



LANDBOUSKRYWERS
AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA

AGR pen

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FEBRUARIE/FEBRUARY 2023

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Be my agri-Valentine!

It is February, and love is in the air – love for the best job in the world ... that is to work in the agricultural sector and in the communications or media industry. What a blessing!

I am so happy to see so many events – online, hybrid, and face-to-face – popping up in my newsfeed. Agricultural Writers SA (AWSA) will share as many of these events via this newsletter and on our Facebook page as usual. So, if you are not yet following our page, be sure to check it out. We are also on Twitter and Instagram, of course.

But we need your help to keep our social media pages and this newsletter fresh and humming. Please share events, captioned photographs (those you are allowed to share), and interesting tidbits you think our members should take note of by sending your contributions to our secretariat at petrie@abevents.co.za. Be sure to mark your message in the subject line with the relevant allocation, e.g. *Agripen* contribution, photo of the month, for social media, etc.

Remember to add proper descriptions and sources where necessary. If you share an announcement



or event, contact details are very important. Our volunteers in the organisation appreciate every contribution, but please don't send incomplete information or plagiarised/without-source info or photographs. Also, feel free to share information on vacancies related to the communication and media industry, especially if there is a connection to agriculture.

For corporate members, we have the added benefit of also distributing your press releases or other relevant news and announcements to our members. Please send your press releases to our secretariat for swift distribution.

BOOK YOUR SPOT

Speaking of calendar events: The Canadian Farm Writers' Federation (CFWF) will host International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) members to the 2023 IFAJ World Congress in Olds, Alberta, Canada, just north of the prairie city of Calgary and not far from the beautiful Rocky



A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Mountains. The congress, under the theme, “New Frontiers in the Wild West”, will be held from 27 June to 3 July 2023.

If you plan to attend, be sure to follow their posts regarding the various visits to farms and industry related to wheat, barley, and canola, and local beef and bison production. On the horticultural side, visits will focus on potatoes, sugar beets, pulses like lentils and peas, a variety of vegetables, and honey production.

A pre-congress tour hosted by the British Columbia Farm Writers' Association will bring guests through the beautiful coastal region over the Rockies between 23 and 27 June 2023.


Mark your calendar, visit www.ifaj2023.ca for details, and make sure you check out the beautiful [video](#)!

Closer to home, the AWSA is narrowing down a suitable date to visit our Farmer of the Year 2022, the ALS Group (Agri Division) in the first quarter of the year. As soon as we have agreed on a date and programme, we will inform all members. We will once again either fully or partially subsidise travel and accommodation costs of our members who would like to take part in this visit.

Cheers to a productive and fruitful rest of 2023!

Liza Bohlmann
AWSA Chairperson

The end of an era



This edition of *Agripen* marks both a day of ending a long and successful partnership and the beginning of something new: Magda du Toit, who has headed the editorial team responsible for this newsletter for over 20 years is stepping back from this enormous task.

This is more time and effort than anybody ever expected from her and it speaks to Magda's commitment and love for the AWSA.

Thank you, Magda, for your diligence, patience, and the stellar work you've done over the past two decades. You have formed *Agripen* into an excellent platform of information for members and showcase for corporate members. Your leadership will be missed, but we know we will be able to lean on you for guidance and *ad hoc* contributions in the future.

The new editorial committee and way of working will continue to bring you this monthly download on all things relevant to AWSA members.



Thank you

MEMBER NEWS



Impressive India: Agricultural Writers SA goes to Delhi

by Lindi Botha

India is soon to be the most populous country in the world, reaching over 1,5 billion people. Considering the scale makes it a little easier to comprehend the sheer size of their agricultural sector, which comprises nearly a billion small-scale farmers. India's agriculture, it is said, consists of a mass of producers, rather than mass production. A perfect example of this was on display at the recent International Dairy Federation's (IDF's) World Dairy Summit, held in Delhi in September last year.

Through the IFAJ, an invitation was extended AWSA to attend the summit. Having never been to India, I jumped at the opportunity to see for myself how this economy and agricultural sector operates. Impressed I certainly was! India has managed to become the world's largest dairy producer (and consumer) by relying mostly on small-scale farmers – some of which only own one or two cows. The magnitude of the system they

have in place to collect and pool milk from remote villages is astonishing. It left me feeling both awed, and frustrated, because I know that this could so easily be replicated in South Africa if we could work together without letting politics and tenders get in the way of real progress.

Joining me on the trip were two fellow IFAJers: president Lena Johansson from Sweden, and Elida Thiery from Argentina. We were invited by the largest agricultural media outlet in India, Krishi Jagran, to visit their offices and meet the staff. They have submitted their application to become members of the IFAJ and we hope to welcome them into the agri media family soon.

They have an impressive number of journalists serving nearly a billion farmers, across publications in 22 different languages. Magazines, online news, social media, and even their own YouTube channel are used to broadcast news. The staff contingent, at nearly 250, is also noticeably youthful, with most



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staff members seemingly under the age of 30. It was really encouraging to see so many young people interested in this beat, especially since there are so many other, seemingly glamorous, subjects to choose from. But as one journalist who left the glitz of Bollywood reporting to join Krishi Jagran put it, he now feels like his life has purpose. Without agriculture, no one can live and by working in this industry, he knows he is working for the greater good.

What was especially interesting was Krishi Jagran's programme of training farmers to be reporters so that real-time news could be fed into the media network as it took place on farm level. This is just one example of the Indian people's ingenuity.



Problems are only opportunities waiting to be discovered and we all marvelled at the way in which the Indians just get on with their business, not allowing any obstacles to get in their way.

India was impressive in so many ways, but most of all for their people. The kindness, humility, and sincerity we were shown will forever remain with me. Despite some of the most horrendous traffic and driving I've ever witnessed, there is no road rage. Patience reigns in crowded queues, and a smile and a wiggle of the head is given whenever you make eye contact.

We were welcomed with flower garlands, fed the most aromatic curry, brewed the best tea, and treated to homemade burfi wrapped in silver petals. If an opportunity to visit India ever arises, grab it with both hands! ■

Biologicals in South Africa



Locally, the biological industry has transitioned from the 'pioneer' to the 'competitive' stage. Growers are increasingly moving away from harsh, conventional agricultural inputs to softer solutions.

Biological solutions differ from conventional synthetic solutions but are not exempt from registration. As such, biological products need to meet the same criteria as conventional chemical solutions for growers to legally include them in crop production programmes.

The transfer of credible, accurate knowledge is key. Growers must ensure they purchase quality, registered products that have been proven to be effective at local level, supported by on-farm technical guidance and application support.

Andermatt Madumbi

With a proven track-record of biological excellence, Andermatt Madumbi continues to grow as a market leader in root health, plant vitality, and bio crop protection.

We are well positioned to support growers to adapt their growing methods to meet the increasing demands for local and export market access.

Partnering with clients, big and small, the team of experts at Andermatt Madumbi is committed to maximising economic returns and environmental sustainability, for all future-focused growers in South Africa. ■

Andermatt Madumbi is a subsidiary of the global Andermatt Group and is committed to the global vision: “Healthy food and healthy environment, for all”. In South Africa, are committed to taking this vision one step further – Healthy food and healthy environment, for all – starts with you! We believe that everyone one of us has a role to play in being part of the solution.



IFPA appoints new country manager for southern Africa

The International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) has appointed Stephanie van der Walt as the new country manager for IFPA Southern Africa.

In her new role, Van der Walt will focus on supporting IFPA's global impact through service to members, seeking opportunities to create greater value for southern African members, and providing insights into the needs of the southern African market. As part of IFPA's global country manager team, Van der Walt will collaborate with international colleagues to create opportunities to connect IFPA's global markets.

She will also serve as IFPA's primary liaison with members, government agencies, and other stakeholders in southern Africa, as well as the IFPA Southern Africa Country Council.

Her international trade and investment law background, with over a decade of experience in the agricultural sector, will be invaluable in her new role and aligns well with IFPA's objectives.

"The benefit offered by industry associations lies in their unifying power and ability to generate critical mass, opening opportunities that would be inaccessible to individual actors," she says.

Van der Walt has worked in both the public and private spheres and has collaborated with international partners across the African continent and global south. Most recently, Van der Walt headed the Centre of Excellence: Land Affairs at Agri South Africa (Agri SA), granting insight into the local and international policy landscape. Prior to that, she was general manager of fruit industry at the Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz), working on empowering fresh fruit producers to maintain and expand export market opportunities with a focus on Asia.



The International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) was created by combining two produce industry organisations, namely the Produce Marketing Association (PMA), founded in 1949, and the United Fresh Produce Association (UFGA), founded in 1904.

The IFPA is the largest and most diverse international association serving the entire fresh produce and floral supply chain and the only one to seamlessly integrate world-facing advocacy and industry-facing support.

If you are interested in becoming a member of IFPA or would like to get in touch with Van der Walt, please email her at svanderwalt@freshproduce.com.

For more information about IFPA, please go to www.freshproduce.com. ■





NETAFIM SA DRIVES COST-EFFICIENT DRIPLINE SUPPLY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH LOCAL INVESTMENT.

Netafim South Africa is happy to announce that the first roll of locally produced Streamline™ X thin wall dripline was recently extruded at its Cape Town dripline manufacturing plant. To supply a changing market with optimal efficiency, the necessary upgrades were made to allow for advanced thin wall dripline extrusion in this plant.

In the context of impaired economic growth, investment in the South African economy is more necessary than ever. Any investment has the potential to increase economic activity, build capacity and create opportunities. It is against this backdrop that Netafim South Africa is especially proud of being able to expand its local dripline manufacturing capacity.

Netafim South Africa has been driving increased water-use efficiency in South Africa and SADC for the past 30 years. Since 1992, the company has driven the adoption of precision irrigation solutions. One of the biggest highlights on this journey, was the start of local dripline manufacturing to better supply the market.

In 1999, the Kraaifontein manufacturing plant was opened, and production started with two extruders. "This venture was very successful, and we were able to steadily grow our production," says Joe le Roux, factory manager at Netafim South Africa. "In 2017 we invested in new extruders and have continuously improved our equipment and systems. We now have three state-of-the-art extrusion lines and production runs 24 hours a day seven days a week."

To date, locally produced dripline included Uniram™, Dripnet PC™ and Aries™ driplines with wall thicknesses ranging from 0.3 to 1.5 mm. Netafim South Africa has been investigating the possibility to extend its local dripline production to include its tough thin wall dripline, Streamline™ X, for some time now. The need for local production is driven by its aim to always adapt to market requirements and ensure that its business systems are optimised for efficiency.

Based on market readiness, and Netafim South Africa's desire to offer faster and more stable dripline supply to the market, the decision was made, and local Streamline™ X production is now a reality. "We are very excited to announce that, after the latest upgrades to our extruders, we can now manufacture thin wall pipe with wall thicknesses below 0.2 mm. This means that Streamline™ X can be extruded right here in our Cape Town manufacturing plant," said le Roux. After intensive test runs to ensure the best quality product is produced, the first roll of locally produced Streamline™ X was recently extruded, and production is running smoothly.



PRESS RELEASE



Netafim South Africa team members with the first market-ready roll of Streamline™ X that was produced in the Cape Town manufacturing plant. At the back from the left is James Everts, Suren Moonasar, and Buks van Zyl. In the front from the left are Alfie Delpoit, Edward Appolis, Joe le Roux, and Gerard Hyster.



Beyond the benefit of faster and more stable supply, this move speaks to the company's passion for efficiency. Le Roux explains that local production is more cost-efficient and importantly leaves a much smaller environmental footprint. Lastly, do not forget the massive value of stimulating the local economy as highlighted earlier.

Thin Wall Trend

According to Michael Esmeraldo, managing director of Netafim South Africa, the irrigation industry is seeing a global phenomenon that farmers are shifting to increased use of thin wall driplines. "We prioritise the needs of our end-users and it is therefore important for us to adapt to market trends in order to supply the industry with what it needs in the field."

Netafim South Africa is mostly known for its premium heavy wall driplines. "Netafim has always focused on helping any farmer in any circumstances grow more with less. By offering thin wall, medium wall and heavy wall driplines with ranging dripper features and capabilities, as well as our wider range of precision irrigation solutions, we know that we can help any farmer overcome challenges in the field."

Netafim South Africa has always been able to supply local farmers with the full range of drip solutions, our locally produced offer however needed one more piece of the puzzle. "With this announcement, we can proudly say that our locally produced dripline offer is complete, and we can nimbly react to the needs of our end-users."

The Toughest Thin Wall Dripline Ever Made

What makes Streamline™ X so special? "It is the toughest thin wall dripline ever made. This was confirmed by extensive testing at our headquarters in Israel and on local soil," says Esmeraldo.



It's a non-pressure compensating thin-wall dripline with improved durability, identification stripes, and value added packaging. Compared to alternative agricultural drip tapes, Streamline™ X is the best choice for seasonal row crop irrigation since it offers seamless construction, a low filtration requirement, and flap outlet protection which deters soil ingestion and root intrusion.

The toughness of Streamline™ X can be attributed to the longevity of the dripper on the one hand, and the durability of the dripline on the other hand. The product was first released in 2019 and will now be more accessible to farmers thanks to local manufacturing.

Internal and external reinforcement ribs enhance dripline durability and protect the pipe from damages on the pipe surface and close to the dripper. This makes installation and retrieval easier than ever before. Netafim's advanced dripper technology is what makes this tough dripline even better. It ensures optimal turbulence, self-cleaning capabilities as well as wide water passages and a large deep and wide cross section for high dripper clogging resistance. The dripper's large filtration area efficiently prevents the entrance of sediments into the drippers, ensuring optimal performance even under harsh water conditions.

Industry Highlight

In its challenge to help farmers find new ways to use water efficiently, the announcement of local Streamline™ X production is a massive highlight for the Southern African irrigation industry. "It is important for the irrigation industry to unite and ensure that resources are used sustainably. We also need to focus on upskilling communities and agricultural subsectors in efficient resource use to ensure ongoing success," said Esmeraldo.

There have been many highlights on Netafim's local journey, as well as in the stories of irrigation and agriculture in Southern Africa. "Personally, I am looking forward to many more highlights and to see what the future holds for precision irrigation technology. May we continue to advance the industry in order to help the world grow more with less."



The drive towards sustainable and recyclable packaging in the fresh produce market

The world's current disposal system has not been able to adapt to the growing market's dependence on plastic packaging. More than 40 years after the launch of the first universal recycling symbol, just 14% of the plastic packaging used globally is recycled, while 40% ends up in landfills and 32% in ecosystems, with the remaining 14% used for incineration or energy recovery.



According to Plastics South Africa, in 2019, South Africa produced just over 1,8 million tonnes of plastic (approximately 300 million tonnes worldwide in 2020). Of the 1,8 million tonnes, only 1,1 million tonnes could be recycled. Of the 1,1 million tonnes, only 503 000 t were collected for recycling.

At the International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) Southern Africa's Fresh Solutions, Dr Valeska Cloete, group head of innovation, research, and development at Mpact, shared her insights into packaging for a smarter, sustainable future.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Key factors that influence packaging are the environment, law, consumers, cost pressure for cheaper alternatives, and technology.
2. Packaging design is critical to extending the shelf-life of fresh produce, improving quality, and eventually reducing the carbon footprint of the packaging through the value chain.
3. Many retailers and brand owners are re-examining their packaging strategies to ensure recyclable, compostable, and renewable product ranges.
4. To reduce environmental impact, brand owners and retailers may require packaging suppliers to perform life-cycle assessments across the entire value chain.
5. Producers who put annually more than 10 t identified products in the market must have an Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) strategy to decrease the environmental impact of the packaging.
6. The United Kingdom's (UK's) Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) applies to plastic packaging components manufactured in or imported into the UK if they contain less than 30% recycled plastic.
7. In France, some fruit and vegetables weighing less than 1,5 kg may no longer be sold in plastic bags.
8. South African farmers need to take a serious look at the sustainability and recyclability of their fresh produce packaging if they want take advantage of emerging market opportunities around the world. ■

Top-performing matriculants receive laptops from NWK

While the national top achievers were recognised with the release of the results on 20 January, the cream of the crop among the matriculants of 2022 in the Ditsobotla subdistrict were finally celebrated at the prestigious Ditsobotla stars of 2022 “Well-done function” held at Hoërskool Lichtenburg.

The matriculants of 2022 are special in the sense that they managed to obtain a pass rate of 80,1%, despite never having written a formal test in 2020 when they were in grade 10, as well as no formal exam in 2021 when they were in grade 11.

Hosted by the North West Department of Education, NWK is a proud sponsor of this annual event and donated 21 laptops, valued at almost R230 000, to the top-performing matriculants of the 21 top-performing schools in the Ditsobotla subdistrict. NWK has been sponsoring the laptops for this event since 2023/2014. In total, 187 laptops, valued at more than R1,7 million, have been donated.

Benedict Modise, director of economic development at NWK, congratulated the matriculants on their achievements and acknowledged the challenges they had to endure in order to complete their secondary education, including a world-wide pandemic and consequent lockdown, as well as load-shedding. “Let’s also not forget the dissolution of the municipal council, a lack of water, and bad roads.

Sometimes, you have to get knocked down, lower than you have ever been, to stand back up taller than you ever were,” he said. He described the handover of the laptops, which are also furnished with the latest software, as the fulfilment of one of NWK’s core values – co-responsibility in the workplace and community. “We at NWK are really pleased with what you have accomplished and are looking forward to seeing you take on even tougher challenges in the future.”

Benedict reminded them that NWK offers sustainable career opportunities for qualified candidates and encouraged them to visit the company’s social media platforms for possible vacancies. “Don’t forget about us! It would be fantastic to have our very own, working for a company that supported your vision while you were still in school.”



The recipients of the laptops include, front f.l.t.r.: Lethabo Mhlebi (Lichtenburg English Secondary School), Juriné Combrink (CVO Skool Lichtenburg), Johanna Bester (Hoërskool Coligny), and Mphoentle Diseko (Bodibe Secondary School). Back, f.l.t.r.: Johan Bezuidenhout (group manager of corporate marketing and communication at NWK), Thembi Madlala (Kgoke Lesabe Public School), Nokuthula Tshabalala (AG Malebe Secondary School), Benedict Modise (director of economic development at NWK), Noxolo Mmolo (Bophirima Secondary School), Tsholofelo Tiale (Tau Rapulana Secondary School), Kealeboga Mosadi (Regolotswe High School) and Samuel Nkone (former area manager of the Ditsobotla subdistrict of North West’s Departement of Education and Sport Development).

CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Some of these matriculants were the products of the Ikateleng Project, an educational initiative run by the North-West University (NWU) and sponsored by NWK.

This project has been running for 33 years now and has given students the edge to not only pass matric with distinction, but to excel in their tertiary studies and pursue ambitious and successful careers.

The Ikateleng Project was initiated at the Vaal Triangle Campus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (now called NWU) in 1998. It is now one of the most comprehensive supplementary instruction programmes for grade 12 pupils in the country and offers classes in mathematics, physical sciences, accounting, economics and english.

Neontle Menoe of Bethel High School obtained distinctions in Afrikaans and accounting. She will



Benedict Modise, director of economic development at NWK, addresses the top-performing of matriculants of 2022.



The following learners were also awarded with laptops, front f.l.t.r.: Rearabetswe Mathikge (Gaborone Secondary School), Neontle Menoe (Bethel High School), Dimakatso Mekgwe (More High School), Olebogeng Morolong (Rekgonne Secondary School) and Keamogetswe Pelele (JM Lekgetha Commercial School). Back, f.l.t.r.: Johan Bezuidenhout (group manager of corporate marketing and communication at NWK), Motty Qweshwa (mother of Thandeka Qweshwa of Reboneilwe Secondary School), Benedict Modise (director of economic development at NWK), Gontse Majelenyane (Baitshoki High School), Kgosi Seitholo (Tswelopele High School) and Samuel Nkone (former area manager of the Ditsobotla subdistrict of North West's Departement of Education and Sport Development). Absent: Kamogelo Madabulela (FM Ramaboea Technical School), Mphela Melelwe (Kopanelo Combined School), Bonolo Matebele (Gaetsho High School), and Julia Bloem (Hoërskool Lichtenburg).

be studying Science at Wits University this year and hopes to work in a medical field one day. She said that Ikateleng helped her, especially in physical sciences, in the sense that she got information on the subject from various sources, which helped her understand the subject better in the end.

Keamogetswe Pelele of JM Lekgetha Commercial School got distinctions in business studies, Tswana and life orientation. She will be embarking on a BComm degree, specialising in human resources at the University of Johannesburg. She was ecstatic on receiving a laptop. "I can't believe it! It was not easy. I am very happy. I'm proud of myself for working hard and not giving up. This will help me tremendously in my studies." ■

Media enquiries: Johan Bezuidenhout, group manager of corporate marketing and communication at NWK.

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email: jbezuidenhout@nwk.co.za;
www.nwk.co.za.**

SerDev bied suksesvolle boeredag en toekenningsgeleentheid aan

SerDev het op Vrydag 27 Januarie 2023 'n suksesvolle boeredag en toekenningsgeleentheid vir ontwikkelende boere aangebied in samewerking met medewerkers en borge. Die geleentheid is deur 385 ontwikkelende boere bygewoon op die Sernick Groep se plaas, Liebenbergstroom naby Edenville in die Vrystaat.

Petro Naudé, besturende direkteur van SerDev, sê SerDev se doel is om ontwikkelende boere te mentor en ondersteun om van kleinskaalse tradisionele boerderye tot kommersiële boerdery te ontwikkel. Om hulle sodoende onafhanklike, volhoubare en selfversekerde boere te maak. Sy moedig die boere aan om geleenthede aan te gryp en 'n positiewe gesindheid te hê om nuwe dinge te leer.

SerDev het al sedert 2018 het met meer as 700 boere gewerk, wat nou 460 000 ha grond en meer as 40 000 beeste bestuur. Die organisasie wil Absa bedank vir hul borgskap oor die afgelope twee jaar en Dr Langa Simela en Dr Reaan Immelman vir hul ondersteuning.

Maria Tswayi van Hertzogville en Merriam Vent van Reddersburg is saam aangewys as die Sernick Vroulike Boer van die Jaar vir hul suksesvolle implementering van SerDev se raad en opleiding, en 'n 100% kalfpersentasie. Maria Tswayi is ook aangewys as die algehele Sernick Boer van die Jaar.

Verskeie sprekers het op die dag hul kennis oor diverse onderwerpe met die boere gedeel. Sernick Groep Voorsitter, Nick Serfontein het



CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS



die dag afgeskop deur almal te herinner om optimisties te bly, en almal te bedank vir hul toewyding en deelname. Diergesondheidsspesialis, Dr Faffa Malan, het die belangrikheid van biosekuriteit in die bedryf benadruk en boere aangemoedig om kwarantynkampe op te rig om die verspreiding van siektes te voorkom.

Dr Langa Simela, Absa Besigheidsontwikkeling bestuurder: Landbou het bank- en leningsvereistes bespreek asook raad aangebied oor hoe boere hul kanse om lenings te verkry, kan verhoog. Micheal Nethavhani van SA Weersdienste het inligting gedeel oor hoe hulle boere kan ondersteun met weerinligting en dienste.

Kobus Theart, Sernick Veevoere tegniese adviseur, het die voordele van aanvullings vir ontwikkelende boere bespreek en hoe

dit hulle winsgewendheid kan beïnvloed. Michael Atkinson van SerDev het 'n nuwe geleentheid bekendgestel waardeur boere deel kan vorm van 'n plaaslike waardeketting. Die waardeketting sluit 'n C-graad voerkraal- en verwerkingsaanleg in wat toeganklik en bekostigbaar is. Louis Steyl van Bonsmara SA het raad gegee oor hoe om die regte bul te kies, gevolg deur 'n demonstrasie in die Sernick-bulring, in aanloop tot Sernick Bonsmara se veiling op 3 Februarie.

Die dag was 'n waardevolle geleentheid vir die uitruil van inligting, en die gemiddelde ouderdom van die boere wat die dag bywoon is toenemend jonger, wat dui op 'n blink toekoms vir veeboerdery in Suid-Afrika.

SerDev betuig graag hul dank aan almal wat hierdie spesiale dag moontlik gemaak het. ■

SHELL supporting farm of the future



Benedicta Mankhili (Shell), Hein Venter (Shell), Steve Cloete (Atlas Oil), Koos Uys (prize-winner), Antonie Brelage (Oil at FPS), and Sebastian Laine (Atlas Oil).

Koos Uys from Standerton is one of the lucky recipients of a brand-new drone, compliments of the Shell Lubricants “Farm of the Future” themed competition.

To qualify for the prize, customers had to buy Shell Rimula, Gadus, and Spirax products from Atlas Oil Delmas, Bell Supply Co, and Oil at FPS before 31 December 2022 and scan the QR code.

The handover of the Mavic 3 Enterprise Series drone, worth R135 000, took place on 30 January on Uys’ farm, Rietpoort, near Standerton in Mpumalanga. Uys and his two sons, Kobus and Hannes, farm maize, soya beans, and Brangus cattle. “I have been using shell lubricants for many years and have never experienced problems,” Uys said.

Hannes Uys said they consider drone technology extremely useful for farm management. “We have been using an older generation drone for a couple of years to ensure farm operations are running smoothly. With the new drone, monitoring remote

areas, which used to take hours of walking and driving, can now be completed in a much shorter time.

“We look forward to incorporating this new drone in monitoring our farm operations, especially cattle herd management,” Uys said.

Benedicta Mankhili, B2B Marketing Manager at Shell, said the promotion was in support of Shell’s “Farm of the Future” campaign, which is focused on the use of innovative and sustainable lubricants and services to ensure agricultural equipment is operating at peak performance now and in the future.

Hein Venter, technical advisor at Shell Downstream South Africa, said lubricants play a vital role in agriculture. “When choosing a lubricant, it is important to ensure it complies with the requirements of original equipment manufacturers (OEM). Shell Lubricants carry the approval of all the major agricultural equipment manufacturers”. ■

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL NEWS

KNOW YOUR GIN



**THE OLD PACKHOUSE
DISTILLERY**
Handcrafted Gin

Braam Koekemoer, a member of Agricultural Writers SA, recently visited the award-winning The Old Packhouse Distillery, owned and run by Mark Dando.

The Old Packhouse Distillery is an artisanal, small-batch, handcrafted gin distillery, established between 2016 and 2017, located 5 km outside Modjajiskloof between Modjajiskloof and Tzaneen on the R36. The aim of the distillery is to produce and manufacture exemplary gin. Mark says: "We craft award-winning gin to bring you a taste of nature's best with every sip."

Wildlife Trust (EWT) as well as the Shared Universe Foundation (NPO), who are in partnerships with various parks and the government.

These organisations are dedicated to ensuring that the endangered wildlife is conserved for future generations and aim at establishing conservation awareness among the people of South Africa and beyond.

Offerings:

- Old Packhouse Distillery offer the following:
- Sales and distribution of gin
- Gin tastings at the distillery facility and various festivals in the lowveld
- Hire our venue for festivals, functions, and weddings. ■



"Our gin is a clear, distilled spirit with dominant and African botanical flavours of juniper, flowers, and locally sourced fruit", Mark says.

By firmly believing in supporting the local communities, The Old Packhouse Distillery make use of all natural and locally produced ingredients. This has won the distillery several international and national gin spirit awards for their handcrafted gin.

The artisanal gin exemplifies lowveld country living not only in the production but also supporting the Endangered

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<https://www.theoldpackhousedistillery.com>

AWARDS ACHIEVED



CALENDER

14–16 March	Africa Agri Tech
8–9 March	Grain SA Congress
27 June to 3 July	IFAJ International Congress, in Canada
2–3 August	The International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) Southern African Conference

Upcoming IFAJ congresses

2023 – Canada
2024 – Switzerland
2025 – Israel
2026 – Kenya
2027 – Croatia

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Africa Agri Tech 2023

Sun Arena, Menlyn Maine, Pretoria

14 – 16 March 2023

Due to continued global uncertainties on a number of fronts, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the Africa Agri Tech Conference and Exhibition to 14–16 March 2023.

This will ensure that we are able to stage and host an event that provides Southern Africa's agricultural leaders, technology innovators, scientists, farmers, researchers, and policymakers, with a world-class event and global representation.

The inaugural Africa Agri Tech Conference and Exhibition held in February 2020 at the Sun Arena, Menlyn Maine, firmly established the event as the foremost meeting point for Southern Africa's agricultural ecosystem to explore the latest trends, innovations, and discoveries in agricultural science and technology, and to examine their future impact on agriculture.

Participation opportunities include:

- Exhibiting / showcasing products and services in line with the theme and categories
- Taking up sponsorship positions from the sponsorship menu
- Opportunity for foreign trade discussions
- Venture capital pitches by start-ups and innovators
- Speaker opportunities
- Hosting clients to the event as delegates, and/or hospitality opportunities

Join us at the Sun Arena, Menlyn Maine, Pretoria, from 14–16 March 2023 to connect with agritech developers, food innovators, investors, market leaders, and industry experts as they explore the impact of science, data, technology, climate-smart agriculture, and more on the Agri sector at large.

About Africa Agri Tech

The Africa Agri Tech Conference and Exhibition is dedicated to connecting the southern African agricultural, scientific, and technology communities at one event, staged over three days, exploring global trends and advances in agricultural science, technology, and innovation and the benefits that these will bring to the agricultural ecosystem in the future. The event aims to deliver premium insights coupled with best-in-class presenters and suppliers.

The event comprises a three-day conference, exhibition, and co-located events including; Women in Agriculture, Innovation Challenge, start-up pitches to venture capitalists, foreign trade lounge, hybrid event offering, Agriculture Industry Achievement Awards, and South Africa's inaugural Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Enquiries: enquiries@africa-agri.co.za
www.africaagritech.co.za



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Banana in abundance.

Photo: Francois Vorster



When the rain comes – just outside Beaufort West.

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 Magda Du Toit by magda.du.toit@outlook.com of Petrie Vogel by petrie@abevents.co.za.

Send us your stories

All members are invited to send contributions to *Agripen* before the 15th of each month to Magda Du Toit at magda.du.toit@outlook.com or Petrie Vogel at petrie@abevents.co.za.



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