

Thomas Oberthür Joins Staff of IPNI as Regional Director, Southeast Asia Program

Dr. Thomas Oberthür will join the staff of the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) as Director for the Southeast Asia Region, effective May 1, 2010. He will be based in Penang, Malaysia, and will serve as the leader of IPNI's programs of agronomic research and education in the region. Dr. Oberthür succeeds Dr. Christian Witt in this responsibility. Dr. Witt has joined the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as Senior Program Officer for Soil Health, Agricultural Development Program. He will be part of a team focusing on farmer production and agricultural development, targeting Africa and South Asia.

"With his strong skill sets related to problem solving and strategic thinking, plus his expertise in relationships between agricultural product quality and farming systems management, Dr. Oberthür will be a valuable addition to our scientific staff," said IPNI President Dr. Terry Roberts. "We welcome Thomas to the staff and feel assured he will continue the high standards of positive results for the IPNI program in Southeast Asia."

In 1999, Dr. Oberthür received his Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Western Australia, Perth. His dissertation was on improving land resource information and its management in heterogeneous rain-fed environments. In 1994, he received the degree of Diploma Engineer (equivalent to Master of Science) degree through Leipzig University and the International Rice Research Institute. His thesis research was on spatial soil fertility management in irrigated rice. In 2004, he earned Project Management Certification through Crawford Masters Class in Management in Sydney, Australia.

Most recently, Dr. Oberthür worked for the Australian Center for Agricultural Research in research and program

operations management. He was responsible for a wide range of adaptive and market driven research projects in Eastern Indonesia. From 2007 to 2008, he was with Ecoagriculture Partners (EP) in program operations management and project development. Previously, Dr. Oberthür was with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in research and program operations

management from 1999 to 2007. As a manager and senior soil scientist, he had a scientific focus on site-specific soil and land management, spatial analyses of production systems, causal relationships between agricultural production and natural resources, and the use of commercial data in agriculture. His experience also includes soil survey and data analyses for the national agronomic soil map for the rice lands of Cambodia, spatial analysis of soils in rice-based cropping systems in the Philippines and other countries, and contributions to the conceptualization and introduction of precision agriculture in tropical farming systems. Dr. Oberthür has worked extensively with the food sector industry and has served as an adviser to projects related to coffee-growing communities.

As a prolific writer and presenter, Dr. Oberthür has contributed to more than 10 books and book chapters, 15 peer-reviewed papers, nearly 20 conference papers, and four technical papers. **DC**

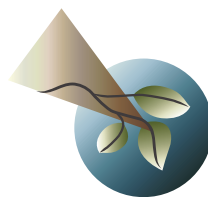


Dr. Thomas Oberthür

10th International Conference on Precision Agriculture Set for July 18-21 in Denver

The 10th International Conference on Precision Agriculture (ICPA) is set for July 18-21, 2010, in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Rajiv Khosla of Colorado State University will serve as Conference Chairperson for the event. Dr. Harold Reetz of IPNI/FAR serves on the Organizing Committee, along with Dr. Dwayne Westfall of Colorado State University and Mr. Quentin Rund of PAQ Interactive.

The ICPA is oriented primarily to research progress, and facilitates interactions among scientists, produc-



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ers, technology company representatives, equipment manufacturers, input dealers, agronomic consultants, software developers, educators, government personnel, and policymakers. Find out more at the ICPA website: www.icpaonline.org. **DC**