Brian Boman, P.E., is the 2019 recipient of Netafim award for Advancements in Microirrigation for outstanding contributions to the development and implementation of microirrigation technologies and best management practices regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Boman is an emeritus professor of agricultural and biological engineering with the University of Florida, Fort Pierce.

Boman has been a leader in the adoption and use of microirrigation in the Florida citrus industry. His early research focused on components including wetting patterns, friction losses in microsprinklers, and emitter variation and system operation necessary for improved profits. Boman showed that concerns associated with limited microirrigation wetting were unfounded and that microirrigation could actually increase production compared to alternative systems. Studies on young trees demonstrated that microirrigation, coupled with fertigation accelerated growth, shortening the time to harvestable yields, increasing fruit numbers and fruit size, resulting in greater net returns. He also conducted seminal research on reducing damage and clogging of tubing and emitters caused by algae, precipitates, insects, snails, and rodents. Boman is known as the father of the Haiti Greenhouse Revolution, which he started by introducing efficient low-cost production systems as part of the USAID funded WINNER project. Over 400 subsistence farmers in Haiti have built small greenhouses, incorporating microirrigation systems, which has allowed them to grow high-value crops throughout the year. This technology has multiplied farmer income and benefitted the mountain communities through retention of young farmers. An environmental benefit was also realized as greenhouse farmers stopped farming steep slopes, reducing Haiti’s severe erosion problems.

Boman is a 43-year member of ASABE. He is a past associate editor of the Transactions of the ASABE. Boman has also been involved as a reviewer for Transactions of the ASABE and Applied Engineering in Agriculture. He also maintains membership with the American Society of Civil Engineers where he is involved with the irrigation and drainage division and the Environmental and Water Resources Institute.

Boman is author or coauthor of more than 300 book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, and other publications. Throughout his career, Boman has received many awards. Most recently, he received a Distinguished Achievement award from the ASABE Florida Section and an International Fellow award from the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida.