



LANDBOUSKRYWERS  
AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA

# AGR pen

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## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

### Nampo fever brings good vibes

*Nampo Harvest Day 2022 near Bothaville did not disappoint! After two years of not seeing friends, farmers, and colleagues at this iconic event, it was such a treat to once again experience all the great things at Nampo held near Bothaville.*

Not that hosting such an event in present times was without headaches for Grain SA. Between government's Covid-19 regulations, accommodating exhibitors and visitors AND navigating social media politics, it was especially difficult for the organisers to keep all the balls in the air. But wow! How they pulled it off! Our members who attended, could attest that the positive spirit and top-class exhibitions created a memorable experience.

Many of our members, corporate members, previous recipients of the Agri Writers SA Farmer of the Year Awards attended this year's 5-day event. Some of our corporate members and sponsors, like Shell and Bayer, hosted media events and a few other companies too did their bit to help the media gather news and views. FNB's hospitality and coffee was a showstopper while Senwes and Brand Republic brought us interesting discussions

during the Nation in Conversation discussions. The John Deere stand with its massive new combines harvester wowed while Case and New Holland did not disappoint with their respective exhibits. Seeing our friends from Santam Agriculture and meeting with potential new members brought home the notion that being a member of AWSA is really like being part of a family.

What was especially heartening, was the eagerness of show visitors to do business with exhibitors and to support new technology to help them farm more efficient and profitable. It was also cool to see how the interest of members of the main stream media was piqued by Nampo. Increased positive coverage on the agricultural industry will enable the general public to grasp the importance of food and fibre production and the challenges in the sector.

I hope to see more of this positive vibe at Nampo Cape in September when we all get another chance to experience the special atmosphere created by the event organisers.

**Congratulations Grain SA!**

**Liza Bohlmann**  
Chair Agricultural Writers SA



# 2022 IFAJ-Alltech International Award for Leadership in Agricultural Journalism comes to South Africa

## Congratulations to Lindi Botha!

*The IFAJ-Alltech International Award for Leadership in Agricultural Journalism recognizes and rewards excellence and leadership of young journalists within their local IFAJ guild.*

In honor of Dr. Pearse Lyons and his love of storytelling and journalism, Alltech and IFAJ are proud to announce the recipient of the 2022 IFAJ-Alltech International Award for Leadership in Agricultural Journalism is Lindi Botha of South Africa.



**Lindi Botha** is an agricultural journalist and communications specialist, and serves as the deputy chairperson of the Agricultural Writers South Africa. She has an unrelenting passion for agriculture and writing stories that serve to enhance the sector and arm farmers with the knowledge they need to succeed in these times of political, climatic and economic uncertainty.

The fast pace at which the agricultural landscape is changing necessitates an increased awareness to ensure journalists are up to date with the latest trends and technology and Lindi prides herself on effectively and timeously communicating these advancements to farmers.

Communicating success stories within agriculture and ensuring that the sector is seen as a positive contributor to social change and economic upliftment is a core focus of her work.





# New management in the north

*At the recently held general annual meeting of the northern branch of Agricultural Writers SA, the following members were unanimously elected to the management team.*

<b>Chair:</b>	Liza Bohlmann
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Lindi Botha
<b>Secretary:</b>	Gerrit Bezuidenhout
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Denene Erasmus
<b>Additional members:</b>	Vida Booysen
	Magda du Toit
	Jennifer Roets
	Charl van Rooyen

# New Management in the !Xhariep region



*From the left: Hugo Lochner: Plaasmedia, Adele Changuion: Agri Western Cape, Eunice Joubert: Agri-Expo (Chair), Peter Pentz: Groote Post (Vice chair), Adele Engelbrecht: Landbouweekblad, Jeandré Du Preez: Ecocert (Treasurer) not on the photo.*



## MEMBER NEWS

### Glad to meet at Nampo 2022!





# MEMBER NEWS





# MEMBER NEWS





# Entire sector represented at Nampo commented Minister Didiza



*Ms Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (middle), on her visit to the Nampo Harvest Day earlier this week. The chairperson of Grain SA, Derek Mathews and vice-chairperson Jeremia Mathebula accompanied her on a tour of the show.*

*This year's NAMPO Harvest Day exceeded expectations with a solid attendance of 73 000. The week was characterised by an energetic atmosphere that prevailed among exhibitors, producers and visitors – which confirms that NAMPO was missed as a shopping, socialising and networking event during the past two years it could not be held.*

The Harvest Day week started off with a visit by Minister Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The minister's delegation included her two deputy ministers as well as the department's director general, Mooketsa

Ramasodi. During the visit, the Minister also held talks with the Ministers of Agriculture and Land Reform of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as the Argentine Ambassador.

"I tell people that NAMPO is my home. When I was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture in 1994, NAMPO was the first agricultural show I participated in. My visit is about being with the farmers and the industry and looking at what is new regarding machinery and other industries in the sector. At NAMPO, farmers have the opportunity to interact with each other and with stakeholders, but also to see new technologies that exist. "NAMPO



# MEMBER NEWS

represents the vastness and integration of the entire agricultural sector," Didiza said during a press conference.

Grain SA's chairperson, Derek Mathews, said in response that the NAMPO Harvest Day is a phenomenal event and opportunity to meet the suppliers and the whole family that creates the world of agriculture, not only in South Africa, but around the world. "Grain SA appreciates Minister Didiza and her delegation's visit to NAMPO to get to know the producers. This is what we as South Africans must do; we need to get to know each other," Mathews said.

**The exhibitors at NAMPO 2022, large and small, deserve a pat on the back for the standard, effort put in and variety of their exhibits. Nearly 150 of the 800 exhibitors are new this year.**

"It is remarkable that there are new ideas that exhibitors have brought to NAMPO. This is part of the value that producers themselves can experience here. Two years of development in technology and a lot of new innovations – which could not be demonstrated in the past two years – can be seen," said Dr Pieter Taljaard, CEO of Grain SA.

The Nation in Conversation Forum's discussion topics focused on the state of the economy, the responsible use of chemicals, infrastructure and logistics, the regeneration of rural communities, diversification and integration of livestock, data in agriculture and the future of agriculture. Broadcasts of the conversations are available on the Nation in Conversation website.

The digital channel, Agrixtra, which was launched

during Nampo Virtual and can be found on YouTube, broadcast live from NAMPO Park and takes a look at everything that was on display at NAMPO this year.

Dr Dirk Strydom, Nampo, Marketing & Research Coordination Lead at Grain SA, says it is important that there are not only good attendance figures, but that the exhibitors do quality business, have quality conversations with producers and obtain quality sales leads. "It is one great blessing that NAMPO was able to take place this year despite all the challenges. We trust that the non-profit organizations and local communities have benefited as much from this year's NAMPO Harvest Day", said Strydom. "Together with the good attendance figures, NAMPO has only received positive feedback from exhibitors, guests, visitors who have experienced NAMPO for the first time and those who have experienced it many times," said Strydom. This year, several companies within the automotive and agricultural sectors had new product launches during NAMPO.

Over the course of the week, no fewer than 335 planes and 70 helicopters landed on the runway, resulting in 925 visitors to pass through the airspace. The week was characterised by pleasant weather conditions, although heavy rain on Friday afternoon concluded this year's NAMPO Harvest Day on a wet note.

Grain SA also held a wreath-laying ceremony at NAMPO Park's Wall of Remembrance in memory of producers who died in farm attacks and due to Covid-19. ■

**The dates for next year's NAMPO Harvest Day have been set for 16 - 19 May 2023.**





# Bloemskou lok weer talle besoekers

*Die gewilde Bloemskou het ná twee jaar se Covid-stilte weer plaasgevind. Vanjaar se skou wat van 27 April tot 7 Mei op die skouterrein in Bloemfontein plaasgevind het, is baie goed ondersteun deur groot getalle besoekers en meer as 6 000 diere wat deelgeneem het. Dit was ondanks die streng covid-protokolle van die regering wat nagekom moes word asook die verspreiding van bek-en-kloseer buite die beheerde gebiede so 'n paar weke voor die skou begin het.*

Sowat 300 uitstallers, 21 landboukampioenskaps-byeenkomste asook meer as 1 800 kreatiewe handwerkinskrywings het vanjaar deel van die skou gevorm. Volgens me. Elmarie Prinsloo, uitvoerende hoof, was die skou vanjaar, soos voorheen, 'n ekonomiese inspuiting vir Bloemfontein. "Dit was ongelooflik om net die realiteit van die skou te beleef. Ons het tot in Februarie nie geweet of dit wel kon plaasvind nie."

Die skou het oor die jare ook bekendheid verwerf omdat dit die grootste opelug-Saalperd-kampioenskap ter wêreld huisves. Vleissentraal en SA Stamboek se nasionale bulgroei-toetsklas op Maandag 2 Mei het topbulle van 18 verskillende rasse teen mekaar laat kragte meet en in die Absa-interraskompetisie vir vleis- en dubbeldoelbeeste, het 11 deelnemende rasse se weners teen mekaar meeding.

Die Bloemskou, wat sedert 1883 gehou word, is slegs tydens die Tweede Wêreldoorlog nie aangebied nie, en in 2020 en 2021 weens die covid-19-pandemie. ■



*Deelnemers aan die Nasionale Dorperkampioenskap staan in gelid op die Bloemskou.*



*Bloemskou in Bloemfontein het vanjaar weer jonk en oud ná twee jaar se afwesigheid weens die Covid 19-inperkings bekoor. Die kinders was veral dol op me Nicolette de Klerk van Migdol se miniatuur-perdjies en -donkie, wat gereeld saam met haar die skou besoek. Saam met De Klerk op die foto is van links klein Trompie Cilliers (3) op die donkie, met sy boetie Pedré (4) wat agter hom staan saam met Inge Schutte (4). Op die Fendt 1000 Vario se wiel sit Hennie Schutte (5) en JD Nel (4). Trompie en Pedré is die kinders van mnr. en mev. Tromp en Leandri Cilliers van Laingsburg terwyl Inge en Hennie al die pad van Metlojane in Botswana gekom het, saam met hul ouers, mnr. Hennie en mev. Letitia Schutte.*

*Mnr. Stephan Serame op IBN Fadi neem deel aan die Arabierperdkampioenskap op die Bloemskou. Foto's: Vida Booyen*





# Shell media briefing

Magda du Toit

*During a media briefing at Nampo, Dr Ade Ajala, GM Lubricants Shell Downstream South Africa, said that Shell's global network of more than 700 technical staff offer advisory and training services related to lubrication management.*

Globally, Shell focuses on access to energy and a sustainable future. According to Dr Ajala, this was the base on which the business in South Africa also operated. "Our focus aims to create a coalition of partners to increase productivity per hectare," she said.

This team specialises in fluid handling services such as filtration, flushing, varnishing mitigation and removal, dehydration and other more advanced fluid handling services.

She said that oil health, equipment failure diagnosis and machine monitoring always start with lubricant analysis.

Regarding sustainability, she said that when they develop new products, they look at sustainable and reusable packaging to create better value to their customers. "We aim to run a carbon neutral business, and where we lack in production, we put back into nature through inter alia our reforestation programme. We use our carbon credits to mitigate some of the processes we still use that are not yet where we want to be."

According to Shell, they are partner in the agricultural value chain and aims to take nitrogen out of the emissions through their Blue technology. The Shell Blue Hydrogen Process was commercialised in 2020 and focuses on lowering the carbon intensity in engine emissions by converting natural gas to clean fuel.



Shell's heavy duty diesel engine oils are also formulated with protection in mind and designed to keep the hard-working engines of heavy duty equipment and vehicles running, whatever extreme conditions they may face. "Low-quality oil may fail to protect vital components from combustion acids, causing corrosion and potentially catastrophic engine failure," they warned.

Proper maintained vehicle engines help to manage farm costs. "Farmers do not want unforeseen maintenance problems during planting or harvesting with unplanned costs creeping in. By using modern technologies, buying good products and practicing prudent management principles, curbing overall input costs becomes easier." ■



# SA POTATO GROWERS looking forward to increased production

*Soil dwelling nematodes are a serious threat to crop performance. They affect a range of crops including potatoes, carrots, cereals, raspberries and strawberries, both directly and indirectly often inflicting severe economic losses.*

*Tackling nematode populations is far from easy and no single action will deliver the 98% effective control needed to prevent a population increase. To succeed, a combination of measures including cultural and chemical controls is required.*

Bayer's potato fungicides manage a wide variety of diseases to help keep potatoes healthier, reducing the likelihood of loss and improving your yield potential. Learn more about the benefits of Bayer potato fungicide products.

Velum® Prime manages a wide spectrum of yield-robbing nematodes and brings wide-spectrum, long-lasting nematode control. It moves from roots to leaves, not only suppressing nematodes below ground but also throughout the plant to help protect root health, suppress key diseases and maximize yield potential.

Velum Prime (fluopyram) is the first nematicide to act by inhibiting the target's mitochondrial respiratory chain. In short, it inhibits the production of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), a compound found in all living tissue.

**With its source of metabolic energy blocked, treated nematodes are quickly immobilised.**

Once paralysed the nematodes take on a needle-like appearance. Unable to enter the roots to feed, death occurs within hours. ■



# Noordwes se jongboer honger vir die nasionale titel

Nicolene Smalman

*Agri NW se Jongboer van 2022 is oorgehaal om ook later vanjaar die nasionale titel in te palm.*

Herman du Preez (38), 'n hoender-, saai- en beesboer van Gruisfontein naby Lichtenburg, is op 29 April by Agri NW se Jongboerkonferensie as die wenner aangewys. Die geleentheid is by Senwes op Klerksdorp gehou.

“Die toekenning is 'n groot eer en bevestig dat harde werk en deursettingsvermoë altyd resultate lewer. Boer is my passie en ek weet hoe afhanklik ek van genade is om my beroep te beoefen,” het Herman kort ná afloop van die plegtigheid gesê.

Hy het ook in 2016 aan Agri NW se kompetisie deelgeneem en tweede geëindig. Sy pa is in dieselfde jaar oorlede. Dit en beoordelaars van die kompetisie se terugvoer oor Herman se boerderypraktjke, het hom die geleentheid gebied om dinge anders te benader.

“In kort, het ek baie meer waarde toegevoeg en gefokus op 'n hoër omset,” verduidelik hy. “Ek het baie meer uitgebrei. My visie is regtig om te kyk wat jy het en om jou vaste kostes dieselfde te probeer hou, terwyl jy jou uitsette vermeerder.”

Herman is 'n aandeelhouer van Henwil Chickens en die hoendervertakking dra 53% by tot sy boerdery se omset. Daar word 540 000 kuikens per siklus gelewer.

Mielies maak 32% van Herman se boerdery-opset uit en hy is 'n groter verbruiker van dié gewas as wat hy produseer.

Herman het ook 'n Bonsmara-kudde en Simmentalerstoet wat hy saam met sy skoonpa bedryf. Die beesvertakking dra 10% tot die totale omset by. Herman beoog om 'n Bonsmara-stoet te begin om selfvoorsienend in bulle te wees.

Hoewel Herman sterk steun op gevestigde boerderypraktjke wat wêrk, is hy nie bang om nuwe neigings op die proef te stel nie. “Aanpasbaarheid is baie belangrik. Ons gaan ons bewerkingspraktjke, met diesel en klimaatsomstandighede in gedagte, móét aanpas.”

**As jongboer is Herman baie opgewonde oor die moontlikhede wat nuwe tegnologie bied. “Veral outonome trekkers. Dit gaan 'n baanbreker wees en 'n omwenteling in landbou veroorsaak.”**

Herman haal 'n oudminister van landbou, SP le Roux, aan: “'n Volk wat vir sy landbou sorg, sorg vir sy toekoms”.

Hy vervolg: “Die platteland is afhanklik van landbou vir werkskepping en voedselsekureit. Jongboere het 'n verantwoordelikheid om nuwe tegnologie in te span om boerderymetodes te verbeter, ten einde vir 'n vinniger groeiende wêreldbevolking kos te kan voorsien.”

Met sy oog op die titel van Agri SA se nasionale Jongboer van die Jaar later vanjaar, gaan Herman skouer aan die wiel sit om verder te verbeter en “alles in plek” te kry.

“Ek gaan die kriteria as maatstaf gebruik om veranderinge te implementeer en sien baie uit na die nasionale geleentheid. Dit bied die ideale geleentheid om nuwe boere te ontmoet, kennis te deel en te sien hoe ander boere hul boerderye bestuur.” ■





# Jongboer-kompetisie in volle swang!

Op Vrydag 3 Junie sal daar 'n media-geleentheid wees om die Agri Wes-Kaap Santam Landbou Jongboer van die Jaar te ontmoet.

*Die Agri Wes-Kaap Santam Jongboer van die Jaar-kompetisie is in tans in volle swang! Die wenner sal tydens 'n gala-geleentheid op 1 Junie 2022 in Durbanville aangekondig word.*

Vanuit die inskrywings wat ontvang is, moes deelnemers 'n voorlegging aan 'n span beoordelaars voorlê wat hul bestuursfilosofie en tegniese vaardighede uiteensit.

### Die beoordelaars:

- Inus Oosthuizen, vrugteprodusent van die Koue Bokkeveld.
- Sas Oosthuizen, vee- en pluimveeprodusent van Wellington.
- Louis Wessels, vee- en saaiprodusent van Albertinia.
- André Bloem, Arbeidskenner.
- Pieter Plaatjies, Santam.
- Landbou-ekonome, Arno Cloete en Andries van Zyl – FNB.
- Jannie Strydom, landbou-ekonoom en uitvoerende hoof van Agri Wes-Kaap.

Vanaf 16 – 20 Mei het dié span beoordelaars ses deelnemers se plase gaan besoek en hoewel die vertakkingsamestelling en omvang van die kandidaat se boerdery-aktiwiteite in ag geneem was, is die mate waarin die boer se bestuursfilosofie op uitnemende wyse in die praktyk uitgevoer word eerder bepalend.

### Agri Wes-Kaap Santam Landbou Jongboer van die Jaar 2022 deelnemers:

- Christiaan Cronje (29) het 'n gemengde boerdery op Riversdal waar tegnologie 'n groot rol speel. Sy toekomsvisie is om deurentyd te vernuwe en meer volhoubaar te boer. Christiaan meen die oordrag van kennis, en om die volgende generasie boere te bemoedig, is een van sy fokuspunte.



Christiaan Cronje.



Chris-Thys Groenewald.

- Chris-Thys Groenewald (30) het 'n gemengde boerdery op Riviersonderend met 'n toekomsvisie om innoverend en winsgewend te bly boer. Chris-Thys glo in spanwerk en eerlikheid, en sê hy hoop om eendag sy kennis en passie aan die volgende generasie boere oor te dra.



## CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

- Derec Giles (40) het 'n gemengde boerdery naby Uniondale en meen biosekuriteit is een van die boustene vir 'n suksesvolle boerdery. Derec glo goeie beplanning en deursettingsvermoë is nodig om effektief te kan boer.



*Derec Giles.*

- Kleinjan Teubes (32) het 'n gemengde boerdery op Vredendal, en sy toekomsvisie sluit goeie finansiële- en volhoubare bestuurspraktyke in. Kleinjan wil 'n sterk boerdery met 'n positiewe werksomgewing vir sy nageslag agterlaat.



*Kleinjan Teubes.*

- Ian Cunningham (37) boer met sagtevrugte en wyndruiwe op Elgin en Villiersdorp. Volgens Ian werk hy aan 'n nalatenskap wat sinoniem is met innovasie en kwaliteit, en waar elke lid van sy span hul volle potensiaal kan bereik. Die oordrag van vaardighede en kennis is ook deel van die boustene van sy boerdery.



*Ian Cunningham.*

- Lochner Eksteen (24) boer met koring en beeste op Piketberg. Vir Lochner is boer 'n saak van geloof, en hy meen alle groot besluite oor sy boerdery gaan hand aan hand met goeie beplanning en gebed. ■



*Lochner Eksteen.*



# Children's home and charity receive welcome boost thanks to NWK's Grip4Charity golf day

*Recently the Abraham Kriel Children's Home in Potchefstroom and Mrs Lichtenburg Elegant each received R105 000 that were raised during NWK's annual Grip4Charity Golf Day. Since this golf day's inception in 2006, R2 152 080 has been donated to 29 institutions.*

An overwhelmed Christie Saayman, head of the children's home and Minie le Roux, founding member of Mrs Lichtenburg Elegant, received the cheques at NWK's head office in Lichtenburg.

The Grip4Charity Supplier's Golf Day is a highlight on NWK's calendar. Suppliers of this agricultural company participate and proceeds are donated to needy organisations identified by NWK beforehand.

It couldn't proceed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent lockdown. However,

suppliers didn't hesitate to contribute towards this worthy initiative and NWK could still donate R211 000 to three organisations.

The golf day was finally hosted again on 19 October last year at Pecanwood Golf Estate in Hartbeespoort Dam, following an ease in lockdown regulations and R210 000 were raised.

The Abraham Kriel Children's Home in Potchefstroom was established in 1956 and requires R18 million per year to look after the children in its care. It is mainly dependent on the state for funding.



*Pieter Kleingeld, Group Chief Financial Officer of NWK, hands over the cheque to Christie Saayman, head of Abraham Kriel Children's Home in Potchefstroom.*



## CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS



*Pieter Kleingeld, Group Chief Financial Officer of NWK, hands over the cheque to Minie le Roux, founding member of Mrs Lichtenburg Elegant.*

The annual Lights Festival is its biggest fund raiser but was also put on hold in 2020 due to the pandemic.

NWK therefore decided upon Abraham Kriel as one of 2021's beneficiaries. The money will be used to, among others, refurbish the teenage girls' bedrooms.

"What does one say? Thank you very much. We appreciate it immensely. I guarantee you the money will be utilised to the best advantage of every child at Abraham Kriel," Christie said.

He thanked NWK for the manner in which Abraham Kriel was approached. "It is nice to work with someone who wants to give you something and doesn't treat you like a beggar. We appreciate the respect with which we have been treated," Christie explained.

Mrs Lichtenburg Elegant was founded 23 years ago by Minie to assist needy families in this small rural town. Currently, 100 families (285 individuals) are dependent on this charity.

Fund raising initiatives obviously also came to a standstill during the pandemic and Mrs Lichtenburg

Elegant was therefore chosen as a second beneficiary.

On receiving the cheque, a visibly moved Minie said, "I stand here this morning with a grateful heart. I want to thank everyone involved. Our theme this year is, 'bloom where God has planted you'. You as NWK is already blooming where God has planted you and for that we thank you, from the bottom of our hearts."

Johan Bezuidenhout, group manager of Corporate Marketing and Communication at NWK, thanked these institutions for the selfless service rendered to the communities of Potchefstroom and Lichtenburg.

"We are grateful that 2021's golf day was a huge success and we would like to thank every business partner. Without them, a day like this wouldn't be possible." ■



# Corteva Agriscience invests in Africa with seed treatment facility

*Corteva Agriscience recently officially opened its Centre for Seed Applied Technologies (CSAT) laboratory in Rosslyn, Pretoria. This modern facility will utilise industry-leading equipment and focus specifically on recipe development and safety testing of seed applied solutions. The site will also be integrated into Corteva's global CSAT network and is strategically positioned to meet the ongoing demands of grain producers across Africa Middle East (AME), ensuring that farmers have access to high-quality seed and better field performance.*

"Not only does this investment showcase our commitment to regional agriculture and ongoing research and development, but it also demonstrates our ambition to effectively utilise cutting-edge technology to help increase yields, improve livelihoods and ensure sustained food security," says Venkata Subbarao Kolli, President, Africa Middle East, Corteva Agriscience.

Seed treatments involve the application of chemical or biological substances, such as fungicides or insecticides, directly to the surface of a seed, safeguarding the seeds and seedlings against insects, fungal diseases and soil-borne pathogens.



State-of-the-art seed treatment laboratory opens in Rosslyn, South Africa.



## CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Seed treatments help improve seed and plant health, as well as germination rates; protect plants from the start when they are most vulnerable to insects and disease; and increase the likelihood of a quality and improved harvest. Solutions also allow for an efficient and targeted use of active ingredients, reducing the total amount of pesticides required, helping to preserve biodiversity and pollinators, and promote sustainable agriculture.



**“This CSAT lab further strengthens the company’s offering in the seed production segment,” says Tony Esmeraldo, Business Director, South Africa, Corteva Agriscience. “We are offering the most complete package of solutions, including the development of the best hybrids, crop protection innovations and now, one of the most sophisticated seed treatment processes farmers can have at their disposal.”**

Corteva’s evidence-based methodology combines science and ingenuity to develop and deliver advanced seed treatments that enhance grower productivity and contribute to more efficient and resilient food systems. The company’s technical teams evaluate hundreds of products each year, seeking out the right components and formulations to meet every farmer’s needs. Once products are developed, a rigorous research process is applied focusing on specific aspects such as agronomy, safety and stewardship before solutions reach customers.

The Rosslyn site was designed with advanced equipment to perform various tests that will ensure the quality of the treatment applied to the seed, offering a greater guarantee to AME producers.

The facility will also serve Corteva’s respective seed brands Pannar® and Pioneer®, as well as other industry collaborators, with a view to create new seed treatment solutions to help farmers overcome the challenges of an ever-changing agricultural industry.

LumiGEN® seed treatments for Pioneer® brand are designed, verified and proven to work with the company’s current genetic portfolio, giving farmers a higher level of confidence in their seed treatment options. Pannar® brand’s complete plant health initiative, Panacea™, includes a range of dynamic seed treatment products (consisting mainly of fungicides and insecticides or a combination of both), along with unique access to expert agronomic advice.

Adds Kolli, “We strongly believe that there is significant opportunity to expand biotechnology solutions in the region— while we already have a number of products that are favourable to the soil and climatic characteristics of AME, there is room for many more market advancements.” ■



# Agritourism *an option for local farmers*

*A 2019 survey found just 24% of South African farmers are hosting some form of agritourism on their farms. That means there's massive opportunity for expansion in this area.*

Agritourism could help farmers use their farm resources to their fullest potential, generate additional income and preserve the land. Globally, the agritourism market should reach USD 117.37 billion by 2027, with compound annual growth of 7.42% (between 2019-2027). It's an important way for farmers to diversify their businesses and safeguard their farms for the future.

Started in Italy, agritourism is defined as any tourist activity on a farm, linked to the farm's activities and attractions, from a restaurant or guesthouse to a farm shop. The definition includes activities like milking the cows or orchard walks. Primarily, it offers farmers an opportunity for increased income and a way to attract investment. It's also a pivotal means of ramping up employment in rural areas.

The advantages of diversifying – from improved cashflow and profit to the spreading of risk – outweigh the disadvantages. Hanlie Kroese, Segment Solutions Santam Agri says, "Diversification is one of the greatest ways to manage risk. Agritourism empowers farmers to use a farm to its fullest potential. It's also a critical way to connect farmers with the public.

This counts more than ever in a time where consumers want to know where produce comes from – they're seeking to see the faces behind the farms. Agritourism is a way to give them a meaningful glimpse into this world."

Hanlie adds that agritourism does come with some risks, so should be carefully considered. "On the one hand, diverse enterprises mean you lower your risk. However, branching into different activities also invites a new risk landscape. It's crucial that farmers consider agritourism insurance, which covers business interruption, theft, and public liabilities."

Opening a guesthouse, for example, invites a host of potential problems, from burst geysers and broken appliances to damaged swimming pool pumps. Hanlie adds, "Once a farmer insures a guesthouse or lodge, Santam's Agri policy has been extended to automatically cover 'niggles' like this, which can add up to be extremely expensive."

**Hanlie also presses the need for business interruption insurance. "Curveballs happen, and farmers need to protect the diverse enterprises they've invested in. Business interruption insurance is one of the best ways to guard against the unexpected.**

Another big concern for farmers is obviously theft. "Farmers are opening their farms – their homes – to others, which can feel overwhelming. Proper theft cover can help provide peace of mind. Santam provides up to R10 000 cover for loss or damage to buildings and covers guests' and customers' personal effects for up to R5 000 for any one item. We do the same for the personal effects of the insured, and the insured's partner, director, and employees."

Public liability must be another major consideration, as the tourism sector is very vulnerable to liability claims. Adequate liability insurance is therefore essential. "Our liability cover includes damage to visitors' and guests' property on a farmer's premise, plus damage to third party vehicles using the farm's parking facilities. It even includes damage caused by animals – in various circumstances.

Hanlie concludes, "Opening new enterprises on a farm is an extremely worthwhile pursuit but must be done with due care and consideration. All these extras come with new risks, which is why investing in the right insurance is key." ■





# SA cheese festival a huge success

*The South African Cheese Festival, held from 30 April to 2 May 2022 at Sandringham outside Stellenbosch, was a huge success measured by the purchasing power of festivalgoers and by satisfied exhibitors.*

This year's festival was attended by 6 000 people with visitors limited to 2 000 per day. A pop-up festival was also held from 23 to 24 April 2022 at Groote Post outside Darling which was attended by more than 3 000 people.

**"We believe we have created innovative solutions to present a successful festival within the restrictive Covid 19 regulations that still apply to the event industry," says Johan Ehlers, CEO of Agri-Expo, which since 2002 organises the SA Cheese Festival.**

According to Western Cape Premier Alan Winde, this year's festival is a big sign that the economy is getting back on track. "We have to move forward, we cannot afford not to, especially for job creation. What better way than with a festival showcasing all our agricultural products, bringing people together and celebrating with music. This year's pop-up SA Cheese Festival model is a chance that Agri-Expo took to get this important festival going again. Thank you to them for this new idea and what it means for the rural economy and spirit."

## BUFFALO MOZZARELLA AND HALLOUMI FLY OFF THE SHELVES

Festivalgoers could experience around 120 exhibitors' creations, including a number of small cheesemakers who were invited to present their unique handmade products as part of the #SupportSmallCheeseMakers project, in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA). Visitors were also able to again taste and buy alternative niche products



*Chef Tiaan Langenegger and actor Neels van Jaarsveld entertained guests as part of the Standard Bank Travel & Taste experience with Ladismith Cheese and Sea Harvest.*



*Festivalgoers Kara Barnard and Gabriella Ludick during the SA Cheese Festival at Sandringham.*



*Mary Shumba, Takudzwa Tinarwo and Judith Kamudyariwa with Berries Express' dragon fruit at the SA Cheese Festival.*





*Foxenburg Estate's goat milk cheese spread was one of the new products at the SA Cheese Festival.*



*Distiller Robyn Hartman gives Duncan Masiwa of Food for Mzansi a taste of her brand new 'Eikesap' (oak juice) gin infused with acorns.*



*The Ladismith Cheese Carving Competition at the SA Cheese Festival where more than 7 kg of cheese was up for grabs every day.*

as part of the Cape Made: Taste the Alternatives project, in partnership with the WCDoA.

Many exhibitors' products sold out completely, with exceptional products flying off the shelves, such as Zandam's buffalo mozzarella, Jabulani Chigara's dragon fruit, Klein River Cheese's international-award-winning mature Gruberg, Rockvale and Foxenburg's goat's milk cheeses, Tlaquepaque's halloumi, Karootjie's rosemary and red wine herb salt – all the way from Calitzdorp – as well as the Western Cape Honeybush Tea Cooperative's teas.

"We were pleasantly surprised by the support," says distiller Robyn Hartman of the brand new 9 Orphans Distillery. "At the festival, we already sold half of our very first batch of 360 bottles each of our prickly pear gin and our Eikesap oak juice gin infused with acorns". Ehlers says it is wonderful for Agri-Expo to be able to contribute to the economic recovery of large and small businesses. "The value of the SA Cheese Festival lies precisely in the platform created for businesses, from small entrepreneurs to national companies, to interact directly with consumers and introduce their products to a wider audience, as well as the many marketing opportunities that the festival offers."



*Khuselo Mchithakali and Estalanie Marais from Foxenburg Estate at the SA Cheese Festival.*



*Tino Dello Donne from Zandam Italian Cheese at the SA Cheese Festival.*

**The SA Cheese Festival will take place again next year over the long weekend from Saturday 29 April to Monday 1 May 2023.**

Visit [www.cheesefestival.co.za](http://www.cheesefestival.co.za) for more information, follow the SA Cheese Festival on Twitter @SACheeseFest, Facebook @SACheeseFestival or Instagram @sacheesefest, or contact Agri-Expo at tel 021 975 4440 or [admin@agriexpo.co.za](mailto:admin@agriexpo.co.za) ■



*Pamella Dzindqwa, Tasimba Rumhungwe, Karren Horonga and Shalom Tripanzi (far right) of the Puglia Cheese team at the SA Cheese Festival.*



# Boost for SA wine industry with Blaauwklippen and Van Loveren partnership

*Founded in 1682, the Blaauwklippen Wine Estate is the oldest wine farm in Stellenbosch. Van Loveren – a third-generation family business in the Robertson valley – is Africa's leading family-owned private wine business.*

*The iconic wine estate and lifestyle destination Blaauwklippen and leading family business Van Loveren Vineyards are tying the knot through a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing their premium offerings to the local market and specifically to accelerate fine South African wine offerings to the world market. In what is described as a three-way winner – both for the partners and the country's wine industry at large – the partnership is focussed on the production and distribution of their wine portfolios.*

Through increased premiumisation and a “best-of-strength-strategy”, - the partners will seek to unlock and enhance new opportunities for the Blaauwklippen wine portfolio.

The partners will expand vineyards, increase production capacity, and introduce new products to their premium portfolios. Blaauwklippen is located at the foothills of the Stellenbosch Mountain and comprises 115 hectares – with 51 hectares of vine. In the heart of “The Golden Triangle” of the Stellenbosch Winelands, the farm's terroir is part



*From the left: Bonita Malherbe (National Sales Manager, Van Loveren) Phillip Retief (Managing Director, Van Loveren Vineyards), André Markgraaff (Shareholder and Chairperson of Blaauwklippen), Ben-Carl Havemann (Chief Executive of Blaauwklippen) and Narina Cloete (Winemaker at Blaauwklippen).*

of an area widely recognised as the finest wine-growing sub-region in the country – specifically famous for the quality of the red wines.

In 2017 - under new South African ownership - Blaauwklippen embarked on a comprehensive turnaround strategy to reclaim its position as one of the most iconic estates in the country. This included the relaunch of the entire premium portfolio, with a steadfast focus on quality and the revival of the farm's brand home and hospitality offerings.

# FARMER NEWS



“The partnership with the Retief family of Van Loveren will allow us to accelerate our brand and marketing plans and optimise our production capabilities”, says Blaauwklippen CEO Ben-Carl Havemann. “Innovation has been a cornerstone of the Blaauwklippen legacy for 340 years. We believe that Van Loveren is the ideal partner to help us champion new and better ways to share our story in more ways, with more expertise, at more locations throughout the globe”, Havemann stated.

For Van Loveren and the Retief family, this partnership marks their first official entry into the Stellenbosch Wine Region. Widely acclaimed and known for their premium and quality array of wines, they export their products to more than 68 countries and are the market leader in many categories.

“Stellenbosch is the premier recognised wine region in South Africa. As part of our diversification, growth and evolution, we believe that Blaauwklippen will be an exceptional addition to our growing portfolio and specifically our premium offering”, says Van Loveren MD, Phillip Retief.

“Blaauwklippen can and should be one of the most widely celebrated and enjoyed wine brands. With our network and proficiency, we are excited about the potential of the brand to become a market leader in its own right”, Retief adds. “Aligned to our growth strategy, this partnership is a unique opportunity to invest in a wine brand, wine tourism, agriculture and an outstanding location”, he concludes.

The extent of working together will be done with the assistance of expert advisors to comply with relevant regulatory requirements. ■



# Cotton, the most versatile crop

Tanya Aucamp

*Cotton is considered one of the world's greatest poverty alleviating crops, with 150 million people worldwide relying on it for income. It is a crop that thrives in conditions many others cannot. Cotton is the only field crop that is a fibre, food, and feed crop. It is natural, versatile, biodegradable, and renewable. According to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), this drought-resistant crop creates five jobs for every ton of fibre produced, thus having massive potential in South Africa and the rest of the continent.*

Ongoing industry and awareness initiatives by Cotton SA have stimulated demand for local cotton through local retail, aiming to achieve the Master Plan goals of 65% localisation by 2030. Access to volumes, unfortunately, remains a problem. According to the latest global market outlooks, logistic problems have been causing trouble for all sectors of the global economy, including cotton, which has resulted in international prices at historically elevated high levels (highest in 10 years), which will mean higher monetary returns for cotton farmers – local prices are derived from the international cotton prices.

60% of fibres in textiles and clothing on our retailer shelves are cotton. Cotton is so much more than

the fibre we are familiar with in our clothes, towels, bedding and other household textiles. 100% of the plant can be used. Linters (the short fuzz on the seed) provide cellulose used in plastics, explosives, high-quality paper products such as banknotes, and batting for mattresses and furniture. The cottonseed is crushed to separate it into three products. The oil is used in margarine, cooking oil, salad dressing, cosmetics, soap, candles, detergents, etc. The meal is used in livestock, poultry and fish feed, as well as fertiliser, and the hulls are used in fertiliser, fuel and packaging. What is left of the plant (the stalks and leaves) is used for pressed paper, hardboard, pellets or ploughed back into the soil to enrich it.

**Sourcing locally supports the local farmers and creates opportunities for local empowerment and job opportunities throughout the value chain. It is not about one person but about feeding a family and growing a community.**

Cotton is a cash crop and creates opportunities to unlock wealth in underdeveloped areas where little more than cotton can be grown.

# GENERAL AGRICULTURAL NEWS

Cotton SA, in 2019, celebrated an 800% growth in cotton production for 5-years with the theme 'Cotton Can't be Stopped'. Significant advancements in agricultural innovation and technology combined with better crop management have contributed to increased local production.

Unfortunately, the growth in the hectares of cotton planted has changed in the last two seasons. Cotton fibre production has shown a decline of about 60% in hectares planted since then.

This resulted from various factors, amongst other extreme weather conditions, no access to new biotechnology and plant material, while farmers turned to food crops due to more favourable prices. Moreover, the delay in the ginning and marketing of the previous season's crop caused insecurity in the industry. It impacted the trust relationships between some of the ginners and the producers.

**Various engagement sessions have been taking place between the producers and the ginners, resulting in strategic interventions to address these, creating a renewed confidence amongst farmers to plant cotton again.**

Change was created when the management of Vaalharts Cotton, located in Hartswater, took over the management of the Loskop Cotton Gin in Marble Hall in March 2021.

For the past year, the gin in Marble Hall had been



known as Vaalharts-Loskop Cotton. Louis Olivier, the managing director of both these gins, proudly announced the new name of this gin, unveiling Limpopo Valley Cotton as the producers' new cotton partner during their information day on 28 April 2022. He referred to this moment as a watershed moment. He indicated that the past year had been a challenge, with many obstacles, saying, "although everything is not yet 100% in place, much has already been achieved".

Olivier mentions that much work has been done to improve trust among producers by putting processes in place to make information better available. He believes in a transparent management style with open communication between the ginner, the producers and all the role players in the cotton pipeline. With the management change in 2021, the harvest was 7 000 tons. For the current season, their production has more than doubled to 15 000 tons, and the forecast for the new season is already 20 000 tons.

Vaalharts Cotton acts as a contract ginner for Limpopo Valley Cotton. The cooperation agreement between the two gins brings the benefit of larger volumes. The more cotton there is, the better the price that can be negotiated. It also brings a cost advantage on financing and provides greater security to the producers.

The price of cotton is at historic heights, and the expectation is that it will remain high over the next two years. Cotton also has a great value as a rotational crop to avoid the build-up of pathogens and pests and assists with soil enrichment. With current market outlooks and predicted weather patterns, this is the ideal crop to form part of producers' rotation programmes.





# GENERAL AGRICULTURAL NEWS

Positive engagements with Koedoeskop Gin and their new approach of contract ginning for large farmers, which enables them to manage the marketing of their own lint, are also reaping benefits.



The local cotton industry's critical challenge is to increase the local cotton lint volumes. Without access to sufficient volumes of the required type of local cotton lint to fill local spinners' requirements, expansion of the local cotton value chain will remain challenged. About 50% of South African cotton is already marketed before the farmers start harvesting.

Urgent investment at the primary level is critical to growing and sustaining the local cotton value chain. The future growth of the cotton-growing industry depends on access to new biotechnology to stabilise the area, ensure production continuity and improve productivity. New technology will determine the future of the cotton industry. Cotton is competing locally and globally against other commodities (maize, soya), which have access to the latest technology.

## BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Cotton SA is the official Program Partner of Better Cotton (previously known as BCI). Better Cotton is the world's leading cotton sustainability initiative to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, the environment it grows in, and the sector's future. Almost a quarter of the world's cotton is grown under this standard. Cotton SA manages the farm-level implementation of the Better Cotton Standard System, a holistic approach to sustainable cotton production which covers all three pillars of Sustainability: Environmental, Social and Economic.

Globally, there is a commitment to reduce the carbon footprint. The changing weather patterns have a direct impact on the agriculture sector. Cotton is a crop that thrives in hotter climates with lower rainfall. For some farmers farming in the dryer and hotter areas with no access to irrigation, cotton remains the best crop. Even with low rainfall, the yields can enable farmers to earn a living.

The added benefit of cotton is that it directly contributes to a greener environment. Growing an acre of reduced-tillage cotton removes 1,5 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) from the atmosphere every year. Cotton has a better than neutral carbon footprint because the plant stores more carbon in its lint and seed than is released from fuel and fertiliser used during its growth. The amount of CO<sup>2</sup> removed by cotton plants worldwide is equivalent to 7 million cars off the highways.

Cotton has a beneficial effect on succeeding crops in a rotation programme. Rotation with cotton improves the soil quality due to its very deep root zone. It is a drought-tolerant crop, with more than 50% of our local cotton farmers producing in dryland conditions.

Agriculture accounts for 70-75% of global water use, whilst cotton's global water footprint is about 3% of the world's agricultural water use.

## TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Cotton SA had in 2021 approved a strategy to drive smallholder cotton farmer development, aiming at 20% of the total cotton crop to be produced by smallholder cotton farmers by 2026. 80% of the South African smallholder cotton farmers are women.

As one of the essential services rendered to the South African cotton industry, Cotton SA is actively involved in transforming, mentoring, and training

# GENERAL AGRICULTURAL NEWS

smallholder cotton farmers. Cotton SA identifies best practices and explores opportunities for further land use growth, especially where communal agricultural land is lying fallow.

Cotton is a xerophyte and requires very little water to grow due to its deep root system. It makes it ideal for arid climates and provides a solution to smallholders in marginal rainfall areas.

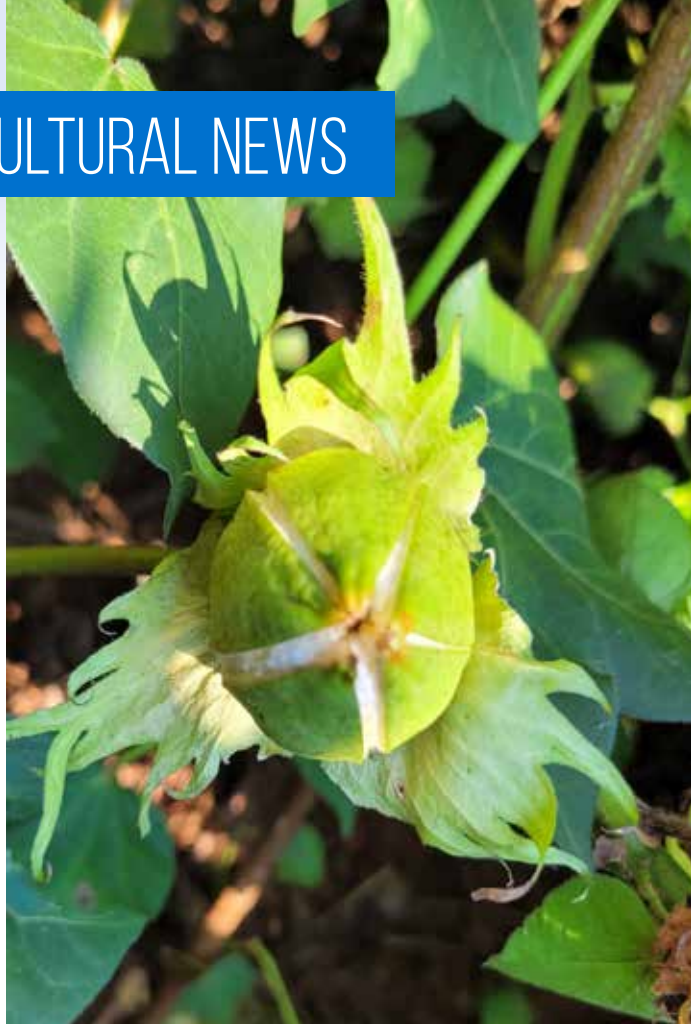
Funding for black smallholder cotton farmers remains a challenge. Cotton SA to this end has developed a model to work with private and public funders to negotiate favourable outcomes in this regard. Substantial support had been received from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and the South African Brewery (SAB) Foundation to upscale the smallholder cotton farmer production.

**Cotton SA, in 2021, introduced SAB Foundation to Ubongwa Cotton Gin, Jozini KZN. Funding was made available from December 2021 for urgent revamp and maintenance at the cotton gin for the 2022 ginning season.**

Cotton SA act as a facilitator between the funder and the other role players. They are also supporting with project managing the project.

The SAB Foundation's main drive behind the project is securing jobs and creating livelihoods in a rural area with high numbers of people with no work opportunities to ensure employment sustainability for the Makhathini area's rural communities. SAB Foundation made cotton production inputs available for 2 000 ha for black cotton farmers, which will roughly amount to 900 -1 100 farmers to restore smallholder cotton production to former production volumes.

According to Cotton SA's estimates, for each hectare planted with cotton, jobs for 1.35 persons are created at the farm level. Early estimates are that approximately 4 800 tons of seed cotton or 1 680 tons of cotton lint will be processed by Ubongwa cotton gin during the current season. It is important



to note that the local commercial farmers are also onboard and are assisting in the cultivation of the smallholder cotton fields.

Dreyer Senekal, through his import and export business, SenAgri, has changed the lives of the cotton farmers in the Makhathini flats. He bought cotton from more than 120 cotton farmers and paid them every Friday for their crops during the past season.

**This ensures immediate cash in the hands of the farmers, which provides confidence to the farmers to increase the hectares for the current season. He has signed agreements with 2 213 farmers for the new season.**

The commercial farmers will also deliver their seed cotton to Ubongwa Cotton Gin, securing a sustainable throughput for the cotton gin. ■

**Please visit [www.cottonsa.org.za](http://www.cottonsa.org.za) for more information on this incredible plant.**



## 2022 IFAJ International Congress Denmark

*The IFAJ 2022 congress will take place in Denmark from 27 June to 3 July.*



### *Quick guide to excursions and fees*

<b>Tuesday, June 28, A1</b>	09: The Danish way of handling challenges
<b>A2</b>	10: Farming is part of the solution
<b>A3</b>	11: Milk production with focus on climate and welfare
<b>A4</b>	12: More than 30 million Danish pigs
<b>A5</b>	13: New plant-based proteins

### **Fees:**

#### **Main congress 27 June to 3 July 2022 (5 days, 6 nights)**

Single room: €1 075

Double room: €975

Room with 3–4 beds: €900

#### **Pre-congress tour to Copenhagen and Zealand: 24–27 June**

Single room: €440

Double room: €380

#### **Post-congress tour to Faroe Islands**

Single room: €1 750

Double room: €1 500

*Link to registration for main congress and post-congress tour:*

<https://quanglo.wufoo.com/forms/registration-for-ifaj-2022-congress-in-denmark/>



# CALENDER OF EVENTS

## Upcoming IFAJ congresses

2022 – Denmark

2023 – Canada

2024 – Switzerland

2025 – Israel

2026 – Kenya

2027 – Croatia

## SANSOR congress 22

*The South African National Seed Organisation (SANSOR) will host its 33 rd Annual Congress on 8th and 9th of June in Cape Town at the Presidents Hotel.*

Various speakers will focus on this year's congress theme, Innovation. The global climate and production challenges posed to the agricultural sector, are necessitating new and innovative ways to address global food demands.

At the same time sustainability must always be the driving force behind innovation. To this end, SANSOR will be focusing on not only innovation in the seed industry, but also looking at innovative ways to create an enabling environment for innovation to thrive in the seed industry.

The board of directors of the organisation will also be elected. Sansor has 81 full members comprising local and international seed companies. ■



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## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



*Helenus Kruger – bees pollinating sunflowers.*

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

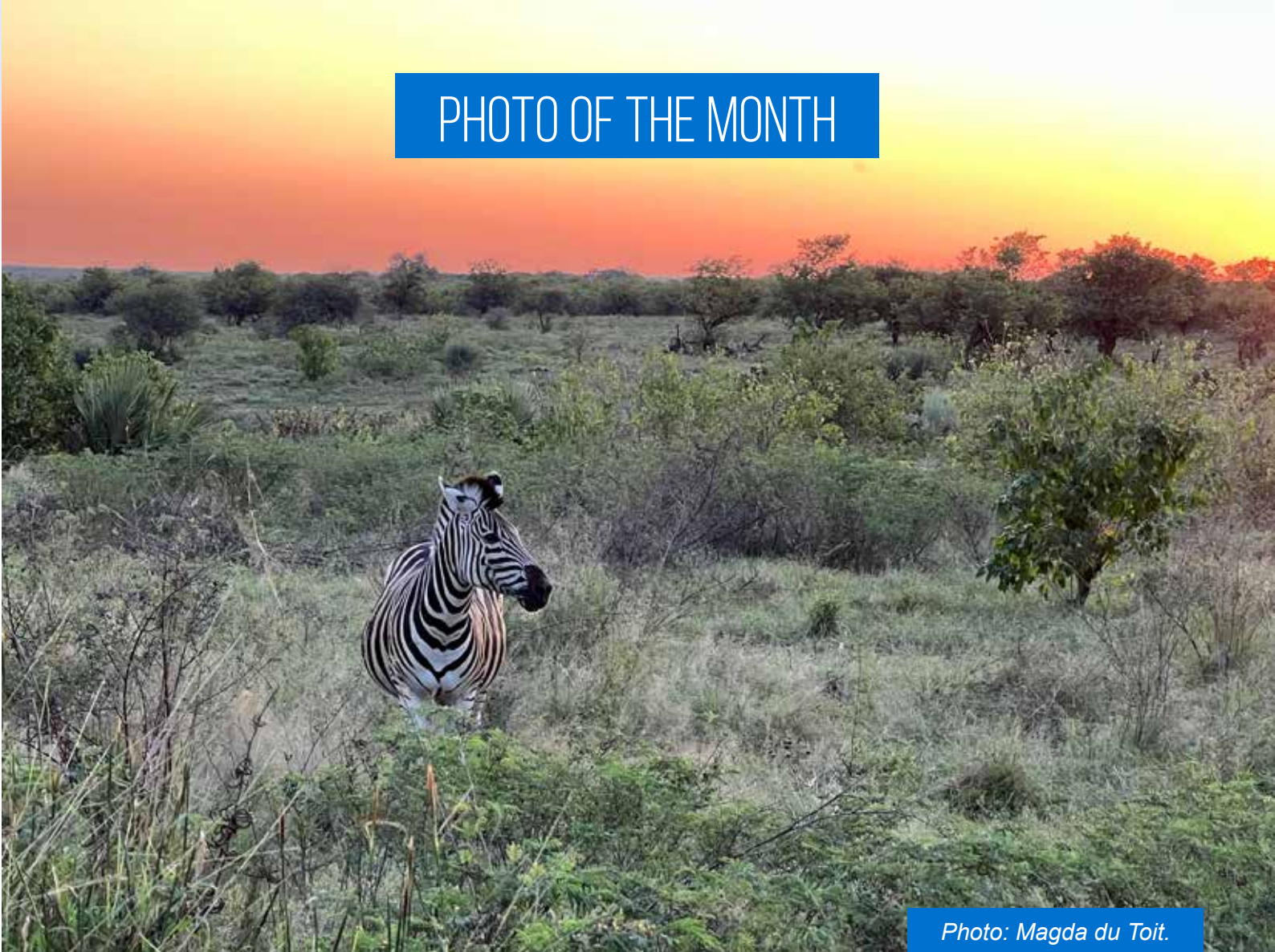


Photo: Magda du Toit.

### Stuur vir ons jou stories

Alle lede word uitgenooi om voor die 15de van elke maand bydraes vir *Agripen* te stuur aan

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### Send us your stories

All members are invited to send contributions to *Agripen* before the 15th of each month to

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