

Press release**Bundesforschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft (FAL)****Margit Fink**

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Research results, Scientific Publications

Biology, Environment / ecology, Information technology, Oceanology / climate, Zoology / agricultural and forest sciences
transregional, national**CIEC 2007 - Elite of international researchers on fertilisation meets in Ghent**

CIEC stands for "Centre International du Engrais Chimique" and represents the International Scientific Centre for Fertilisers. Since almost 75 years CIEC organises every four years the World Fertiliser Congress and regularly in between scientific symposia all over the world. Their common scope is research in the field of fertiliser use in agriculture.

The main focus changed over years from questions of increasing crop productivity and improving food security to aspects of protecting of water bodies from nutrient inputs (photo 1) and reducing the emission of trace gases as a contribution of agriculture to slow down climate change. The primary subject of this year's symposium was the pros and cons of substituting mineral by organic fertilisers whilst maintaining an adequate nutrient supply and protecting agro-ecosystems from nutrient losses. The symposium was held from September 16 - 19, 2007 in Ghent and had been jointly organised by CIEC, Ghent University (Belgium) and the Institute of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science of the Federal Agricultural Research Centre (FAL) in Braunschweig (Germany). In 84 presentations scientists from 25 nations presented latest research for an efficient and environmentally sound use of nutrients from mineral fertilisers, farmyard manure and secondary raw material fertilisers, and preparations used in biological-dynamic farming systems.

The contributions are published in: De Neve S, Salomez J, van den Bossche A, Haneklaus S, van Cleemput O, Hofman G and Schnug E (2007) "Mineral versus organic fertilization - conflict or synergism", ISBN 978-90-5989-82-1, and available as hard copy or on DVD.

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Clean water is one of the most highly endangered natural resources through nutrient losses from agriculture.
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Opening ceremony of the 16th International Fertiliser Symposium by the CIEC presidium. From left: Prof. Dr. van Cleemput, Ghent; Prof. Dr. Dr. Schnug, Braunschweig (Vice President of CIEC); Prof. Dr. Hera, Bucharest (President of CIEC); Prof. Dr. Vandenhove, Ghent (Dean of Faculty of Biotechnology); Prof. Dr. Nemeth, Budapest (Secretary General of CIEC); Prof. Dr. Hofman, Ghent (Vice President of CIEC).
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