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### The new functionalities of *www.aiia.it*

The Italian Association of Agricultural Engineering has a presence on the World Wide Web since 2002, thanks to prof. Ettore Gasparetto. In the subsequent years the groups of Bologna and Milan have been responsible for maintaining the hardware and software structure, updating constantly the content according to the need of AIIA presidents.

Recently this activity has received a new impulse from prof. Alessandro Santini, through a complete redesign of the setup, looking for a greater interface usability, easier updating of content and easier management of the ever growing database.

The first evidence of this transformation has been the moving from domain *www.aiia.info* toward the new *www.aiia.it* that has recently become available. It should be noted that the old domain *aiia.info* will remain online for few months, until the contract will expires. An automatic redirect is actually working for those who still connect to the old address.

The figure 1 shows the appearance of the new homepage, where the central space is dedicated to the most recent information. In the following text is reported a brief showcase of the most relevant features of the new AIIA portal.

(1) it is possible to translate in the main European languages the content of every page, using the small rectangular flag icons in the upper right corner. This is an automatic translation not very reliable, however capable to continuously adapt himself to the modifications in the pages content and will be probably sufficiently useful for international visitors.

Along the same line is available the banner "AIIA - Italian Society of Agricultural Engineering". This provide an active link that allows the user to return to the homepage from any internal page.

(2) On the left side there is a quick links column. The first link "Home" has the same goal of the banner "AIIA" in the top of the webpage.

The "Archivio News" (News Archive) opens an informative section, where the most important communications to AIIA members are stored. E.g. are reported news about periodic AIIA meetings or scientific conferences. Particularly the news are divided as information directly related to AIIA activity (AIIAnews) and others (AltreNews) such as CIOSTA conferences.

The "Journal of Agricultural Engineering" link points to specific web pages of the Journal of the Association: *www.jae.unibo.it*.

The fourth link "Storico Convegni AIIA" includes a list of the AIIA conferences held since 1966. Particularly, for the last one held in Ischia in September 2009, are stored even all the documents (in PDF format) divided by sessions.

All the stored documents are being indexed by the major search engines. As a consequence these papers, even in Italian, will gain a greater visibility.

Looking ahead, the webspace *aiia.it* could provide a base for the conservation of proceedings of next AIIA meetings.

The box below, "Calendario Convegni" (Meetings Schedule), is related to the AIIAnews section providing a useful visual representation of it. AIIA related events, past and planned, are shown on a monthly calendar.

It is sufficient to pass on the colored checkboxes with the mouse pointer to open a floating window that contains the specific information. One click leads on active link bring directly to the related page. As an example is possible to experience operating on April 2011.

The last box in the lower side provides specific areas for each of the seven sections of AIIA.

(3) this menu line it is probably self-explanatory. The first item "Storia" contains a chronology of AIIA activities since the foundation. The sections "Subscriptions" refer to the registration of new members (individual or collective), while "Struttura Organizzativa" describe the current composition of the board, the statute and rules of the Association. Moreover it is possible to search inside the directory of AIIA members. The item "Convegni" is obviously linked to the news section, being an archive of conferences of interest for AIIA. The interface of this section, very intuitive, allows some practical functions of sorting and searching.

The item “Links Utili” (Useful Links) is designed to quickly connect *aiia.it* to other web structures of similar national and international associations: CIGR, EurAgEng and ISSA. Finally, the “Documenti” (Documents) section contains all the downloadable materials available on the site. This material is distributed across different pages and is referred from other part of the web structure, but could it be useful to find it quickly as aggregate.

(4) Among other features, that we invite to explore, we would highlight the internal search engine (see the small window “search” on the right side) and the “site map” link which shows (bottom right) a summary of the structure of the website dynamically generated, being so automatically updated.

All features are fairly intuitive to use, as a consequence we do not want insist here on deep details, considering sufficient just some direct experience. It with a group of tools whose operating modes are now part of the professional practice for all of us.

The developing and feeding of *aiia.it* is going on with the aim to offer new services, such as a periodical newsletter.

As a conclusion *aiia.it* is currently a versatile platform, ready to host and organize material that AIIA members will consider of general interest for association.

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the AIIA website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'Struttura', 'Struttura Organizzativa', 'Congressi', 'Info AIIA', and 'News'. Below the navigation is a large banner image with the text 'AIIA - Italian Society of Agricultural Engineering'. The main content area is divided into several sections: a sidebar on the left with a menu for 'Home', 'Archivio News', 'Journal of Agricultural Engineering', and 'Centro Congressi AIIA'; a central section with a 'Benvenuti nel nuovo sito dell'Associazione Italiana di Ingegneria Agraria' message and a 'Calendario Congressi' calendar; and a right sidebar with a search bar, 'In evidenza' section, and 'Recenti Download' list. A 'Mapa del sito' link is located in the bottom right corner.