

Institute for Life Sciences

Crop Systems Engineering Seminar Series

Prof. Wilfred Otten, University of Abertay Dundee

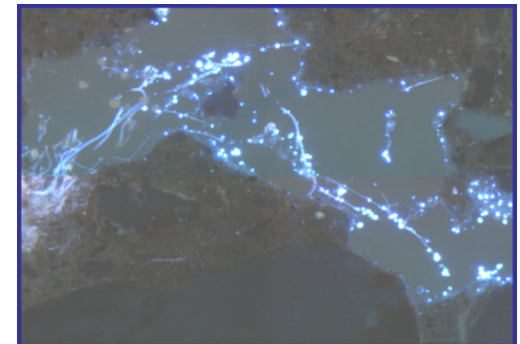
“Soils: a true frontier of science”

Friday 15th February 2013, 13:00

Building 32/3077



Prof. Wilfred Otten
Biophysics Soil Ecosystems



Modern civilisation depends on a thin layer of soil covering Earth's surface. We are thinning this critical layer at a rate slow enough to prevent immediate anxiety in society but fast enough to threaten long term survival. In this talk I demonstrate how we continue to get soil management wrong and still lack a fundamental understanding of soils. I will argue that novel mathematical approaches are required to deal with the complexity of soils, and will explore the use of exciting technologies including X-ray CT, 3D printing and use 'invisible soils' to make soil clear as mud in an attempt to link the processes at scales of microorganisms to emergent behaviours of ecosystems.

