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Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Landwards Conference 2023 – Online

Agricultural Engineering – Feeding the Future

Date: Wednesday 1 November 2023 – 10.30am-2.00pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Background

There is no denying climate change is having a catastrophic effect around the world and we must change how we live, both now and in the future. It is essential that agriculture plays its part in the latter, but additionally sets itself up for the challenges ahead of feeding a growing population. With just under 8 billion on our planet, another 0.5 billion by the end of the decade and just under 10 billion by 2050, the task is significant.

Agriculture is of course the ability to enable the few to feed the many, but the resources to do so are ever reducing. Certainly, in Europe, the land available for agricultural production continues to reduce, so how do we get more from less? Importing and exporting have their own challenges such as their carbon footprint and the public's awareness of food-miles. Irrespective of peoples eating habits, we need to continue to eat, therefore we need agriculture, and of course, we need science and engineering to make it happen.

As the new Monarch King Charles has recently said, "Engineers must save this planet from increasing catastrophe", a very true statement; so what is engineering, science and technology doing to improve efficiency in food production, but in an environmentally sustainable way?

Well, at our conference this year, we intend to explore some very different areas, such as farming without soil, advances in horticultural engineering and live crop nutrient data streaming. We will also be examining the bigger picture of sustainability and decarbonisation from a global perspective. Our presenters will take you through some interesting advances in technology giving you a flavour of how our industry is rising to the challenges ahead.

The event will culminate in a panel discussion, where our speakers will answer questions from the audience and give you a chance to put your views forward. We hope the conference will be of interest to a broad spectrum of people, including students, academics, technologists and industry engineers as we explore the future of food production.

This year we are hosting the Conference online to make it accessible to all.

Cost: FREE to IAgrE Members – £30 for non-Members (or free if you join us)

Booking: <https://iagre.org/events/Landwards-Conference-2023>

The Programme

10.25 am	Arrival
10.30 am	Introductory Remarks - Steve Constable – President IAgrE
10.40 am	On board harvester nutrient measurement technology Will Downie – John Deere Precision Ag Specialist <i>Read more here</i>
11.10 am	Opportunities in robotic horticulture Toby Mottram, FRAEng FIAgrE <i>owner Robot Hayes development centre</i> <i>Toby's abstract and biog details may be found here</i>
11.40 am	Vertical farming Niels Kortstee, – Intelligent Growth Solutions Ltd <i>Head of Product Management</i> <i>Read more here</i>
12.10 -12.40 pm	Break for refreshment
12.40 pm	AGCO's strategy for integrating sustainability into the design, manufacturing and distribution of smart agricultural solutions across the entire value chain Kirsty Pilcher – AGCO <i>Global Sustainability Manager – Decarbonisation</i> <i>Read Kirsty's biography here</i>
1.10 pm	Q&A Speaker Panel Discussion Hosted by Andy Newbold, HonFIAgrE & Editor of the IAgrE Landwards Journal <i>An opportunity to pose questions to our speakers and discuss their views</i>
1.50 -2.00 pm	Close and thanks Charles Nicklin CEO IAgrE