

Proceedings of the informal meeting on physics in agriculture

Wageningen, The Netherlands
7-13 September, 1955

The increasing importance of physics for agriculture, and the similarity between the problems in agricultural physics studied in different parts of the world, formed an incentive for a number of physicists concerned with agriculture to discuss the present and the probable future role of physics in agriculture at an informal meeting held at Wageningen, The Netherlands, from the 7th to the 13th of September 1955. Evaporation in agriculture was the main subject for discussion.

The initiative in planning this meeting was taken by the following physicists :

Professor W. RENTSCHLER, Agricultural University, Stuttgart, Germany.

Dr. H. L. PENMAN, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Great Britain.

Dr. R. K. SCHOFIELD, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Great Britain.

Dr. D. A. DE VRIES, Agricultural University, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Professor W. R. VAN WIJK, Agricultural University, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Professor Bj. BJERKE, Agricultural University, Ås, Norway.

Dr. E. M. LINDBERG, Agricultural University, Uppsala, Sweden.

Professor DON KIRKHAM, Iowa State College of Agriculture, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A.

The Agricultural University of Wageningen gave moral and material support to the meeting. The interest shown by the Board of Governors of the University and in particular by the President Mr. J. M. VAN BOMMEL VAN VLOTEN, by the Secretary to the Board Dr. A. E. H. R. BOONSTRA, by the Rector Magnificus for 1955, Professor W. F. EIJSVOOGEL, and by several professors and other members of the staff was highly appreciated by those attending the meeting.

The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture gave a generous subsidy and technical assistance. Mr. A. W. VAN DER PLASSCHE, Director General, Mr. A. H. JOURNAL, Head of Foreign Relations at the Ministry, Messrs. A. H. HAAK and S. H. THIO of the International Agricultural Study Centre, and Mrs. J. A. FRAHM, Secretary to the Editorial Board of the Netherlands Journal of Agricultural Science, contributed much to the success of the meeting.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was informed about the project, and the Director of the Agriculture Division welcomed the initiative in arranging a contact between physicists active in agricultural science, and expressed his belief that such a meeting can be of great value to them.

Mr. M. DE NIET, Mayor of Wageningen welcomed the participants on a reception offered to them by the Municipal Authorities.

FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- H. C. ASLYNG,
Hydrotechnical Laboratory, Royal
Veterinary and Agricultural Col-
lege, 26, Rolighedsvej, Copenhagen,
Denmark.
- J. F. BIERHUIZEN,
Laboratorium voor Plantenphysio-
logisch Onderzoek, Rijksstraatweg
72, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- H. DE BOER,
Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorolo-
gisch Instituut, De Bilt, The Nether-
lands.
- M. DE BOODT,
Rijkslandbouwhogeschool, Coupure
Links 233, Gent, Belgium.
- R. BROUWER,
Botanisch Laboratorium, Grote
Rozenstraat 31, Groningen, The
Netherlands.
- J. BUSINGER,
Instituut voor Tuinbouwtechniek,
S. L. Mansholtlaan 10, Wageningen,
The Netherlands.
- E. C. CHILDS,
School of Agriculture, University
of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.
- N. COLLIS-GEORGE,
School of Agriculture, University
of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.
- J. E. C. COVENTRY,
Rhodesia and Nyasaland Scientific
Liaison Office, Africac House,
Kingsway, London W.C. 2, England.
- A. L. C. DAVIDSON,
23 Collingham RD., London S.W. 5,
England (temporary address).
- L. J. L. DEIJ,
Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorolo-
gisch Instituut, De Bilt, The Nether-
lands.
- J. F. DUGUID,
Box 8100, Causeway, Salisbury,
S. Rhodesia.
- L. F. ERNST,
Landbouwproefstation en Bodem-
kundig Instituut, Van Hallstraat 3,
Groningen, The Netherlands.
- M. HALLAIRE,
Institut National de la Recherche
Agronomique, Route de Saint-Cyr,
Versailles (Seine-et-Oise), France.
- W. HESSE,
Institut für Agrarmeteorologie der
Universität Leipzig, Arthur-Feist-
korn-Strasze 3, Böhlitz-Ehrenburg
b. Leipzig, Germany.
- J. W. HOLMES,
Division of Soils, C.S.I.R.O. Waite
Institute, Adelaide, Australia.
- G. HYGEN,
Norges Landbrukshøgskole, Volle-
bekk, Norway.
- † C. KRAMER,
Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorolo-
gisch Instituut, De Bilt, The Nether-
lands. (Deceased Dec. 24, 1955).
- G. KVIFTE,
Fysisk Institutt, Norges Landbruks-
høgskole, Vollebakk, Norway.
- W. M. LEVI,
Meteorological Service for Israël,
Lod-Airport, Israël.
- J. M. LYSHEDE,
Det Danske Hedeselskabs Kultur-
tekniske Afdeling, Hydrometriske
Undersøgelser, Skellet 1, Slagelse,
Denmark.
- A. MÄDE,
Zentral Institut für Angewandte
Meteorologie, Grosze Steinstrasse
12, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- MR. & MRS. M. MILOSAVLJEVIC,
University of Belgrado, Dubljanska
94, Beograd, Yougoslavia.
- J. L. MONTEITH,
Rothamsted Experimental Station,
Harpenden, Herts, England.
- P. MORTIER,
Rijkslandbouwhogeschool, Gent,
Belgium.
- M. OLSEN,
Hedeselskabet, Viborg, Denmark.
- P. K. PEERLKAMP,
Landbouwproefstation en Bodem-
kundig Instituut T.N.O., Van Hall-
straat 3, Groningen, The Nether-
lands.
- H. L. PENMAN,
Rothamsted Experimental Station,
Harpenden, Herts, England.
- R. W. PRUNSTER,
Regional Pastoral Laboratory, Post
Office Box 26, Deniliquin, S 6,
N.S.W., Australia.
- B. RAMSAUER,
Bundes-Versuchsinstitut für Kultur-
technik und Technische Boden-
kunde in Petzenkirchen, Österreich.
Stubenring 1, Wien I, Austria.
- W. RENTSCHLER,
Institut für Physik und Meteorolo-
gie der Landw. Hochschule Hohen-
heim, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Ger-
many.
- N. E. RIDER,
Meteorological Office, School of
Agriculture, Cambridge, England.
- R. K. SCHOFIELD,
Rothamsted Experimental Station,
Harpenden, Herts, England.
- K. SCHUBACH,
Deutscher Wetterdienst, Bockenhei-
mer Landstrasse 42, Frankfurt/M.,
Germany.
- G. W. SCOTT BLAIR,
National Institute for Research in
Dairying, Shinfield, Reading, Eng-
land.
- I. SESTOFT,
Det Danske Meteorologiske Insti-
tut, København K., Denmark.
- R. O. SLATYER,
Land Research and Regional Sur-
vey Section, C.S.I.R.O., Box 109,
City, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia.
- L. P. SMITH,
Meteorological Office M.O. 19,
Headstone Drive, Harrow, England.
- G. STANHILL,
National Vegetable Research Sta-
tion, Wellesbourne, Warwick, Eng-
land.
- W. J. STAPLE,
Soil Research Laboratory, Swift
Current, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- S. UHLIG,
Deutscher Wetterdienst, Kurhaus-
strasse 9, Bad-Kissingen, Germany.
- H. J. VENEMA,
Laboratorium voor Plantensystema-
tiek en -geografie, Landbouwhoge-
school, Rijksstraatweg 37, Wage-
ningen, The Netherlands.
- D. A. DE VRIES,
Laboratorium voor Natuur- en
Weerkunde, Landbouwhogeschool,
Duivendaal 2, Wageningen, The
Netherlands. *)
- G. P. WIND,
Centraal Instituut Landbouwkundig
Onderzoek, Duivendaal, 10, Wage-
ningen, The Netherlands.

*) Now : C.S.I.R.O. Division of Plant In-
dustry, Regional Pastoral Laboratory, Deni-
liquin, N.S.W., Australia.

F. WOELFLE,
Deutscher Wetterdienst, Bockenheimer Landstrasse 42, Frankfurt/M., Germany.

MRS. R. I. WOLFF,
Technion, Israël Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israël.

J. P. M. WOUDENBERG,
Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut, De Bilt, The Netherlands.

W. R. VAN WIJK,
Laboratorium voor Natuur- en Weerkunde, Landbouwhogeschool, Duivendaal 2, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

LADIES ACCOMPANYING PARTICIPANTS

MRS. KVIFTE.
MRS. MONTEITH.
MRS. MORTIER.
MRS. PENMAN.

MRS. SCOTT BLAIR.
MRS. SCHOFIELD.
MRS. STAPLE.

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

Chairman : Dr. R. K. SCHOFIELD.

Introduction to main subject : Dr. H. L. PENMAN.

Wednesday 7th

- 14.00–14.15 Opening by Mr. J. M. v. BOMMEL VAN VLOTEN, President of the board of governors of the Agricultural University.
- 14.15–15.30 PENMAN — Evaporation, an introductory survey.
- 15.30–16.30 Discussions, discussion-leader : SCHOFIELD.
- 20.00–22.00 Discussions, discussion-leader : SCHOFIELD.

Thursday 8th

- 9.30–12.00 Short communications on evaporation :
HOLMES, MONTEITH, STAPLE, BROUWER, NEALE, RAMSAUER, HESSE, MAKKINK, SLATYER, BUSINGER.
Discussion-leader : SCHOFIELD.
- 14.00–17.00 Short communications on miscellaneous subjects :
SCOTT BLAIR, VAN STRALEN.
Discussion-leader : KVIFTE.
MORTIER-DE BOODT, RENTSCHLER.
Discussion-leader : HESSE.
SESTOFT, RENTSCHLER.
Discussion-leader : MORTIER.
BOEKEL, PEERLKAMP, ERNST.
Discussion-leader : CHILDS.
- 20.00–22.00 Reception by the Mayor of Wageningen.

Friday 9th Field trip to the North East Polder.

Saturday 10th

- 9.30–12.00 Short communications on miscellaneous subjects :
RENTSCHLER.
Discussion-leader : SCOTT BLAIR.
DE VRIES, STERK.
Discussion-leader : RENTSCHLER.
Free discussion on soil moisture :
Discussion-leader : SCHOFIELD.
- 14.00–17.00 Discussion on future cooperation of physicists in agriculture.
Introduction : VAN WIJK.
Discussion-leader : SCHOFIELD.
Discussion on education in physics and meteorology at the agricultural universities.
Introduction : RENTSCHLER.
Discussion-leader : SCHOFIELD.

Sunday 11th

14.00–18.00 Excursion to "De Hoge Veluwe" (National Park).

Monday 12th

- 9.30–12.30 Discussion on main subject.
Short communication by HALLAIRE.
Discussion-leader : SCHOFIELD.
- Afternoon Field trip to the horticultural district of Aalsmeer.
- 19.30 Dinner for participants and guests.

Tuesday 13th

- 9.30–12.00 Discussion on main subject, and conclusions arrived at the meeting.
Discussion-leader : SCHOFIELD.

When the meeting was in progress a paper by Dr. L. CAVANILLAS in the Spanish language was received. It is incorporated in the proceedings of the meeting but it was not possible to have it discussed.