

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

Sep 30, 2026



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](http://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](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



## Upcoming Regional Conferences



ECPA

ACPA12  
KOBE JAPAN 2027

Registration is now open for the 4th African Conference on Precision Agriculture. The conference will take place in Cairo, Egypt from 1-3 December 2026.

For for information, please visit our [WEBSITE](#).

The 16th European Conference on Precision Agriculture is now accepting Oral Presentation Abstracts. The abstract deadline has been extended to 10 October 2026.

For for information, please visit our [WEBSITE](#).

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



International Society of  
Precision Agriculture

NITROGEN COMMUNITY

INDUSTRY PANEL SESSION

Free & Open to All Registrants

## Webinar Series - Industry Solutions to N Management

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Laila Puntel  
Syngenta

Jackson Stansell  
Sentinel Ag

Marco Politeo  
Yara

DATE  
October 21, 2026

TIME  
8-9 AM EDT  
(GMT -4)

FORMAT  
Online · Free

Registration  
Required

**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 Sanjeevani, Mr. K. Borelassa, 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** | **Integrated Aerial Precision**

# Precision Agriculture Incubation Program Cohort 4.0

Is a **6 weeks capacity-building** program designed to equip young people with practical knowledge in **digital and precision agriculture**

**Who can apply?**

- University Agriculture Students interested in Precision Agriculture.
- Youths and Young Women interested in Building a career in Smart and Digital Agriculture.
- AGE ELIGIBILITY**  
**16 Years to 35 Years**  
Women are Greatly Encourage to Apply

**Program Highlights**

- Globally Accredited Certification
- Industry- Focused Online Courses.
- Virtual Live Class Facilitations
- Open Field Practical Training Session

**Application Closing Date:**  
**5th of October 2026**

**Register Now:** <https://bit.ly/PAIP4>

**Logos:** DJI AGRICULTURE, DevGlobal, Dev-Afrique, AAPA, ISPA, Yypard

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

[Graduate Research Assistant \(MS\) - Agricultural and Biological Engineering](#) - Mississippi State University

[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](mailto:info@ispag.org)

## Upcoming Events

### 12-30 OCT 2026

Call for Applications for the Regional Precision Agriculture Training Course  
University of Cape Coast, Ghana  
[ispag.org/event\\_details](http://ispag.org/event_details)

### 21 OCT 2026

Nitrogen Community Webinar  
Virtual  
[ispag.org/communities/nitrogen](http://ispag.org/communities/nitrogen)

### 1-3 DEC 2026

4th African Conference on Precision Agriculture  
Cairo, Egypt  
[paafrica.org](http://paafrica.org)

### 30 MAR-1 APR 2027

2027 AI In Agriculture  
Lexington, Kentucky USA  
<https://aiagconference.uky.edu/>

### 11-15 JUL 2027

16th European Conference on Precision Agriculture  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
[ispag.org/Events/ECPA](http://ispag.org/Events/ECPA)

### 15-18 SEP 2027

12th Asian-Australasian Conference on Precision Agriculture  
Kobe, Japan  
[smartconf.jp/content/acpa12/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@ispag.org) to suggest content for future newsletters or visit [www.ispag.org](http://www.ispag.org) for more about the Society