

SmartHort 2019

6-7 March 2019
Crowne Plaza, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

A two-day conference examining the potential of new technologies in light of current labour shortages in UK horticulture.

6 March: Labour-saving technologies

- 9.15 Welcome**
Jane King, CEO, AHDB
 - 9.30 Labour in horticulture. What are the issues?**
Ali Capper, NFU
 - 9.55 What to consider when investing in new technology?**
Jacob Kirwan, G's
 - 10.20 Refreshments**
 - 11.00 The potential of labour saving technologies**
Professor Simon Pearson, University of Lincoln
 - 11.40 Robotics in horticulture. What's next?**
Professor Salah Sukkarieh, University of Sydney
 - 12.05 Panel discussion**
 - 12.40 Lunch**
 - 14.10 The role of robots and humans working together**
Erik Pekkeriet, Wageningen University
 - 14.45 The challenges for developing robots for horticulture**
Professor Josse de Baerdemaeker, University of Leuven
 - 15.20 Refreshments**
 - 15.50 Developing the next generation of horticultural robotic experts**
Matthew Howard and Aran Sena, Kings College London
Fumiya Iida and Luca Scimeca, University of Cambridge
 - 16.30 The funding landscape and enhancing investment in innovation**
Calum Murray, Innovate UK
 - 17.00 Panel discussion**
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6 March: Networking dinner

19.00 Pre-dinner drinks

19.45 Dinner

21.45 Professor David Hughes, after-dinner speaker

7 March: Improving Production Systems

9.15 **Welcome**

Hayley Campbell-Gibbons, Chair, AHDB Horticulture

9.25 **Making innovation happen**

Neville Stein, Horticultural Business Consultant

9.55 **Developing a robotic strawberry harvester**

Dr Vishuu Mohan, University of Essex and Andrey Ivanov, Tiptree

10.30 Refreshments

11.00 *2 separate sessions will run concurrently*

Session 1 - Intelligent Production Systems

- Vertical Farming: Derek Stewart, James Hutton Institute
- Sensing, data use and connectivity: Antony Yousefian, 30MHz
- WET Centre: Mark Else, NIAB EMR

Session 2 - The future of crop protection

- Innovation in disease detection: Gerrit Polder, Wageningen University and Research
- Variable rate sprayer technology: Roeland Coopman, Agrifac
- Robotic and precision weeding: Harry Henderson, AHDB

13.00 Lunch

14.30 **The future of precision farming**

Lee Williams, Harper Adams / Centre for Precision Farming

15.00 **From automation to horticulture. Harnessing new expertise for our industry**

Robert Harrison, WMG

15.25 **Soft robotics and handling delicate crops**

Dr. Martin Stoelen, University of Plymouth

15.55 **How to secure funding and invest in innovation**

Drop-in sessions with Barclays, KTN and BBSRC

