



# Holistic Water for Horticulture - HWH

## Launch Event

1st May 2019 10:00 - 14:30

Venue: The Garden Room, NIAB EMR, NIAB EMR, New Road, East Malling, ME19 6BJ

### Programme

10:00 – 10:30 Arrival, tea and coffee

#### Session 1 - Setting the Scene for HWH

10:30 – 10:45 *Welcome and Introduction*

**Samantha Jane Hughes, Project Development Manager, South East Rivers Trust**

10:45 – 11:00 *“Water under pressure in the horticultural sector”*

**Paul Hammett, National Water Resources Specialist, National Farmers Union**

11:00– 11:15 *“The Medway Catchment: Water Resources and the Aquatic Environment”*

**Alan Turner Water Resources Manager, Kent County Council**

11:15– 11:30 *“Introducing the HWH project”*

**Samantha Jane Hughes, Project Development Manager, South East Rivers Trust**

11:30 – 11:45 *“Could rainwater harvesting meet your production needs?”*

**Alan Turner Water Resources Manager, Kent County Council /Mark Else Head of Department, Crop Science and Production Systems**

11:45 – 12:00 *“Flowers, bees and flood: Testing and monitoring wild flower interventions for water capture from polythene tunnels and the influence on beneficial insects on crops”*

**Michelle Fountain, Deputy Head of Pest and Pathogen Ecology, NIAB EMR**

12:00 – 12:15 Initial feedback and Questions

12:15 – 13:00 Lunch (45 minutes)

#### Session 2 – Collective Action

13:00 – 14:00 A working session to identify challenges and solutions and develop collective action through the HWH project, agree the next steps and actions to take.

Complete Evaluation Forms

Close of Session 2.

#### Visit to the WET Centre

14:00 – 14:30 The Water Efficient Technologies (WET) Centre at NIAB EMR will allow participants to see first-hand the latest developments in irrigation management, rainwater harvesting and the HWH experiment plots for floral interventions. Dr Mark Else will explain WET Centre and work on rainwater harvesting with KCC. Dr Michelle Fountain will talk about the floral margins, which will bring natural enemies and pollinators to the WET Centre and improve soil condition.



HWH is one of six catchment based projects in pilot areas across the UK that are signatories of the Courtauld Commitment 2025 Water Ambition to deliver collective action to improve the quality and availability of water and cut environmental cost of food & drink in the UK.

The Courtauld Commitment 2025 Water Ambition voluntary agreement brings together companies across the supply chain to make food & drink production more sustainable.

HWH is a project dedicated to promoting sustainable water management by building on existing best practise in commercial polytunnel horticulture in the Medway. The HWH project aims to optimise and build more resilience into the system to bring multiple benefits and then disseminate the results more widely.

This event brings together HWH project partners with polytunnel growers, suppliers, retailers and relevant stakeholders to build support and collaborative action to build on water efficiency, surface water management and wild life improvement measures for polytunnel production systems in the Medway.

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