

# AWARDS OF THE SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

These awards are made by the Council of the Soil Science Society of South Africa, on the recommendation of its Standing Awards Committee where so required. The Standing Awards Committee, as appointed by the Council, consists, for the purposes of continuity as well as uniformity, of five members, each with a replacement, of whom the longest-serving member retires at the end of each year and is replaced by a new member. The longest-serving member of the Committee acts as chairman.

The following awards can be made:

## **1. Honorary membership (a silver medal is presented during a congress)**

The constitution determines it as follows:

- i. Honorary membership can be awarded to a full member whom the Society will honour for his meritorious service to the Society and for the realisation of the aims of the Society, or based on outstanding achievements in the scientific field.
- ii. Honorary members must be elected by a two-thirds majority of Council members once notice has been given at a previous Council meeting of the intention to propose the member concerned for honorary membership. A written motivation for honorary membership must be delivered at any stage to the secretary of the Society. It must be signed by a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be full members in good standing. The election of honorary members will only be announced during the AGM of the Society.
- iii. Honorary members are exempted from the payment of membership fees or congress registration fees.
- iv. Honorary membership is limited to a maximum of 10 honorary members.

## **2. Silver medal for students who show exceptional achievements in soil science at universities. The following requirements exist for the award:**

- i. A medal, which will be provided by the Society on request, may be awarded annually by each university where soil science is offered.
- ii. Each university decides on its own norms and procedures whereby the awards are evaluated.
- iii. The announcement of the recipient, and the presentation of the award, is the responsibility of each university. The Council recommends, however, that it should be used as far as possible as a marketing opportunity for the field of soil science.

## **3. Silver medal for excellence in papers presented at a Soil Science Society congress.**

The following requirements exist for the award:

- i. A medal is awarded during a congress for a paper delivered at that congress.
- ii. Awards may be made in each of the following categories:

- a. Best paper by a researcher older than 30.
- b. Best paper by a researcher younger than 30.
- c. Best paper presented on new, implementable technology.
- d. Best poster paper presented.
- e.

**4. Silver medal for exceptional service to the Society or the scientific field as a whole.**

A medal is presented during a congress.

- i. The exceptional service must concern a period of at least 10 years.
- ii. The award is considered before each congress.
- iii. A person may receive such an award more than once.
- iv. The procedure for nominations and evaluation is as follows:
  - a. The Council requests the members of the Society for motivated nominations with two seconders and may also nominate.
  - b. All nominations are referred by the Council to its Awards Committee.
  - c. The Awards Committee evaluates the nominations, with further consultation if required, and makes recommendations to the Council.
  - d. The final decision on an award rests with the Council.

**5. Gold medal for exceptional publication(s) in the field of soil science.**

This is the highest award that the Society can bestow and is an exceptionally prestigious award. It is awarded for contributions of extraordinary scientific standard, relevant technological development and/or proven implementation and which make an exceptional contribution to the advancement of soil science. The nature, scope and impact of the nominated contribution should be really outstanding. Contributions of a multi-disciplinary nature may be considered, but the application and advantages of soil science should be prominent.

The following conditions apply to this award:

- i. A medal is presented during a congress.
- ii. Recent contributions and/or those that have had an impact over the previous three years are considered.
- iii. The award may be made at each congress as long as a high standard is maintained.
- iv. The award may be made jointly to more than one person. Where a larger group of varying composition is involved, the institution for which the group works will receive a medal, as well as each member of the group. The Council will determine when such a situation exists, as well as how it should be handled.
- v. A person may receive this award more than once, but only in extremely exceptional cases at consecutive congresses

- vi. The procedure for nominations and evaluation is as follows:
- vii. The Council requests the members of the Society for motivated nominations with two seconders and may also nominate.
- viii. The Council evaluates the nominations, with further consultation if required. The medal may only be awarded if a two-thirds majority of Council members is in agreement.
- ix. If, in the opinion of the Council, the contributions of a nominated candidate or group were not of exceptional quality, the award will not be made at the relevant congress

## **HISTORY OF MEDALS AWARDED AT CONGRESSES**

### **Gold medals**

Soil & Irrigation Research Institute (1987)

Soil Classification Working Group (C N MacVicar, J M de Villiers, R F Loxton, E Verster, J le Roux, J J N Lambrechts, F R Merryweather, T H van Rooyen, H J von M Harmse) (1987)

H v H van der Watt (1996)

Land Type Survey Staff of ARC-ISCW (2003)

MV Fey (2011)

CC du Preez (2012)

ATP Bennie (2012)

### **Silver medals**

#### ***Service to SSSSA***

J van Woerkom (1989)

R O Barnard (1987)

T E Dohse (1994)

#### ***Contributions to Soil Science***

C N MacVicar (1990)

H v H van der Watt, T H van Rooyen, L van Huyssteen (1994)

J H Moolman, A T P Bennie (1996)

J J N Lambrechts, M C Laker (1999)

A J van der Merwe, F Netterberg (2001)

J H Meyer (2008)

## **Silver medals: Best Final-Year Soil Science**

### ***Student***

1993: A L Kruger (UFS), C Steyn (UP), Mej Mossmer (UP)

1994: D J Visser (UFS), M N Smuts (SU), N F Thysma (UP)

1995: A Teubes (SU)

1996: E Smit (UFS), A de Waal (UP)

1997: H J J van Zyl (UFS)

1998: A Liebenberg (UFS), A Judge (Natal), Mnr Agenbach (SU)

1999: L Ehlers (UFS)

2000: D Scholtz (UFS)

2001: M Smuts (SU)

2002: not awarded

2003: CE Dowding (SU), W Mostert (UFS)

2004: HC Kruger (UFS), JJC Potgieter (UP)

2005: not awarded

2006: JJ van Tol (UFS)

2007: not awarded

2008: GC de Neuilly-Rice (UFS)

2009: MH Heine (UFS), A Bruger(SU)

2010: AJ van Jaarsveld (UFS), PB Botha (SU)

2011: J.D.V. Smith (SU)

2012: C.F. Olivier (SU)

## **Medals awarded at the 36th Combined Congress – Bloemfontein**

### **SSSSA President's Award for best paper presented:**

Municipal sludge as low grade fertilizer for maize production in South Africa: Crop yield, nitrogen and phosphorus balances. Tesfamariam, E.H., Annandale, J.G. & Steyn, J.M.

### **Best paper presented by a member older than 30 years:**

Effect of 75 years of fertilization and mulching on soil acidification in sugarcane. Van Antwerpen, R., Miles, N. & Podwojewski, P.

**Best paper presented by a member younger than 30 years:**

The pedogenesis of bleached topsoils overlaying weakly structured subsoils and their significance to classification. Le Roux, J.L., Lambrechts, J.J.N., Ellis, F., de Clercq, W.P. & Clarke, C.E.

**Best paper on developing agriculture:**

Improving irrigation water and solute management using simple tools and adaptive learning. Mbakwe, L., Stirzaker, R.J. & Annandale, J.G.

**Omnia Award for best paper by an MSc student:**

Chemical and photometric properties of bleached topsoils occurring on red and yellow-brown apedal subsoils. Carstens, M.E., De Clercq, W.P., Le Roux, J.L. & Clarke, C.E.

**Best poster presentation (joint award):**

In-field rainwater harvesting: Key to smallholder productivity. Botha, J.J. & Anderson, J.J.

Evaluation of sunflower, soybeans and maize crop rotation with mono-cropping. Anderson, J.J. Botha, J.J. & Wessels, C.H.

**Best Soil Science paper published in SAJPS:**

2022: Pretorius ML, Van Huyssteen CW, Brown LR, Grundling AT & Downs CT. A characterisation of wetland soil types on the Maputaland Coastal Plain.

2020: GM van Zijl, D Bouwer, JJ van Tol, PAL Le Roux & S Lorentz. Saving urban infrastructure from water damage: Digital soil mapping combines with hydrological modelling to determine remedial actions.

2017: Adeleke A, Cloete E, Bertrand A and Khasa D. Relationship between plant growth and organic acid exudates from ectomycorrhizal and non-ectomycorrhizal *Pinus patula*.

2014: Van Zijl. G., Ellis, F. & Rozanov, A. Understanding the combined effect of soil properties on gully erosion using quantile regression.

## Medals awarded since 2022

Date	Venue	Best paper published in SAJPS	Best paper over 30	Best paper under 30	Best poster	Best paper on innovative new technology
2024	Wilderness					
2023	Pretoria		Tesfamariam EH, Ngoetjana MP, Okonkwo OJ	Kock A, Van Zijl GM	Wessels CH, Anderson JJ, Van Niekerk JA	Van der Laan M, Silberbauer M, Schutte C, Maseko S, Viviers C, Thomson A, Khoboko P, Le Roux J, Mudaly L, Weepener H, Mabhaudhi T, Hoogenboom G, Srinivasan R.
2022	Online	Pretorius ML, Van Huyssteen CW, Brown LR, Grundling AT,	Atkinson, J, De Clercq W, Rozanov A	Kock A, Van Zijl GM, Ramphisa PD	Anderson JJ, Wessels CH, Koatla TAB	

## Medals awarded 2014 - 2020

Date	Venue	SSSSA president's award for best paper at congress	Best paper over 30	Best paper under 30	Best poster	Best paper on developing agriculture	Best paper on innovative new technology	Best MSc student paper (Omnia Award)
2024	Wilderness							
2023	Pretoria							
2022	Online		Atkinson, J, De Clercq W, Rozanov	Kock A, Van Zijl GM, Ramphisa	Anderson JJ, Wessels CH, Koatla			
2020	Bloemfontein		Van Tol JJ, Julich S, Bouwer D, Riddell ES	Madubela N, Hardie AG, Clarker CE & Lategan EL	Wessels CH, Anderson JJ, Botha JJ		Van Zijl GM, Bouwer D, van Tol JJ, Le Roux PAL	
2019	Bloemfontein	EF Tesfamariam, PL Simwaka, PW Chirwa	JJ Botha, M Hensley, PAL le Roux, LD van	SG Lusiba, JJO Odhiambo, R Adeleke, S Masko	JJ Anderson and JJ Botha			
2018	Cape Town		DE Elephant, N Miles, P Muchaonye	AR Adams, CE Clarke, AG Hardie	JJ Botha JJ Anderson			TKS Gobozi, AG Hardie
2017	Bela-Bela		R Van Antwerpen, N Miles, S Ramburan	OG Botha, A Rozanov, AG Hardie	JJ Botha and JJ Anderson			NZ Sosibo, P Muchaonyerwa, E

2016	Bloemfontein	Tesfamariam EH et al	Antwerpen R et al	Le Roux JL et al	Botha JJ et al AND Anderson JJ et al	Mbakwe L et al	Not awarded	Carstens ME et al
2015	Grahamstown	Ehlers L et al	Botha JJ et al	Mudaly L et al	Lusiba SG et al	Not awarded	Rozaanov A et al AND Wiese et al	Bouwer D et al
2014	George	Not awarded	Rhodes R et al	Smith JFN et al	Botha JJ et al	Not awarded	Van Tol JJ et al	Smith JDC et al

## Medals awarded 1965-2006

No	Date	Venue	Best paper	Best poster	Best Junior paper	Implementable technology
1	Jul 1965	Pretoria				
2	Jul 1967	Pietermaritzbur				
3	Apr 1970	Bloemfontein				
4	Apr 1971	Stellenbosch				
5	Feb 1975	Salisbury				
6	Jul 1975	Blyde River				
7	Jan 1977	Pretoria				
8	Jul 1978	Pietermaritzbur	M Hensley			
9	Jan 1980	Durban	ATP Bennie & HM du Plessis		JH Moolman	
10	Jul 1981	East London	MV Fey & J van Zyl		D Botha	
11	Jan 1983	Stellenbosch	A Cass		No award	
12	Jul 1984	Bloemfontein	CJB Mott			
13	Jan 1986	Pretoria				
14	Jul 1987	Nelspruit	JH Moolman	G Levy, PR Berliner HM du Plessis HvH vd Watt	AD Manson	
15	Jan 1989	Wild Coast Sun	F Ellis & JJN Lambrechts	A Hattingh & M Hensley	LD van Rensburg & ATP	
16	Jul 1990	Pretoria	W van Averbeke & JN Marais	G Benians & W van Averbeke	E Haumann & CC du Preez/ FPJ Thormahlen & CC du Preez	

17	Jan 1992	Stellenbosch	JH Moolman & WP de Clerq		SP Higgins & MV Fey / ME du Toit, CC du Preez, M Hensley & ATP	JH Meyer, RA Wood & RL Harding
18	Jan 1994	Potchefstroom	H vd Watt & M vd Walt	WP de Clerq, JH Moolman & WJP Wessels	AA Bloem & R Wilken	RO de Munnik, M van der Walt & ME Rust
19	Jan 1995	Stellenbosch	C Buhmann, I Rapp & MC Laker	DJ Pretorius & T Bezuidenhout	CA du Plessis, C Phaal & E Senior	JL Schoeman, HJ Smith, D Haarhoff & JF
20	Jul 1996	Bloemfontein	JJ Bonman	A Venter	E van Zyl	A Daka / DJ Pretorius
21	Jan 1998	Alpine Heath Drakensberg	PA Myburgh & JH Moolman/ HJC Smith & JA Naser	A venter, DJ Beukes & CW van Huyssteen	JJ Botha & M Hensley	JG Annandale, N Benadi, NZ Jovanovic & N du Sautoy
22	Jul 1999	Pretoria	C Buhmann & JP Nell	JJ Botha, JJ Anderson, M Hensley & P van Staden	PHE Strohmenger, AS Claassens, WH Mentz, JG Annandale, RO	HG du Preez, DJ Beukes, MV Kidson, MF Steinke
23	Jan 2001	Pretoria	MV Fey, M Echeverria & S Whyte	JJ Botha & JJ Anderson	DN Reitz, RJ Haynes & C Muchehiwa	
24	Jan 2003	Stellenbosch	CW van Hysteen, PAL le Roux & M Hensley		HN Engelbrecht & WP de Clerq / L Stronkhorst, JH van der Waals, AS Claassens & A	HJ Smith, K Wessels & L Twyman
25	Jan 2005	Potchefstroom	JH van der Waals & AS Claassens	JE Herselman, CE Steyn, A Venter	CE Dowding, MV Fey, MJ Borda, DL Sparks, F Ellis	LD van Rensburg, AW Frezghi & I van der Stoep / PAL le Roux, SA Tekle, & M
26	Jan 2006	Durban	JJ Botha, LD van Rensburg, JJ Anderson/ HG Jansen van Rensburg, DJ Beukes, MV Kidson, AS	GME van der Merwe & DJ Beukes	K Jennings, PAL le Roux, CW van Huyssteen & TB Zere	MV Fey

## Award: SASOL Expo for Young Scientists



2013: Senior Award: Pieter Brand (Paul Roos Gymnasium, Grade 9): "The effect of different types of fertilizer applications on the growth patterns of oats". Pieter was subsequently also Invited to the International Science Fair Interviews.

2013: Junior Award: Helga Claasen (Laerskool Pietersburg, Grade 6): "Fertilizer or manure"