

Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Award of Merit 2015

Brian Chambers ***(posthumous award)***

Professor Brian Chambers (BSc., Ph.D., F.I.Soil.Sci, CSci.) joined ADAS in 1985 after completing a BSc in Soil Science at Newcastle University and PhD studies at Aberdeen University. Latterly as Senior Principal Scientist, he held the post of Head of Soils and Nutrients within ADAS. Sadly, Brian passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in September 2014. He was only 53 years old.

Brian contributed much to the discipline of agricultural engineering. He was internationally recognised for his research interests focused on the efficient use of organic manure and fertiliser nutrients, and the development of sustainable farming systems with a low environmental footprint. He led research projects developing management practices that use organic manures in a nutrient efficient manner to the benefit of soil fertility and quality, whilst protecting the wider environment and food safety.

His knowledge of the interface between industry and government was highly relevant to the remit of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers in particular. Brian made significant contributions to the preparation of written texts, including the Defra "Fertiliser Manual-RB209" (organic manures section), the series of "Managing Livestock Manures" booklets, the "Safe Sludge Matrix" and FSA guidance on "Managing Farm Manures for Food Safety". He was part of the lead development team for the MANNER-NPK and PLANET decision support systems. He acted as a technical expert for Defra in Brussels in support of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone - NVZ Regulations (2008) and the successful NVZ derogation application (2009).

Brian authored over 300 scientific and technical papers on nutrient use and soil science. He was a Chartered Scientist, a Fellow and Past President of the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists, a member of the British Society of Soil Science, an Associate Editor of the Soil Use and Management Journal.

In summary, Brian Chambers' passion for soils and their management led to better understanding of the importance of soil resources in all land based sectors. His exceptional knowledge and infectious enthusiasm inspired many colleagues who had the privilege and joy of working with him. Brian was a rare combination of field scientist, respected advisor and land engineer. It is therefore appropriate that the Institution of Agricultural Engineers recognises his exceptional and unique contributions to the land based industry by giving him the Award of Merit.