Editorial for special issue of papers from the 9th International Conference on Precision Agriculture (ICPA)

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The 9th International Conference on Precision Agriculture was held in Denver in July 2008. The conference was organized jointly by Colorado State University, Foundation for Agronomic Research and the International Plant Nutrition Institute. Dr. Raj Khosla was the Chairperson for this conference. The conference attracted more than 450 agricultural scientists from several academic disciplines, industry professionals, producers, extension agents, crop consultants and others. Forty-three countries were represented. There were some 250 oral and poster presentations on several aspects of Precision Agriculture (PA); it is from these that some special issues of *Precision Agriculture* are being assembled. In all cases, the papers have been expanded into papers suitable for the Journal and have been reviewed by at least two reviewers.

The six papers in this first special issue cover a range of topics; the two on remote sensing and one on laser induced fluorescence spectroscopy reflect the current trend for papers on non-invasive techniques in precision agriculture in the Journal. The paper on *Arachis hypogaea* (peanut) is an unusual topic and indicates the variety of crops to which the technology of precision agriculture is now being applied. The paper on irrigation from authors in New Zealand raises concerns about the need to use water in a more site-specific way because of the competing uses for this increasingly important resource. Finally, but by no means least, there is a paper on the economics of variable-rate applications. Such papers are of great importance because farmers need to be convinced of the added value of the investment required by PA.

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