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)


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 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:
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:


Best poster presentation (joint award):

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

Best Soil Science paper published in SAJPS:


Medals awarded since 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>SSSSA president’s award for best paper at congress</th>
<th>Best paper over 30</th>
<th>Best paper under 30</th>
<th>Best poster</th>
<th>Best paper on developing agriculture</th>
<th>Best paper on innovative new technology</th>
<th>Best MSc student paper (Omnia Award)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td>EF Tesfamariam, PL Simwaka, PW Chirwa &amp; AP Ngwira</td>
<td>JJ Botha, M Hensley, PAL le Roux, LD van Rensburg, JJ Anderson</td>
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<td>J Anderson and JJ Botha</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Best paper</td>
<td>Best poster</td>
<td>Best Junior paper</td>
<td>Implementable technology</td>
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<td>Apr 1971</td>
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<td>M Hensley</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Jan 1980</td>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>ATP Bennie &amp; HM du Plessis</td>
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<td>JH Moolman</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Jul 1981</td>
<td>East London</td>
<td>MV Fey &amp; J van Zyl</td>
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<td>D Botha</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Jan 1983</td>
<td>Stellenbosch</td>
<td>A Cass</td>
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<td>Nelspruit</td>
<td>JH Moolman</td>
<td>G Levy, PR Berliner HM du Plessis HvH vd Watt</td>
<td>AD Manson</td>
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<td>Wild Coast Sun</td>
<td>F Ellis &amp; JN Lambrechts</td>
<td>A Hattingh &amp; M Hensley</td>
<td>LD van Rensburg &amp; ATP Bennie</td>
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<td>H vd Watt &amp; M vd Walt</td>
<td>WP de Clerq, JH Moolman &amp; WJP Wessels</td>
<td>AA Bloem &amp; R Wilken</td>
<td>RO de Munnik, M van der Walt &amp; ME Rust</td>
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<td>Stellenbosch</td>
<td>C Buhmann, I Rapp &amp; MC Laker, DJ Pretorius &amp; T Bezuidenhout, CA du Plessis, C Phaal &amp; E Senior, JL Schoeman, HJ Smith, D Haarhoff &amp; JF Beytell</td>
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<td>23 Jan 01</td>
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<td>25 Jan 05</td>
<td>Potchefstroom</td>
<td>JH van der Waals &amp; AS Claassens, JE Herselman, CE Steyn, A Venter, CE Dowding, MV Fey, MJ Borda, DL Sparks, F Ellis, LD van Rensburg, AW Frezghi &amp; I van der Stoep / PAL le Roux, SA Tekle, &amp; M Hensley</td>
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**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"