



Agrisoft Systems NEWSLETTER

Thirty-first edition, Oct.— Dec. 2019

Message from the Management

A look back at 2019 and outlook for the coming year

Dear Customers and Friends,

On behalf of the entire Agrisoft Systems team I would like to extend our best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year 2020! As usual in our new year's edition of the newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to give you a short summary of the most important happenings at Agrisoft in the last year and take a look at general plans for 2020.

On the development front, the last year was unusual in that it did not contain a release of a major new version of OMP. This was due to the fact that with the planned migration to a SQL Server back-end, we have been working on perhaps the single biggest change from a technical perspective in the history of OMP. While the pure migration of the program itself would already be technically challenging, of course we also want all new versions to include significant new functionalities and features for our users. The upcoming new release, which carries the version number OMP 10.0, will therefore include a large number of additions and improvements, including many things that were requested by our customers around the world. For example, the new version will include the possibility to export data to Excel from all data analysis forms – a very powerful feature because of the fact that local filters and sorting can be applied on data analysis forms to extract exactly the data you need. The mechanism of global filtering has been recoded to avoid having to re-query all forms on activation, improving the general responsiveness of the program. Making use of the fact that the new SQL Server database contains data from all add-ins, OMP 10.0 will include crop budget data on a number of forms and reports in the main OMP application, including an all-new flexible analysis form for monthly yield parameters. On the topic of nutrient management, critical leaf and rachis levels can now be entered on the basis of user-defined age groups, while OMP can now also handle additional nutrients Cl, Si, Fe and Zn. The

entire short term forecasting calculations within the OMP BBC add-in were rewritten to provide additional flexibility. In particular, it is now possible to base production forecasts on the previous months' ABW within each block rather than using the average ABW of the entire age group, and seasonal variations in monthly ABW increase rates can be taken into account for plantations with a strongly seasonal climate.



While the points listed above are far from a complete list of the things to look forward to in the new OMP, this would go beyond the capacity of this newsletter article. A more detailed description and explanation of new features will be provided in the product documentation as part of the new release. Development of new program features for OMP 10.0 has been completed, but a couple of open points that we are still working on are the setup and migration tool to simplify migration of existing OMP data from version 9.3 Access data files to the SQL Server database. Alongside this we are well into the pre-release testing phase, so although we cannot set a definitive release date yet we are hopeful that it is not too far away at this point.

Although the OMP 10.0 development was the main focus of our work this year, this was not the only project we have been working on. Another major project that has been on-going for the past few months is the development of a new standalone thematic mapping application. This OMP Mapper program will allow for thematic mapping of a very large range of OMP parameters. The main difference to the existing OMP GIS application is that this requires either MapInfo or ArcGIS as a host program. This fact means that there



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are additional costs associated with using the host program, which typically means that OMP GIS is only installed on the computer of a dedicated GIS operator. This of course limits the usefulness of the program because other users have to request GIS maps from the GIS operator rather than being able to generate and analyze maps on demand. We are confident that this increased accessibility of the new OMP Mapper will make it significantly easier to harness the power of spatial analysis and thematic mapping of OMP data in the future.

For the upcoming year, clearly the main focus initially will be to complete the OMP 10.0 release, while also continuing on with the new OMP Mapper application. Beyond this, we have a number of interesting projects on our list, many of which would be designed in cooperation with our partners at Tropical Crop Consultants Limited (TCCL). One concerns a new module focused on planning and recording of regular field work activities and the associated resource usage. This module will cover all types of resources including

labor mandays, machine hours, tools, agrochemicals and fuels. Getting a clear picture of where and for which activities which resources are used is very important to help increase efficiency and sustainability. Another addition that is high up on our to do list is a module for green house gas emissions, in particular from land conversion, fertilizers and fossil fuel usage. With the effects of climate change becoming more drastic by the year all over the world, it is clear that monitoring and minimizing emissions must become one of the main aims for the oil palm industry as we move into the new decade. A third module we are thinking about is to incorporate basic mill data into OMP with the aim of analyzing and increasing oil extraction rates. While a final decision on which project will be tackled next will be taken after the OMP 10.0 release, it is already clear that there are many interesting possibilities for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Max Kerstan



Palm oil fruit harvest, Malaysia. Photo by Craig Morey.



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From the developers desk

A selection of the on-going developments and plans which are part of our constant efforts to continue to improve Agrisoft products.

OMP Mapper

- Completely new standalone thematic mapping application
- Independent of GIS host programs like ArcGIS and MapInfo
- Mapping using user-defined thematic ranges for all numeric parameters
- Point maps for geo-referenced OMP Field Survey results
- Continued support for custom background layers and exporting to PDF or Google Earth
- Potential options of downloading satellite imagery including spectral imagery

This and that

- Importing OMP FS definitions including survey types, questions and expression
- Additional nutrients in OMP Fertilizer Planner
- Revamped OMP BBC forecast with additional flexibility
- New data analysis form for all kinds of monthly production parameters
- Translation for OMP Fertilizer Planner
- Improved analysis of effects of palm thinning
- User-defined age bands for leaf and rachis critical levels

New setup and upgrading procedure

- Modernized setup and uninstaller application
- Greatly simplified application of patches and database upgrades, no need to manually import data from previous versions
- Automatic saving of database links to avoid manual relinking after installation
- setup file size