

UK Irrigation Association

An independent organisation promoting
the wise use of water for irrigation



UKIA Spring conference

The changing nature of water management

How do irrigators engage with change?

Wednesday 28 February 2018

09.40 - 16.00 Registration from 08.50

Special guest speaker: Dr Wiehann Steyn HORTGRO S Africa



Western Cape is in the grip of a major drought and discussions in Cape Town are about '*day zero*' - when the taps are forecast to run dry - sometime in March 2018 .

Wiehann works with farmers and will discuss how they are coping with drought, and the implications for S Africa and UK food security - UK imports 15% of fresh fruit from SA.

Venue:

Orton Hall Hotel, Peterborough PE2 7DN

The changing nature of water management

How do irrigators engage with change?



Many changes are afoot for abstractors as Defra and the Environment Agency seek ways to improve future water resources management for all. Defra has published a plan to reform water regulation by addressing unsustainable abstraction and modernising the abstraction regime. New regulations are now in force which brings exempt abstractions, such as drip irrigation, into the licensing system. And building on Defra's catchment-based approach (CaBA) introduced in 2011, Defra wants to build a stronger catchment focus which brings together the Environment Agency, abstractors, and catchment groups to take more responsibility for managing catchments and developing local water management solutions.

What do all these changes mean for irrigators? Who will manage our catchments? How can abstractors engage with this process? Will this mean more or less water for food production?

Come and engage with - the Environment Agency's Head of Water Resources, and leading figures in irrigated farming to discuss the options available. Plus new ways of looking at irrigation equipment and on farm water management to make best use of your limited water resources.

Drought is never far from mind and so our special guest this year is Dr Wiehann Steyn from Hortgro, South Africa.

South Africa's Western Cape is facing a major drought—the worst in living memory. In Cape Town the talk is about 'day zero' when the taps are forecast to run dry. South Africa supplies 15% of UK's fresh fruit, and Western Cape is a major supplier of apples, stone fruit, and grapes. Dr Steyn, who works closely with farmers in the region, will provide us with a first-hand account of how farmers are coping and the implications for food security in both South Africa and the UK.

Who should attend

- Farmers
- Growers
- Land-owners
- Water abstractor groups
- Consultants
- Equipment suppliers
- Researchers
- Environmental groups
- Hydrologists and engineers
- Government agencies
- Local authorities
- Supermarkets and suppliers

How to register

Go to UKIA website for link to conference registration

www.ukia.org

Or contact Ruth T: 01427 717629 E: r.gage@ukia.org



Programme

08.50 Registration open with coffee/tea

09.40 Welcome and introduction

09.45-10.15 **Paul Hickey Head of water resources Environment Agency** Paul will present an overview of the changes taking place in water management, plans for the future, and the potential impacts for abstractors

10.15-10.35 **Paul Hammett NFU Water adviser chairman Water for Food Group (WFFG)** Paul brings a broad abstractor and a food and drink industry perspective to the table to review how these changes may impact future water for food

10.35-10.55 **Question time with Paul Hickey and Paul Hammett**

10.55-11.25 Coffee/tea

11.25-11.55 **John Adlam Dove Associates and WFFG member** John is concerned about water for nurseries – small in area and water needs, but big in investment per hectare. He reminds us that 24 hours without water can bankrupt a nursery business. He brings his unique knowledge and experience to bear on the changes

11.55-12.15 **A farmer perspective** to discuss farming/irrigation experiences and how the future is seen in the light of the changes

12.15-12.45 **Anthony Hopkins Wroot Water and Chair UKIA** Anthony is an irrigating farmer/system designer/equipment supplier. He is at the forefront of the changing nature of equipment and automation and will discuss the continuing search to make best use of available water for irrigation

12.45 - Lunch and visit to exhibition

13.50

13.50-14.25 **Guest speaker Dr Wiehann Steyn HORTGRO Stellenbosch** Wiehann will describe the disastrous drought in Western Cape in S Africa where the talk in Cape Town is about 'day zero' - when the taps are forecast to run dry. He works closely with farmers in the region and will discuss how they are coping with drought and the implications for S Africa and UK food security - UK imports 15% of fresh fruit from SA.

14.25-14.55 **Matthew Ellison OTT Hydrometry Ltd** Matthew says that cosmic ray soil moisture monitoring (COSMOS) is a 'game changer' for managing crop water requirements. He will review the pros and cons of this innovative technology and other water and soil monitoring devices

14.55-15.25 **Paul Bradford Consultant** Our final speaker Paul, will describe the Suffolk approach to making best use of available water resources. He is consultant to the Holistic Water Management Project which is developing new collaborative ways of delivering flood alleviation, more reliable water resources for all users, including irrigation, and improving water-based ecosystems and water quality.

15.25-15.45 Speakers panel: open question time

15.45 Chairman's closing remarks