



**UK Irrigation Association**

An independent organisation  
promoting the wise use of  
water for irrigation



**UKIA Spring conference at IRRIGEX**

# Future water for food

**Wed 27 and Thurs 28 February 2019**

**10.15 - 16.15 each day**

**Venue: Peterborough Arena PE2 6XE**

**Members and Non-members are all welcome**

**It's FREE to attend**

**Just register at [www.irrigex.com](http://www.irrigex.com)**

**Thinking of staying overnight?**

**Special room rates at the Marriott Hotel near venue.**

**[Click here to book](#) or telephone Peterborough Marriott hotel  
and quote "Exhibition dinner"**

**Special dinner and networking evening 27 February**

**[Click here to book](#) or call Heather Bailey on 02476 992889**



# Our spring conference at IRRIGEX Future water for food



This year we are joining with the IRRIGEX irrigation exhibition and running our conference programme over TWO days

Droughts, limited water resources, growing water demands for people and the environment, food security concerns, changing water management regulations (and of course Brexit).

What more do we need to think about when we look to secure future water needs for the food industry?

**We have a full programme of top-class speakers** so come along, hear, and engage with our nation's leading experts. You can influence planning and implementation of our future water resources strategy. We want a resilient and sustainable agri-food industry in the UK.

**Choose your day to attend or come for both days!**

## Speakers

Bill Basford consultant

Paul Hammett NFU

Paul Hickey Environment Agency

Ian Holman Cranfield University

Anthony Hopkins Wroot Water

Sir Peter Kendall, Chairman AHDB

Jerry Knox Cranfield University

Robert Michell MD Netafim

Mark Else NIAB EMR

Mark Stalham NIAG CUF NIAB

## Who should attend

- Farmers
- Growers
- Land-owners
- Water abstractor groups
- Consultants
- Equipment suppliers
- Researchers
- Environmental groups
- Hydrologists and engineers
- Government agencies
- Local authorities
- Supermarkets and suppliers

## How to register

Go to the IRRIGEX website to register for this event

[www.irrigex.com](http://www.irrigex.com)

Any problems contact Ruth T: 01427 717629 E: [r.gage@ukia.org](mailto:r.gage@ukia.org)



WEDNESDAY  
27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Chairman: Melvyn Kay  
UKIA Exec Secretary

**Also at this event:**  
Environment Agency surgery  
on abstraction licencing

CEH stand focusing on  
drought assessment and  
management

10:15 - 10:45

Seeking a fair share of water in  
2019 and beyond

**Paul Hammett**

Water Advisor  
NFU



Paul Hammett is particularly interested in the political and regulatory constraints surrounding water use by farmers and growers; and in

finding ways to balance the needs of business and the environment. He will review the wide-ranging challenges facing farmers and grower is the coming year and beyond. Paul also chairs the Water for Food Group (WfFG). A group of organisations which are all involved with water for food production and food security and whose aim is to ensure that agriculture gets a fair share of the nation's water resources.

12:00 - 12:30

How farmers and growers  
can assess and manage drought

**Ian Holman**

Professor in Integrated Land and Water  
Management, Cranfield University



Ian is a leading expert on drought and will present the new D-Risk Tool developed at Cranfield University and road-tested with leading farmers in the Anglian region

to enable farmers and growers to assess and manage the risks of drought. He is currently the Principal Investigator on 6 major UK government and European Commission funded research projects relating to land and water resources management, including two within the NERC "Drought and Water Scarcity" programme.

13:00 - 13:30

The future of  
fruit and vegetable production  
with limited water resources

**Sir Peter Kendall**

AHDB Chairman and Farmer, Agriculture  
& Horticulture Development Board



Peter is well known among the farming community and government, and was President of the NFU for 8 years. Peter's overriding passion to change the image of farming

from an old fashioned industry to one that is innovative, exciting and central to facing the global challenges depicted in the UK Government's Foresight Report on the Future of Food and Farming. He will discuss how AHDB is equipping farmers and growers to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

14:00 - 14:30

Drought resistance, tolerance  
and irrigation response in  
potatoes: pick two from three?

**Mark Stalham**

Senior Research Associate  
NIAG CUF NIAB



Mark has studied water use and irrigation efficiency in potatoes for over 30 years at the University of Cambridge and NIAB CUF. New varieties are often

categorised as drought resistant, but what does this actually mean and can farmers utilize these rankings? He will discuss physiological and practical measures for drought mitigation and present information in the actuality of irrigation responses and how these are influenced by the season, using examples from 1976 and 2018.

15:45 - 16:15

Grow More With Less

**Robert Mitchell**

Managing Director  
Netafim



Robert is a mechanical engineer with over 20 years experience in agriculture working in Europe Asia and the Americas. In UK he leads Netafim - a global leader in

smart irrigation solutions for a sustainable future providing innovative solutions to growers in over 110 countries. He will discuss the challenges and solutions to growing more food with fewer resources.



THURSDAY  
28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Chairman: James Dodds  
Chair, Envireau Water &  
Water management specialist

**Also at this event:**  
Environment Agency surgery  
on abstraction licencing

CEH stand focusing on  
drought assessment and  
management

10:15 - 10:45

Changing technologies  
in irrigation

**Anthony Hopkins**

Chairman UKIA  
Director Wroot Water and Farmer



In 1998 Anthony won a Nuffield Scholarship to study more efficient use of water in agriculture. Based on this experience and his hands-n knowledge of farming, he

re-tuned and expanded Wroot Water into a business that designs and installs drip irrigation and solid-set sprinklers on potatoes and many other field-scale horticulture crops. He provides practical and profitable irrigation solution for growers. Anthony will discuss the innovative changes in irrigation technologies in support of irrigation efficiency, tracking from the early sprinkler systems through to the use of drip irrigation and automation.

12:00 - 12:30

Planning irrigation systems

**Bill Basford**

Independent irrigation consultant



Bill is well known to most people in the irrigation world for his work as a mechanisation consultant, initially with ADAS and more recently as an independent

consultant. He regularly provides training courses for farm managers and operators on a range of irrigation equipment. He will discuss the pros and cons of irrigation scheme planning.

13:00 - 13:30

Future water resources in  
England and Wales

**Paul Hickey**

Head of water resources  
Environment Agency



Paul leads the Environment Agency work on developing future water resources strategy and the supporting regulatory regime. Before joining the Environment

Agency in 2010 Paul worked in the water industry in a variety of regulation and asset management roles. He will present current thinking on the future of water resources in England and how agriculture is part of that strategy which centres around cooperation and collaboration as the means of ensuring we make the best use of available and limited resources.

14:00 - 14:30

A 25-year strategy  
for water and food production

**Jerry Knox**

Professor of Agricultural Water Management  
Cranfield University



Jerry is well known to UKIA members and is a leading national expert of the future demands for water for food. He is responsible for assessing future water needs for food

production within the Water Resources East programme and is currently leading a team preparing a 25-year strategy for water for food production in England. He will discuss what the future may hold for home grown food and the challenges of ensuring there is enough water available.

15:45 - 16:15

Future of irrigation  
for soft and top fruit

**Mark Else**

Head of Crop Science and Production Systems  
NIAB EMR



Mark is the country's leading irrigation researcher on water needs of top and soft fruit, with produce worth some £711 to the nation's economy. His research group has

developed and integrated precision irrigation and fertigation system and applied them to commercial production to help improve on-farm resource use efficiency, productivity and consistency of produce quality. He will discuss this and other future challenges facing the soft and top fruit sectors.