

The Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Founded 1938 – Incorporated 1960

IAgrE Honorary Fellow

Professor R Jane Rickson

CEnv FIAgrE

Jane's presidency of the Institution (2018-2020) coincided with an important government focus on reform of agricultural policy with the concept of farm subsidies being linked to "public good". Jane was very active in promoting how soil protection should be one aspect of "public good" and was highly active in media presentations and government committees relevant to the topic. Jane's passion for the subject was undoubtedly influential in shaping government thinking and public awareness of the soil and the need to protect these. During this period, Jane was a great advocate for IAgrE and its purpose.

Alongside this, Jane has been keen to support the IAgrE in its work to promote the wider agricultural engineering discipline and in particular as it relates to food security. In one example, Jane made a significant contribution to the work of the Royal Academy of Engineering and its new Policy Centre. Jane is an active supporter of this initiative and where needed has contributed to discussions and debates as well as policy direction thus keeping IAgrE at the front of developments.

Past IAgrE CEO, Alastair Taylor comments "Jane was a great support during her time as President and helped a great deal in furthering the aims of the Institution through her attendance at events to promote our discipline. At the same time, Jane was a great wise council and helped to bring that test and challenge needed in a dynamic business and I was grateful for her support"

Jane was, of course, the first female president of the IAgrE.

Jane's CV includes:

BSc (Hons) in Geography (2i), King's College, University of London

Diploma of the Associateship of King's College (A.K.C.), London

MSc in Agricultural Engineering (Land Resource Management), Silsoe College

PhD "The use of geotextiles for soil erosion control", Cranfield University

Jane is a Fellow, Chartered Environmentalist, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a member of the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists.

Jane has over 30 years' experience of research, consultancy and teaching in soil and water engineering, specialising in soil degradation processes and sustainable land management. Her work has focused on better understanding of soil functions and their role in the delivery of ecosystems goods and services, including water regulation, agricultural production and carbon storage. She uses multi-disciplinary approaches to integrate fundamental and applied land resources science at a range of spatial and temporal scales. Her work is directed



towards Research Councils, industry, farmers and policy makers.

She is also involved in the training and teaching on Masters Courses in Land Reclamation and Restoration, Environmental Engineering, and Soil Management, as well as bespoke short courses on soil erosion and conservation. Consultancy activities include soil erosion and remediation in mine site rehabilitation.

Jane was part of the team at Cranfield that was responsible for the University being awarded its fifth Queen's Anniversary Prize, for research and education in large-scale soil and environmental data for the sustainable use of natural resources in the UK and worldwide.

Jane won both the 'outstanding achievement' award and the 'Engineering, Science and Maths' award at the annual Women Leaders MK awards in 2019.

Her dedication to the environment and the land-based sector as well as to the Institution make her a worthy recipient of the IAgRE's highest award, that of Honorary Fellow.

