Suat Irmak, PE, Harold W. Eberhard Distinguished Professor, biological systems engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is being honored for his global impact in advancing irrigation engineering and understanding crop engineering interactions.

Irmak is a renowned scientist, researcher, educator and a servant leader who is internationally recognized for his exceptional contributions to the advancement of science, education, and engineering. Irmak has made contributions to the measurement and modeling of surface energy and water vapor fluxes, which play a critical role in understanding the response of agro-ecosystems to changes in environmental and atmospheric parameters to better model water losses for more accurate water balance analyses. Irmak is an international leader in irrigation engineering and evapotranspiration and related topics. He operates numerous large-scale research projects that are designed to advance scientific understanding of various processes related to soil and water resources engineering, evapotranspiration, agriculture, climate, and the interactions among these categories. Irmak’s programs have been instrumental in educating citizens and enhancing the scientific literacy of producers, crop consultants, state and federal agency personnel, next generation scientists and researchers (including post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students), USDA-NRCS field engineers, and other professionals; and also contributed to enhancing the efficiency of irrigation and crop production systems.

A 23-year member of ASABE, Irmak is involved as a leader and member of many ASABE committees, including the Irrigation Management committee, the Sprinkler Irrigation committee, and the Microirrigation committee. Irmak has been very active in organizing sessions and presenting at the ASABE AIM. He has also been an active leader on several international meeting organizing committees including the ASABE International Evapotranspiration Symposium, the International Biosystems Engineering Congress, ASABE Global Water Security Conference and the Food and Agricultural Policy Conference. He is a member and leader with the American Society of Civil Engineers and within the ASABE Nebraska Section. Irmak was selected to serve as a member of the National Water Resources Working Group.

Irmak has authored or coauthored nearly 400 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and conference proceeding papers. Throughout his career, Irmak has received numerous awards. Most recently, he received the 2019 American Society of Agronomy Excellence for Extension Education Materials in Extension Education Community award, the 2019 University Council on Water Resources Education and Public Service award, and the Irrigation Association Partner of the Year award. He has also received six ASABE paper awards, seven Educational Aids Blue Ribbons, and a Standards Development award.