

# Announcing

## e-AFRICA 2010

### 1<sup>st</sup> International ICST Conference on e-services for Agriculture, Food, EnviRonment and Life ScienCes in Africa

#### Improving the quality of life through ICT

**September 9-10, 2010 - Johannesburg, South Africa**

#### Conference Focus

E-Agriculture has a crucial role in the empowerment of farmers in rural areas all over the world through information and communication processes, supporting them so they can improve the quality of life for themselves and for their families. The technological interventions can raise the living standards in marginalized communities by leveraging agricultural output and improvement of through technological interventions. ICT technologies give access to timely information such as weather forecasts, better pricing and allow the facilitating on-line trading which can improve the productivity of rural agricultural activities.

Furthermore, the deployment of ICT can provide a framework for monitoring of the use and efficient allocation/exploitation of natural resources as well as the support for remote diagnosis and treatment of diseases, providing a valuable tool for the improvement of the quality of Life.

The two day conference will focus on for the conceptualization, design, development, evaluation and application of innovative ways to use Information and Communication Technologies in the rural domain. The conference will, among others, explore the environmental impact of E-Agriculture in the improvement and more efficient use of natural resources and exploitation of nature's potential towards a sustainable growth that best matches Africa's needs. In this course, current trends in the fields of Agroecology and Organic Agriculture and the way these can be supported through e-Agriculture, as well as particular applications and use cases that meet the needs of the African continent will be presented and discussed. In parallel, impact that the use of e-services can have in the field of Food, Earth and Life sciences, taking into account the particularities of Africa, will be evaluated.

The conference will bring together scientists, government agencies, technology developers, engineers and NGO in an attempt to create a platform to exchange ideas and best practices on the implementation of e-Services for Agriculture, Food, Environment and Life sciences, with emphasis on e-Agriculture initiatives worldwide.

The event will include plenary sessions with distinguished keynote presentations and panel discussions with leading experts on cross-domain issues. In the context of the event, participants will be offered the choice to participate in interesting presentations and discussions in the context of four different tracks including Business Applications, Innovations for Engineering, Tutorials and Workshops, and an Entrepreneurial Track.

## Call for Papers

e-AFRICA is looking for scientific papers to be submitted in the following areas:

- ICT and Organic Agriculture/Agroecology.
- On-line trading of agricultural products.
- Supporting agricultural education/training through ICT.
- Raising awareness on environmental issues through the use of web technologies.
- Monitoring and decision support systems for environmental protection.
- ICT support for earth sciences.
- Improving quality of life in rural areas through ICT.
- Robotics and automation systems in agriculture and environmental protection.
- Web and mobile services for environmental/agricultural issues.
- Enhancing chain management and traceability in agriculture chain through novel technologies.
- ICT adoption in Africa.

## Important Dates

Submission deadline: May 3, 2010 (extended deadline)

Notification deadline: June 4, 2010

Camera ready deadline: June 28, 2010

The submitted papers will be published through Springer's LNICST notes. Formatting instructions and the LNICST style files can be obtained via <http://www.springer.com/computer/lnicst>.

## General Chair

### **Professor Alexander B. Sideridis**

President of the Hellenic Scientific Council for the Information Society (HSCIS)

President of the European Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture, the Environment and Food Science & Technology (EFITA)

Director of Informatics Laboratory at AUA, Athens, Greece

For more information on the conference please visit:

**[www.eafricaconference.org](http://www.eafricaconference.org)**