

Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Award of Merit 2013

WILLIAM DAY

FIAgrE

Professor Bill Day has made a tremendous contribution to the agricultural engineering profession and the work of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers that fully justifies him receiving “**The Award of Merit**” from The Institution.

When, early in 2012, The Institution had been invited by Sir John Beddington to provide a response to The Future of Food and Farming Foresight Report relating to the potential future role for agricultural engineering, the technical panel that was assembled to prepare the response unanimously agreed that Bill should be asked to act as editorial coordinator for this task. All recognised the task to be a daunting one that needed to be completed against a tight time schedule. Bill did an excellent job in stimulating ideas, moulding responses from a range of sources and drafting a really good report that fully met the requirements relating to the response to the Foresight Report. This report represents an important milestone for The Institution and will serve as an important reference in the future.

In 2006, The Institution took over ownership of the Biosystems Engineering journal following the closure of Silsoe Research Institute and, in 2007, Professor Bill Day was appointed as Editor in Chief. This was a time of change for the journal as it moved to an electronic submission and paper management system. Bill, with the help of Dr Steve Parkin as Managing Editor, was responsible for overseeing this transition and setting a future direction for the journal in relation to technical content, the scope and scientific standards of published papers. Biosystems Engineering is now a vital asset to The Institution contributing substantially to both the financial health and technical standing of The Institution and this is due in large part to the contribution that Prof Bill Day has made.

While Professor Bill Day’s contribution has had a high profile in recent times, he has had a distinguished career in agricultural engineering during which time he has made important technical and leadership inputs that have influenced the profession. He started his career in the Physics Department at what is now Rothamsted Research, spent two years leading the

Environmental Physiology Group at Long Ashton Research Station and then returned to Rothamsted to lead the Physiology and Environmental Physics Group for a further five year period. In 1988 he joined Silsoe Research Institute as the Head of the Horticultural Engineering Division and in 1999 he became the Director of The Institute. In both of his roles at Silsoe, Professor Bill Day played an important part in setting technical directions for research and development relating to engineering for the land-based sector as well as contributing directly to the research at a personal level.

In summary, Professor Bill Day is a very worthy recipient of the IAgRE “**Award of Merit**” for his contribution to the land-based sector recognising the considerable input he has made to both the profession and the industry during his career and particularly his recent work in coordinating a response to the Foresight Report and as Editor-in-Chief of Biosystems Engineering.