



Name: Mr Robert A. Birch,

Qualifications: BSc. (Eng), MPhil, R.Eng., PMP

Memberships: Member of Institute of Agricultural Engineers (MIAgrE), The European Society of Agricultural Engineers (EurAgEng) and The International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR)

Courses lectured: Traction and Power Hydraulics (MENG3027), Field Machinery (MENG 3008), Food Engineering (MENG3020), Statics and Strength of Materials (MENG1010) Engineering Dynamics (MENG1004), Bio-systems Engineering Principles (AGCP2000), Quantitative Hydrology module in Integrated Watershed Management (AGSL3004), Practical Skills course in Farm Machinery and Land preparation and Hardscaping construction materials (Agri 1000) for Faculty of Agriculture.

Research Areas and Interests: Design and control of earth-working equipment and tools, Fluid Power Technology and Physical properties of Foods.

Mr. Birch obtained his Bachelor of Science and Master of Philosophy in Agricultural Engineering from The University of the West Indies in 1995 and 2001 respectively. He is a professional engineer registered with the Board of Engineering Trinidad and Tobago since 2002 and a project management professional (PMP) since 2004. He has over fifteen (16) years industrial experience in the areas of Mechanical Engineering, Fluid Power Technology and Project Management. He has been involved in teaching mechanical engineering at the tertiary level for over nineteen (20) years. He began as a tutor in 1995 at the UWI. He then worked as a part-time lecturer for the Chartered Engineering (C.ENG) programme in 1998 at the Institute of Tertiary Tutors. From 2000-2002 he was employed on a part-time basis by Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (ECIAF) to teach Farm Machinery and Farm structures. In 2006, Mr. Birch held a full-time administrative position of Training Manager at MIC, where one of his responsibilities was that of the administration of the Master-craft man certification programme. In 2009, he joined UWI as a full time staff member and presently holds the position of Instructor III. Mr. Birch also represents the National Training Agency (NTA) as their Technical Assessor for Fluid Power programmes and Mr. Birch is currently pursuing doctoral studies in mechanical engineering in the area of machine–soil interactions.