

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



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For full details on the submission of workshops and abstracts, on the programme, the accommodation and registration, please visit our website:

www.ifsa-europe.org

The website is also a repository of papers presented at previous Symposia of the IFSA Europe Group

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4 – 7 JULY 2010 IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

9TH EUROPEAN IFSA SYMPOSIUM

Building sustainable rural futures

THE ADDED VALUE OF SYSTEMS APPROACHES
IN TIMES OF CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY



INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The events since summer 2008 have shown that systems we once thought behaved in a predictable manner are in fact characterized by non-linearity, uncertainty, and surprise. Research needs to address the interdependencies and the complexity of adaptive systems that characterise the real world. In cooperation with farmers and other stakeholders of rural areas, the aim is to strengthen society's capacity to cope with and to transform these dynamics.

This symposium offers a platform for researchers and practitioners who seek an inter- and transdisciplinary dialogue that contributes to building sustainable rural futures.

SETUP OF THE SYMPOSIUM

This first announcement is also the call for workshops. We invite submissions of workshops that address one of the five themes of the symposium. The workshops will be listed on the website from late June 2009. Abstracts for papers can then be submitted to the workshop convenors.

During the symposium there will be plenary sessions, workshops with oral and poster presentations as well as field trips. Emphasis will be given to interactive components and to integrating presentations, posters and field trips.

SUBMISSION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Participants share a commitment to the systems approach, i.e. approaches to capture and understand the complexity and dynamics of the real world. Farmers, advisors and other practitioners are invited to present field notes or case studies. Students are encouraged to present research questions, research designs or results. Researchers are welcome to discuss theoretical and methodological issues or to present case studies. Contributions are invited from all geographical areas and field work is not limited to Europe. We especially encourage submissions from Central and Eastern Europe.

To learn more about the farming systems approach and the symposium, please visit our website: www.ifsa-europe.org

DEADLINES

Submission of workshops: 15 June 2009

Submission of abstracts: 15 October 2009

Notification of authors: 1 November 2009

Submission of full papers: 15 January 2010

Submission of the final version of papers: 15 April 2010



1. KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS, LEARNING AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

How can we empower co-development, appreciate and make use of the multiple views of stakeholders? What participatory approaches have proven fruitful? What role can information and communication technologies play? How can we understand learning networks and multilevel institutions?

2. TRANSITION, RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

What attitudes, structures and activities build and sustain the ability of farmers and farming communities to cope with on-going change? What role do flexibility and diversity play in enabling transformation pathways? How can actors take advantage of the opportunities offered by change?

3. ENERGY PRODUCTION, CO₂ SINK AND CLIMATE CHANGE

How can rural areas help mitigate climate change? How should farming systems contribute to energy production? What is the added value or the competitive advantage of farms compared to other service providers?

4. SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Which food systems strengthen the links between rural and urban areas? What is the role of quality and eco-labels? How can localised food systems contribute to sustainability? What are the interdependencies with culinary traditions, food consumption habits and movements such as slow-food?

5. LANDSCAPE AND RURAL LAND USE

How can the spatial scale of farming systems be explicitly addressed? How can we deepen our understanding of dynamics, timing and drivers of change across scale? How can ecological, social and economic demands on natural resource management be integrated at the landscape level?

