long-term sustainability. Under this framework, future ECPA conferences will be organized through a tripartite partnership involving ISPA, the ECPA-PC, and the local organizing institution.

Accordingly, the 16th ECPA, celebrating the conference series' 30th anniversary in 2027, will be co-organized by ISPA, the ECPA-PC, and Aarhus University, with the collaboration of Københavns Universitet. Coincidentally, the Chair of the 16th ECPA and the President of ISPA are the same person, Davide Cammarano, a circumstance contributing to facilitate the transition to this renewed organizational model. As part of the agreement, the President of the ECPA-PC will participate in ISPA Business Meetings, while the European Representative on the ISPA Board will attend ECPA-PC meetings, further strengthening collaboration between the two organizations.

This affiliation completes the ECPA-PC renewal process, which has included the adoption of new bylaws, modernization of the ECPA logo, and the launch of the ECPA website within the ISPA domain: https://ispag.org/ECPA/About_ECPA.

We are delighted to formalize this partnership and confident it will help ensure the continued success

of the ECPA for many years to come. We look forward to your support as we embark on this new chapter.

Alex Escolà and Yafit Cohen
ECPA Program Committee Board

ECPA-PC
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON PRECISION AGRICULTURE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Upcoming Regional Conferences

AfCPA 2026 ECPA ACPA 12 KOBE JAPAN 2027

Upcoming Speaker Deadline:
The Speaker Registration deadline is 30 October 2026. Abstracts will be dropped from the program if the presenter is not registered by this date.

For for information, please visit our **WEBSITE**.

Full Paper Instructions:
The 16th European Conference on Precision Agriculture full paper instructions are now available on the conference website. Full paper submissions are due by 15 December 2026.

For for information, please visit our **WEBSITE**.

Registration and Abstract Submissions:
The registration form for the 12th Asian-Australasian Conference on Precision Agriculture is now open. The conference is also accepting abstract submissions through 28 February 2027.

For for information, please visit our **WEBSITE**.

Nitrogen Community Webinar

Location: Online (available to everyone live, recording available only to ISPA members), through GoTo Webinar

Format: Industry panel session with short talks + moderated discussion/Q&A

Audience: Advisors, agronomists, researchers, students, and industry stakeholders from the global nitrogen community

Speakers:
Laila Puntel (Syngenta, global/US)
Jackson Stansell (Sentinel Ag, US)
Marco Politeo (Yara, global/Europe)

Registration is free, but you do need to register to attend:
Link to the Event Registration

Best Fit Interpolator: Supporting Spatial Interpolation Decisions in QGIS

Best Fit Interpolator is a free QGIS plugin developed by Laura Delgado Bejarano and Lucas Rios do Amaral. It was created to help researchers and practitioners select and evaluate spatial interpolation methods for digital soil mapping and precision agriculture.

The plugin brings several approaches into a single workflow, including IDW, Thin Plate Spline, ordinary kriging, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine, and Regression Kriging. Users can examine data characteristics, compare validation results, visualize observed and predicted values and generate the final interpolation map. Its Framework section provides guidance based on sample size, spatial structure, covariate availability, and model performance.

Version 1.1 improves workflow stability and clarity, with better spatial compatibility checks, synchronized semivariogram visualization, clearer validation information, and corrections to TPS and REML procedures.

The scientific basis of the framework is presented in the Precision Agriculture article “Performance of interpolation methods in digital soil mapping: the influence of data characteristics.”

Plugin: QGIS Plugin Repository
Source code and documentation: GitHub
Article: Precision Agriculture

Sri Lanka to Form National-Level Strategic Plan for Drone Technology Development, Standardization, and Commercialization of Applications

By Sri Lanka Country Representative Arachchige Surantha Ashan Salgadoe

The Ministry of Science and Technology is focusing on formulating a formal strategic plan for the development, standardization, and commercialization of drone technology applications in Sri Lanka. National-level discussions regarding this initiative are presided over by the Minister of Science and Technology, Senior officials from numerous institutions, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Defense, the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, state Universities, the Sri Lanka Air Force, the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, the Arthur C. Clarke Institute, NARA, and the Departments of Survey, Agriculture, and Irrigation.

To read the rest of the article, please visit the **website**.

Can Agricultural Drones Replace the Knapsack Sprayer? Sri Lankan Maize Field Trial Provides New Evidence

By Sri Lanka Country Representative Arachchige Surantha Ashan Salgadoe

For generations, the knapsack sprayer has been one of the most familiar tools for applying foliar fertilizers in Sri Lankan agriculture. It is simple, accessible, and well understood by farmers. However, as maize plants become taller and field sizes increase, carrying a sprayer through the crop can become increasingly labour-intensive, time-consuming and physically demanding.

A field study led by a research team from the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Ltd., Sri Lanka & Sustainable Agro Solutions S.A.U., Spain/Fertilizer Supplier, and SumathIT Pvt. Ltd., Sri Lanka/Drone Supplier, at a commercial maize field in Melsiripura, Sri Lanka, is exploring whether agricultural drones can provide a practical alternative.

Research Team leader Dr. A. Surantha A. Salgadoe, Senior Lecturer, crop remote sensing and precision agriculture specialist, with his research student Ms. Thisarani Sathya Wedisinghe and team members Ms. Nissansala Sanjeewani, Mr. K. Borellassa, Mr. Wenura, Mr. Aruna Weerasinghe, and Mr. Nil Tresens Mata, evaluated a DJI AGRAS T25 agricultural drone for foliar application of FORCROP GOLDEN® 10-14-4 in maize. Importantly, the study did not simply compare a drone with a knapsack sprayer. It first calibrated the drone to identify an appropriate spray configuration, then tested the optimized system under field conditions.

The full article is available **HERE**.

Cohort 4 of the Precision Agriculture Incubation Program (PAIP)

Precision Field Academy is preparing to launch **Cohort 4 of the Precision Agriculture Incubation Program (PAIP)**, an initiative designed to expose and equip students, young professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators and emerging agricultural leaders with practical knowledge and skills in precision and digital agriculture.

PAIP brings together learning and exposure across precision agriculture, agricultural drones and remote sensing, GIS and geospatial technologies, artificial intelligence and data science, IoT and agricultural robotics, digital farming, agritech innovation, entrepreneurship and professional development.

While the programme is coordinated from Nigeria, participation is open beyond Nigeria, with the objective of connecting emerging talent across Africa and other parts of the world with knowledge, practitioners and opportunities within the global precision agriculture ecosystem. PAIP Cohort 4 is scheduled to commence in October 2026, with the online programme running from 14 October to 6 November 2026.

Programme information:
PAIP Cohort 4 webpage
Application:
PAIP Cohort 4 application form

ISPA Members - My Account Information

Manage and update your membership profile information on your unique My Account page.
Login to the ISPA website using your membership credentials, then upload or update your bio and headshot, change your contact information, add links to your social media accounts, and more.

Jobs Listing

Assistant Professor of Soil Science - University of California, Riverside
Graduate Research Assistant (Ph.D.) position in Precision Water Management - University of Missouri-Columbia

Do you have a job you would like to post to the ISPA website? Please send your job announcement, a short description, and the deadline for applications to info@ispag.org

Upcoming Events

1-3 DEC 2026
4th African Conference on Precision Agriculture
Cairo, Egypt
paafrica.org

2-6 FEB 2027
AGROEXPO 2027
Izmir, Türkiye
en.agroexpo.com.tr

30 MAR-1 APR 2027
2027 AI In Agriculture
Lexington, Kentucky USA
aiagconference.uky.edu

11-15 JUL 2027
16th European Conference on Precision Agriculture
Copenhagen, Denmark
ispag.org/Events/ECPA

15-18 SEP 2027
12th Asian-Australasian Conference on Precision Agriculture
Kobe, Japan
smartconf.jp/content/acpa12/

16-19 JUL 2028
18th International Conference on Precision Agriculture
Athens, Georgia USA
Save the date

See the ISPA website for a complete list of events.
Do you have an event that would be of interest to our members? Send us an email to let us know.

Stay Up To Date with ISPA on Social Media!

Be sure to follow ISPA on X and LinkedIn to stay up to date with what the society has to offer. If you're posting about precision agriculture and would like to reach our international community, please add **#ispag** to your post.

SPAM EMAIL NOTICE: ISPA does not sell your information. If you receive an email indicating that your information has been sold, this is spam. Please be diligent about spammers, if you would like to double check the validity of an email, please reach out to info@ispag.org.

Precision Agriculture Definition

Precision Agriculture is a management strategy that gathers, processes and analyzes temporal, spatial and individual plant and animal data and combines it with other information to support management decisions according to estimated variability for improved resource use efficiency, productivity, quality, profitability and sustainability of agricultural production.

The International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA) is a non-profit professional scientific organization.
The mission of ISPA is to advance the science of precision agriculture globally.

Contact newsletter@ispag.org to suggest content for future newsletters or visit www.ispag.org for more about the Society