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Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Landwards Conference 2026

Automation in Agriculture – from Innovation to Impact

Date: Wednesday 21st October 2026 – 9.30am-4pm

Location: Harper Adams University

Theme

Our conference invites delegates to explore how automation is changing the face of agriculture.

Abstract

Agricultural automation is reshaping how food is produced, managed and delivered. This conference brings together the people leading that change: engineers developing next-generation technologies, businesses turning ideas into practical solutions, and farmers driving adoption on the ground.

Through perspectives from across the development chain, the programme will examine how far automation has progressed, the challenges still to overcome, and the real-world impact already being achieved.

Looking ahead, speakers will explore the next decade of agriculture—highlighting emerging technologies, evolving farm practices, and the critical role automation will play in delivering a more productive, efficient, and sustainable future.

Attendees will gain insights into real-world applications, cutting-edge innovations, and the challenges that lie ahead. Presenters will showcase research, cutting-edge innovations real-world applications and examine the challenges and potential of this technology.

Cost: £100 + vat to IAgrE Members – £150 + vat for non-Members and £20 + VAT for students

Booking: <https://iagre.org/event/iagre-landwards-conference-2026>

The Programme

9.00 am	Registration & Coffee
9.30 am	Kit Franklin – President IAgrE <i>Welcome & Introduction to the Conference</i>
9.40 am Technical session	Nestor Deniz – Principal Doctoral RA - Harper Institute of Technology <i>Technical development of humanoid robotics in agricultural engineering</i>
10.15 am Technical session	Dan Whitear – Lead Mechanical Engineer – Warwick Agritech <i>Technical development of robotic tree grading</i>
10.50am – 11.20 am	Coffee & Networking
11.20 am Commercial session	James Miller – CEO – Earth Rover <i>A strategic case study</i>
11.55 pm Commercial session	Rhian Griffith – Machinery Safety Consultant <i>Integrating Automation Safely</i>
12.30pm-1.30pm	Lunch & Networking – Field Demonstrations
1.30 pm Farm Adoption	Dermot Tobin – Managing Director Farming at PDM Produce (UK) Ltd <i>User Experience Talk – Robotti & Laser weeding etc</i>
2.05 pm Farm Adoption	William Mumford – CEO - AS Communications (UK) Ltd <i>User Experience Talk - AgXeed</i>
2.40 pm	Panel Discussion Chaired by Kit Franklin, President IAgrE <i>An opportunity to quiz our speakers and have your questions answered</i>
15.20 pm	Round up and thank you Kit Franklin – President IAgrE
15.30pm	Conference Ends – optional Networking