

The Club of Bologna

Prof Dr Peter Schulze Lammers

The Club of Bologna was established in 1989 as an association of experts in mechanisation for the discussion of subjects of international importance for the development of the agricultural machinery sector worldwide. The Club focuses on improving conditions for farmers and society through developments in agricultural mechanisation. It is sponsored by UNACOMA, the association of the Italian agricultural machinery producers. Each meeting discusses viewpoints based on the specific experiences acquired in the main areas of the world and produces conclusions and recommendations for submission to national governments, to international bodies and to research and manufacturing organisations. In the Club, 49 countries are represented and 122 are full members belonging to research bodies (69%), industry (15%) and international organisations (17%).

On 12-14 November 2010, the Club met at the EIMA exhibition, Bologna, Italy. Fifty members of the club representing 15 different countries were present. EurAgEng was represented at the meeting by Peter Schulze Lammers, Laslo Fenyvesi, Pierluigi Febo and Josse De Baerdemaeker. The incoming president of CIGR, Fedro Zazueta, took part in the meeting as well.

The President of UNACOMA, Massimo Goldoni, welcomed the members of the Club and the proceedings were led by President Luigi Bodria. Strategic discussions focused on present and future developments on the use of electric power in agricultural machinery, including electric drives, hybrid systems, and challenges related to acceptance by farmers, manufacturing, standards and compatibility with existing devices. In addition, advances and industry trends

in automation of agricultural machinery were discussed, including the impact of advances in knowledge-related fields directed towards higher levels of automation, autonomy, reliability and robustness.

Finally, methodologies were discussed to improve communication amongst researchers and industry, including advancing a database of specialists and agricultural machinery projects. Those working in this area who are interested in participating or being included in this database, please contact Roberto Oberti (roberto.oberti@unimi.it) or Hermann Auernhammer (Hermann@Auernhammer.de)

More information on the Club of Bologna can be found at www.clubofbologna.org where all the Proceedings dating back to 1985 can be viewed.