Michel Renard joined the GCIRC in 1986. He was co-president of the Breeding Committee until 2019.

Michel Renard joined a French rapeseed research team in 1974, in Versailles. Michel Renard is retired from INRA. His work concerns the genetic improvement of rapeseed (Brassica napus) and in particular the study of genetic determinants of seed quality, resistance to certain diseases and development, and impact studies.

With the INRA team in Rennes, he is at the origin of one of the "success stories" of French rapeseed research with the development of the cytoplasmic male sterility system obtained in 1983 by fusion of a rapeseed cell and a chlorophyll-deficient rapeseed cell. This system involves the introgression of a gene identified in radish by the Japanese Ogura on its mitochondrial genome. This initially allowed the marketing of hybrid-lined composite varieties, and then, once fertility restoration had been mastered, fertile hybrids. This "OGU-INRA" hybridization system, which increased the hardiness and productivity of rapeseed, has been patented and is used worldwide. The research of the Rennaise team has been hampered since the 2000s by the deadlock on the use of genetically modified organisms in Europe.

He has also held numerous positions of collective interest, including:
Director of the UMR APBV (https://www6.rennes.inrae.fr/igepp_eng/) from 2002 to 2008;
Deputy Head of the Biology and Plant Improvement Department (BAP; previously GAP) of INRA from 2005 to 2013, in charge of varietal innovation and experimental units;
Head of the Oilseed Sector Group of the "Agriculture" scientific department;
Director of the Biogenouest genopole (https://www.biogenouest.org/en/article/gen2bio-2020/) from 2002 to 2012;
President of the "Rapeseed and other Cruciferae" section of the CTPS from 2005 to 2016 and President of the CTPS Inter-section Commission on Organic Agriculture (CISAB) since November 2016.

Retired from INRAE, he is a member of the Haut Conseil des Biotechnologies.