Innovation in Agriculture

The newsletter of the European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng)

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SOCIETY NEWS

Remigio Berruto takes the helm as EurAgEng President

The University of Turin professor, a former CIGR President, leads the Society for 2026–2028 after co-convening this summer's World Congress in his home city.



Professor Remigio Berruto, EurAgEng President 2026–2028. *Full story, page 2.*

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COMING UP

10–11 Nov
LAND.TECHNIK AgEng 2026, Dresden

24–25 Nov
NJF–EurAgEng–Agromek Joint Seminar, Herning

LEADERSHIP

A logistics specialist with a global outlook

Professor Remigio Berruto has taken office as President of EurAgEng for the 2026–2028 term.

Professor Berruto is a full professor in the Interuniversity Department of Regional Studies and Planning (DIST) at the University of Turin, Italy. His research centres on agricultural machinery systems and logistics, and on engineering approaches that make farming more efficient and more sustainable.

He comes to the role with considerable international experience. He was President of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR) in 2021–2022 and has since served as its Past President and Honorary President. He has also led the CIGR Logistics Working Group and is a CIGR Fellow.

During his term, the new President will continue the Society's work on excellence in agricultural engineering, support for young professionals, international collaboration, and stronger links between research, industry and practice.

Torino 2026: a congress to remember

This summer, Professor Berruto co-convened the CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress 2026 in Torino with Professor Patrizia Busato of the Politecnico di Torino. Under the theme *Emerging Technologies and Innovation in Biosystems Engineering*, the congress brought together more than 650 researchers, professionals and industry representatives from over 60 countries.

The congress was also where several of the Society's awards were presented, including the *Biosystems Engineering* Outstanding Paper Awards and the Young Professional Network's Best Poster Award (see page 3).

AT A GLANCE

Theme	Emerging Technologies and Innovation in Biosystems Engineering
Venue	Torino, Italy
Attendance	650+ delegates from 60+ countries
Convenors	Prof. Remigio Berruto and Prof. Patrizia Busato
Next joint congress	Leuven, Belgium, 2030

Looking ahead, the next joint CIGR–EurAgEng congress will be held in Leuven, Belgium, in 2030.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Under 35? Join the EurAgEng YPN

The Young Professional Network brings together young engineers, researchers and professionals across Europe working on agricultural technology, from machinery and sensors to robotics. Members connect, swap ideas and build their professional networks. The YPN's WhatsApp community shares job and PhD openings, conferences, events and EurAgEng news.

Membership is open to young professionals under 35 who are members of their national society. **Latest:** the YPN Best Poster Award went to Andrés Di Lorenzi in Torino (page 3).

How to join

WhatsApp community
Scan the QR code on the YPN page:
eurageng.eu/?page_id=80

LinkedIn
linkedin.com/company/young-professional-network-ypn

BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Outstanding Paper Awards 2026

Three papers were honoured at the World Congress in Torino, covering robotics, lab-on-a-chip biology and water treatment.

Biosystems Engineering, the official journal of EurAgEng, is a peer-reviewed engineering science journal owned by the Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE). Each awards cycle, the journal recognises outstanding papers from the previous two years and announces the winners at a EurAgEng-organised conference. The editors draw up a shortlist and choose the winners from it. Usually three papers are selected, and they are not ranked. Editor-in-Chief Dr Peter Demeyer said this year's winners show both the journal's scientific quality and how interdisciplinary biosystems engineering has become.

Semantics-aware next-best-view planning for efficient search and detection of task-relevant plant parts

Akshay K. Burusa, Joost Scholten, Xin Wang, David Rapado-Rincón, Eldert J. van Henten, Gert Kootstra (Netherlands) · Vol. 248, Dec 2024, pp. 1–14 · doi:10.1016/j.biosystemseng.2024.09.018

Combines perception, AI and robotic decision-making for agricultural automation.

Unveiling host-seeking behaviour in entomopathogenic nematodes via lab-on-a-chip technology

Gianluca Manduca, Valeria Zeni, Anita Casadei, Eustachio Tarasco, Andrea Lucchi, Giovanni Benelli, Cesare Stefanini, Donato Romano (Italy) · Vol. 255, Jul 2025, Art. 104159 · doi:10.1016/j.biosystemseng.2025.104159

Uses lab-on-a-chip methods to study how nematodes find their hosts, with implications for sustainable pest management.

Non-ideal continuously stirred bioreactor model for multi-media denitrifying processes

Lori Han, Bruce Wilson, Joe Magner (USA) · Vol. 253, May 2025, Art. 104129 · doi:10.1016/j.biosystemseng.2025.104129

Models non-ideal bioreactor behaviour in denitrification, to support better design of biological treatment systems.



Outgoing President Prof. Nikos Katsoulas (left) with award winner Andrés Di Lorenzi.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Best Poster Award goes to Andrés Di Lorenzi

Andrés Di Lorenzi of Uruguay's National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA Uruguay) won the Best Poster Award at the World Congress. The award is run by the EurAgEng Young Professional Network (YPN), supported by AgreenCulture, and recognises early-career researchers who communicate their research well.

His poster, *Netting-induced Microclimate Modification Enhances Water Productivity in Citrus Orchards under Temperate Conditions*, looked at how protective netting changes the orchard microclimate and improves water productivity. The work addresses resource efficiency and climate resilience in fruit production. Outgoing EurAgEng President Professor Nikos Katsoulas presented the award.

10–11 NOVEMBER 2026 · DRESDEN, GERMANY

Dresden welcomes the global agricultural engineering community

LAND.TECHNIK AgEng 2026, the 83rd International Conference on Agricultural Engineering, opens next week, and EurAgEng members are entitled to a reduced fee.



LAND.TECHNIK AgEng is one of Europe's longest-established conferences on agricultural engineering and machinery innovation. This year's event takes place at the Maritim Hotel and International Congress Center in Dresden. It is organised by VDI Wissensforum with the Max Eyth Society for Agricultural Engineering (VDI-MEG), in partnership with EurAgEng.

Following on from the CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress in Torino, the conference brings together researchers, engineers, machinery manufacturers and technology developers. The programme features more than 60 technical presentations, with plenty of time to meet international colleagues, manufacturers and suppliers.

ON THE PROGRAMME

Autonomous agricultural robots · tractors and self-propelled machinery · precision agriculture, AI, sensors and simulation · harvesting and tillage · electric drives and powertrains · renewable energy · predictive maintenance · interoperability · machinery safety and design

KEY FACTS

Dates	10–11 November 2026
Venue	Maritim Hotel and International Congress Center, Dresden
Organisers	VDI Wissensforum and VDI-MEG, in partnership with EurAgEng
Programme	60+ technical presentations
Fees	Reduced rate for EurAgEng members. Reduced rates are also available for eligible university members and doctoral candidates, subject to the organiser's conditions.

REGISTER NOW

See you in Dresden on 10–11 November

EurAgEng members get a reduced conference fee. Review the full programme and register online.

vdiconference.com/landtechnik-ageng

24–25 NOVEMBER 2026 · HERNING, DENMARK

Advances and Innovations in Agricultural Engineering at Agromek

The 6th NJF–EurAgEng–Agromek Joint Seminar returns to Herning, alongside one of northern Europe's leading agricultural machinery exhibitions.



Robotics, smart farming and autonomous machinery are among the seminar topics.

The seminar is aimed at agricultural engineers, researchers, industry representatives, advisers and anyone else working on technologies for sustainable farming. It includes research presentations but puts equal weight on knowledge exchange and networking. Contributions on early-stage projects are welcome, as are ideas for collaboration in research, education and advisory services.

Delegates can present orally or as a poster, and all accepted presentations will be published in PDF proceedings.

TOPICS

Robotics · sensors · smart farming · artificial intelligence · imaging · drones · big data and data science · navigation · soil compaction · plant protection · post-harvest technology · circular economy

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 24 November

Presentations and keynote sessions, followed by the Agromek dinner.

Wednesday 25 November

More technical presentations, a group visit to selected Agromek exhibitors in sensors, robots, mapping and innovation, and time to explore the exhibition.

IMPORTANT DATES AND FEES

Registration	Closes **30 October 2026**
Abstracts	Completed abstracts or posters due **8 November 2026**
Members	Discounted fee. Contact your national EurAgEng contact.
Students	Discount available, whether or not you are a member

nmbu.no/en/research/seminar-agromek

FIELD ROBOT EVENT 2027

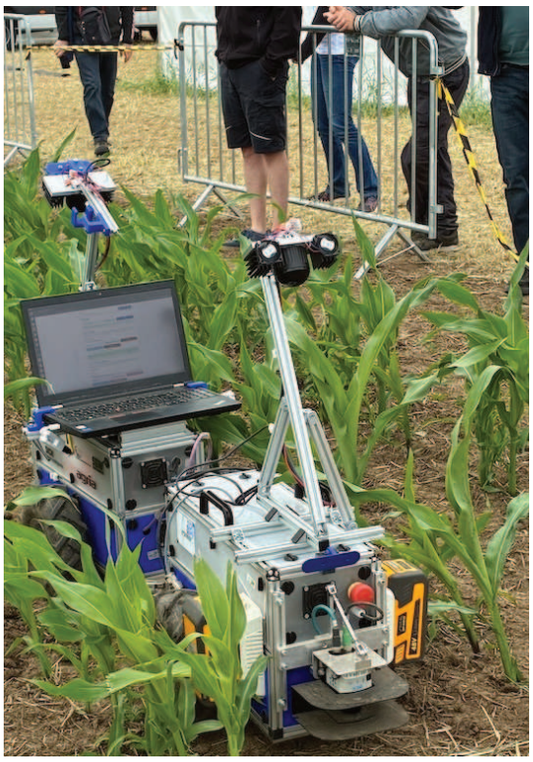
EurAgEng backs the next generation of agricultural robotics

EurAgEng sponsors the Field Robot Event, an international student-led competition in which university teams design, build and test autonomous robots on practical agricultural tasks. The University of Lincoln's Centre for Autonomous Systems is preparing the 2027 edition.

The 2027 event was introduced to the robotics community on 22 October at the *ROS in the Field: Building Open Agri-Food Robotics Together* workshop in Lincoln, led by Jonathan Cox and Emmanuel Soumo. Researchers, engineers and developers were asked which capabilities future field robots should demonstrate and which challenges would make good benchmarks.

The competition focuses on autonomous navigation, sensing, perception and decision-making in real agricultural settings, and encourages collaboration between universities, researchers and industry. For EurAgEng, supporting the event is about developing engineering talent and connecting education and research with the needs of agriculture, where autonomous systems are expected to play a growing role in crop production.

Students, academic teams and industry partners are encouraged to follow developments and consider taking part. fieldrobotevent.eu



University teams test autonomous robots on real agricultural tasks.



Helmut Claas, born 16 July 1926.

SCHOLARSHIPS

CLAAS Foundation boosts support for young agricultural engineers

To mark what would have been the 100th birthday of agricultural technology pioneer Helmut Claas, born on 16 July 1926, the CLAAS Foundation is expanding its support for students.

A new **Helmut Claas Scholarship for North America**, developed with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, will support students starting agricultural engineering degrees there. The Foundation is also raising the first prize of its international Helmut Claas Scholarship for outstanding bachelor's theses in agricultural engineering from **€7,200 to €10,000**. That scholarship was the Foundation's very first support programme.

The Foundation says the investment will strengthen links between European and North American engineering education and help address skills shortages in automation, data, electrification, soil protection and efficient harvesting. In Helmut Claas's own words, “Agricultural technology needs the best minds in the world.”

JOBS

Purdue University seeks an AI specialist for agricultural and natural systems

Purdue University is recruiting a tenure-track **Assistant Professor in Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Systems**. This nine-month academic appointment combines research and teaching across the agricultural, environmental and data sciences. The successful candidate will be expected to build a nationally and internationally recognised research programme.

Applicants should hold, or be close to completing, a PhD in agricultural and biological engineering, forestry and natural resources, agronomy, soil science or a related field. The post could be based in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Agronomy, or Forestry and Natural Resources.

EXPERTISE SOUGHT

Candidates should combine at least two of the following: AI and machine learning; digital agriculture and digital twins; remote and proximal sensing; the Internet of Things; data science and geospatial analysis; agroecosystem modelling; robotics and autonomous systems. The research should aim to raise productivity, optimise resource use, improve system efficiency, and develop operational strategies and logistics. Teaching is at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, mainly in person.

HOW TO APPLY

Review of applications begins on **1 November 2026**. Full details are on the Purdue careers site at careers.purdue.edu (search “Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture”).

Purdue is also advertising related posts in Healthy and Resilient Living Systems (Plant Sciences), AI for Animal Improvement, and Computational Agricultural Systems Modelling (details to follow).

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Dr Reiner Brunsch

Died 22 July 2026, aged 69



Professor Dr Reiner Brunsch

EurAgEng is deeply saddened by the death of Professor Dr Reiner Brunsch, a highly respected agricultural engineer, researcher, university lecturer and scientific leader whose career did much to advance sustainable, practice-oriented agricultural engineering in Europe.

He was Scientific Director of the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB) in Potsdam from 2008 to 2017, having previously led its Technology in Animal Husbandry department.

Within EurAgEng he served on the Executive Board and as Vice-President, helping to develop the Society and to strengthen collaboration across the European agricultural engineering community. His international work reflected a firm belief in cooperation between research, industry, policy and farming practice.

His research took a systems-based approach, particularly in animal production, animal welfare and the environmental sustainability of agricultural systems, and always sought to connect scientific and technological progress with the practical and economic realities of farming. He put that commitment into practice by managing an organic farm in Brandenburg.

Only weeks before his death, he was awarded the VDI's Max Eyth Commemorative Medal for his outstanding contribution to modern and sustainable agricultural engineering.

EurAgEng extends its sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. He will be remembered with gratitude and respect for his contribution to agricultural engineering and for bringing people and disciplines together in pursuit of a more sustainable agricultural future.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events and deadlines

30 Oct 2026	Registration closes NJF–EurAgEng–Agromek Joint Seminar
8 Nov 2026	Abstract and poster deadline NJF–EurAgEng–Agromek Joint Seminar
10–11 Nov 2026	LAND.TECHNIK AgEng 2026, 83rd International Conference on Agricultural Engineering Maritim Hotel and International Congress Center, Dresden, Germany · vdiconference.com/landtechnik-ageng
24–25 Nov 2026	6th NJF–EurAgEng–Agromek Joint Seminar: Advances and Innovations in Agricultural Engineering Herning, Denmark · nmbu.no/en/research/seminar-agromek
2027	Field Robot Event 2027 Hosted by the University of Lincoln Centre for Autonomous Systems · fieldrobotevent.eu
2030	CIGR–EurAgEng Joint Congress Leuven, Belgium



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Have news, an event or an award to share? Send it to Andy for the next issue.

About EurAgEng

The European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng) brings together agricultural and biosystems engineers from across Europe and beyond, connecting research, industry and practice. The Society supports its members through conferences, awards, its Young Professional Network, and its official journal, *Biosystems Engineering*.

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