

7th International Symposium on Gully Erosion

Gully erosion remains a critical concern worldwide. Gullies, rills, and other erosion within concentrated flows are the dominant causes of soil loss from hillslopes and agricultural regions. This symposium seeks to bring together leading and emerging expert scientists and practitioners actively engaged in gully-erosion research in a wide range of environments and from diverse perspectives. In particular, the program will emphasize opportunities to provide integrated solutions to the problem of gullying that arise from novel measuring and modeling techniques. While major themes have been selected based on key phenomena and the various methods adopted, the contributors will be asked to highlight new and innovative approaches to monitor and measure gully erosion processes, to discuss the important geomorphic, pedologic, and hydrologic processes affecting gully development and evolution, to present new theory and models to predict soil losses and landscape processes, and to critically assess land-management practices and anthropogenic activities and their broader implications.

Theme: *Integrating processes, management, and prediction*

Location: Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA.

Date: May 23-26, 2016

Conveners: Robert Wells (USDA-ARS), Sean Bennett (University at Buffalo), Chi-Hua Huang (USDA-ARS), and John Wainwright (Durham University)



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Thematic sessions: The organizers have identified five (5) broad categories in the area of gully erosion, spanning a wide range of environments, scales, and perspectives. Contributions will be solicited for, and organized into, the following themes.

1. Innovative field and laboratory techniques and approaches to gully-erosion research
2. Advances in soil and gully-erosion prediction and geospatial technology
3. Gully-erosion measurement, monitoring, and assessment
4. Progress in national and international conservation practices and landscape management
5. Gully erosion and landscape evolution due to anthropogenic and climatic forcing

Conference Outline:

May 23 will be reserved for technical workshops on soil erosion-prediction technology.

May 24 and 26 will be reserved for technical presentations. Sessions will begin with invited/keynote presentations lasting 30 minutes each. Pursuant, the technical presentation format will be a brief (5 minute) presentation providing an overview for material contained in the author's poster. Sessions will have 18 speakers.

All will adjourn to the poster room for coffee, snacks, interaction, and discussion of material in the posters.

May 25 will be reserved for tours.

1. Tour of the experimental facilities of the National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory (NSERL). This USDA-ARS facility is the home of many significant research endeavors focused on the fundamental processes of soil erosion and rill and gully development and evolution. The attendees will be given a tour of this internationally-recognized laboratory and a demonstration of recent and on-going research endeavors using specially-designed experimental facilities and equipment.
2. Conservation-in-action tour: This tour will visit farms to demonstrate how farmers, local conservation groups, and government agencies work together to promote and implement conservation practices for erosion control and water-quality protection.
3. Conservation innovation tour: As farming practices change, new environmental issues emerge. In this tour, attendees will see how researchers tackle emerging water quality concerns with potential remediation practices and technologies. On-site visits will include two-stage ditches, bioreactors, in-stream treatment, and control drainage sites where researchers are collecting data to demonstrate the efficacy of these new conservation technologies.

Contact: The organizers have been working on a website that will contain abstract and paper submission, as well as information concerning accommodations. We will send a second email with information regarding the website. Thank you for your patience. (robert.wells@ars.usda.gov)

