



**INSTITUTE OF SOIL SCIENCE 'NIKOLA POUSHKAROV'**



**INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE - KOSTINBROD**

## **13th RAMIRAN International Conference**

**Potential for simple technology solutions in organic manure management**

**Albena, Bulgaria June 2008**



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE and FOOD  
AGRICULTURAL ACADEMY**

# 13th RAMIRAN International Conference

## Potential for simple technology solutions in organic manure management

Albena, Bulgaria June 2008

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## About RAMIRAN

The Network on Recycling of Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Residues in Agriculture (RAMIRAN) is part of ESCORENA - the European System of Cooperative Research Networks in Agriculture. ESCORENA was established by the FAO Regional Office for Europe (REU) in 1974. It is a form of voluntary research cooperation among interested national institutions involved in research in food or agriculture in countries.

Over the years, ESCORENA has expanded its field of activities to include topics and themes of interest to other countries, particularly those from the Near East and Mediterranean area.

### The objectives of ESCORENA are to:

- Promote the voluntary exchange of information and experimental data on selected topics.
- Support joint applied research on selected subjects of common interest according to an accepted methodology and an agreed division of tasks and timetable.
- Facilitate voluntary exchange of expert, germplasm and technologies.
- Establish close links between European researchers and institutions working on the same subject to stimulate interaction.
- Accelerate the transfer of European technology advanced to, and in cooperation with, developing countries.

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Much of the detailed work of the network is undertaken by the Working Groups. There are currently 7 Working Groups within RAMIRAN including 2 new groups that were established at the last Workshop in Gargnano.

The titles, chairmen and contacts details for these groups are listed below.

### Hygienic aspects

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## **Preface**

Organic residues, both as livestock manure and from other sources, are well recognized as an important element of sustainable fertilization making optimal use of local resources. The scientific knowledge on processes concerning organic residue, treatment technology options and potential impacts on the environment is quite advanced in Europe. However the defined best practice for management of such organic residues is often not implemented by farmers, who may be reluctant to adopt new systems, e.g. composting of non-livestock organic residues. To overcome the apparent inadequacy of technology transfer it is important to understand the barriers to implementation at the farm level and to demonstrate simple and innovative solutions for the management of organic residues. To achieve this, the conference especially invites contributions on:

- Barriers for the adoption of good practice in the recycling of organic residues
- Potential for improvement of management of organic resources in different parts of Europe
- Conflicting aims in managing organic resources: economics, ecology, social issues
- Low cost livestock manure management options
- Composting
- Biogas

### **Local Organizing Committee:**

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Tom Misselbrook, North Wyke, UK  
Vesselin Koutev, Sofia, Bulgaria



The scientific activities of RAMIRAN will already be familiar to many who have taken part in the consultations, workshops or working groups or who have read the reports and proceedings of these meetings. This introduction aims to place RAMIRAN in context within the FAO and to outline briefly the history and previous activities of the network.

RAMIRAN is part of the ESCORENA network - the European System of Cooperative Research Networks in Agriculture. ESCORENA was established by the FAO Regional Office for Europe (REU) in 1974. It is a form of voluntary research cooperation among interested national institutions involved in research in food or agriculture in European countries. Over the years, ESCORENA has expanded its field of activities to include topics and themes of interest to other countries, particularly those from the Near East and Mediterranean area.

**The current objectives of ESCORENA are to:**

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- Support joint applied research on selected subjects of common interest according to an accepted methodology and an agreed division of tasks and timetable.
- Facilitate voluntary exchange of experts, germplasm and technologies.
- Establish close links between European researchers and institutions working on the same subject to stimulate interaction.
- Accelerate the transfer of European technology advances to, and in cooperation with, developing countries.

ESCORENA comprises 13 cooperative research networks of which RAMIRAN is one. Today, with its 13 networks, it links over 2500 researchers across Europe and, in some cases, across the globe. The networks have a simple and flexible organisation and their activities are basically self-regulating. Most of the networks include sub-networks or working groups covering specific topics. In collaboration with FAO, the networks or working groups convene workshops, technical meetings and network consultations. The ESCORENA networks are grouped into 4 categories: Crops, Livestock, Food and Nutrition and Agri-Environment. Agri-Environment comprises The Sustainable Rural Environment and Energy Network (SREN), that deals with issues including pollinator diversity, renewable energy production and use and organic farming, and RAMIRAN.