



Dr. Holm Tiessen, Director, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, IAI

Dr. Tiessen's educational background is in biology, soil science and agricultural production systems with a B.Sc., (Cell & Molecular Biology) from King's College, London, U.K., in 1976, and a Ph.D., (Soil Science) from University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, in 1982. He has worked in the areas of nutrient availability and cycling in natural and agricultural ecosystems; carbon cycling; soil organic matter turnover and stabilisation; tropical landuse; drivers of and constraints on agricultural development. He has held professorships in the Soil Science Department of the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and as head of the institute for tropical agronomy in the University of Goettingen, Germany. In 1998 he received the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Science Prize for his work on tropical landuse systems. Resulting from his engagement in global change science, he received the IPPC's recognition for contributions to the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. He has been active on the executive committee, Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, International Council of Scientific Unions since 2001.

Dr. Tiessen has more than 20 years of professional experience in science and science management, and international program funding. During his academic career, Prof. Tiessen developed and conducted university courses on International Development in Agriculture; Soil Biochemistry, Nutrient Cycles in tropical Soils; Management of Semiarid and Marginal Lands. He has held or still holds visiting scientist or professorships at the Centre for Development Research at the University of Bonn, Germany; Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, Argentina, Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan, México; Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas and Unversidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil.

Since 2005 he is leading the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research concentrating on science governance and the management of international science personnel, finance and administration. He is coordinating the scientific research program of IAI, is responsible for the efficient operation of the Directorate, represents and promotes IAI in diplomatic, political an international fora, prepares and submits long range plans, financial policies and the annual program budgets.

Dr. Tiessen has edited and co-edited 8 books. Authored and co-authored 28 book chapters, 65+ peer-reviewed articles and 8 technical reports, and is a member of the Editorial Board, Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems.