

The SpecNet Europe meeting took place at Monte Bondone, Italy from June 29 to July 4, 2008. Approximately 30 participants from 9 countries attended the meetings.

A main focus of this meeting was the application of simple, 2-band radiometers (e.g. NDVI sensors, PRI sensors, and Water Band Index sensors). Participants field-tested a number of the commercial and “home-made” designs available.

In addition to comparative field tests of sensors, the meeting included plenary presentations and breakout groups covering recent research linking optical sensors to flux measurements, issues of sensor design, and field protocols. For example, the effects of sensor field-of-view (e.g. narrow FOV vs. cosine foreoptics) and look angle (e.g. nadir vs. hot-spot) on retrieved reflectance were explored. The participants reviewed the many common sensor designs now in use, both commercial and “home-made,” and the challenges associated with the lack of any widely accepted standards. The meeting also covered strategies for data integration and comparison between disparate sensor designs.

Future plans discussed at the meeting included plans for publications, data integration, and funding of future SpecNet activities. Future meeting topics include informatics, the continued development of a vegetation spectral “library,” further field tests and demonstrations, including a field course suitable for training graduate students in field spectrometry.

SpecNet members are developing course modules for this field course, tentatively planned for 2009.

SpecNet participants continue to work with the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) to develop effective web tools for delivering sample data and metadata describing diverse applications of field optical sensor data. Collaborating sites and investigators are encouraged to contact John Gamon (jgamon@gmail.com) or Rick Reeves (reeves@nceas.ucsb.edu).

Further meeting details can be found at:

<http://conferences.cealp.eu/specnet2008>