## SSSSA COUNCIL/GVSA RAAD: 2007-09

President	Dr J.E. Hoffman
Vice-Pres./Vise-Pres.	Dr C.W. van Huyssteen
Past Pres./Oud-Pres.	Mr D.G. Paterson
Secr. Treas./SekrTes.	Mr T.E. Dohse
Members/Lede	Ms H.G. Jansen van Rensburg
	Dr M.P. Nepfumbada
	Dr D.P. Turner

ADDRESS/ADRES

Dr R. van Antwerpen

P O Box/Posbus 65217 Erasmusrand 0165

#### **TELEPHONE/TELEFOON**

President: (021) 808-4789 Sec./Sekr.: (012) 310-2504

#### WEB PAGE/-BLAD

#### http://www.soils.org.za

The SSSSA does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in this newsletter.

Die GVSA onderskryf nie noodwendig die menings van bydraes tot sy nuusbrief nie.

# *MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/*BOODSKAP VAN DIE PRESIDENT

Die jaar 2008 is al stewig op koers. Die Grahamstad kongres het gedurende Januarie plaasgevind en het goed verloop. Vir die eerste keer het die gesamentlike kongres web werf ook ten volle gefunksioneer en sake baie vergemaklik. Die kongres is bygewoon deur 335 mense en vir die eerste keer het departement Landbou van die Oos Kaap, 'n finansiële bygedra gemaak. Baie dankie aan Marco Brutsch en sy span vir hulle bydrae om die kongres 'n sukses te maak.

2008 is well under way and we can look back on the Grahamstown Congress in January, which went very well, with the Combined Congress web-site working fully for the first time to make matters easier. 335 delegates attended and for the first time the Department of Agriculture of the Eastern Cape made a financial contribution. Many thanks to Marco Brutsch and his team for their efforts in making the Congress a success.

Die volgende kongres in 2009 vind in Stellenbosch plaas en lede kan reeds die datums op hulle kalenders merk. Die kongres sal weer deur die vier vakverenigings aangebied word en dit van die 20ste tot 22ste Januarie 2008 plaas. Die tema van die kongres is: Voedsel sekuriteit. Die eerste aankondiging sal binnekort verskyn, hou asseblief die kongres webbladsy dop verdere inligting. Daar sal weens 'n beperking in tyd en lokale beskikbaar slegs 'n maksimum aantal referate toe gelaat kan word. Sorg dus dat u referaat voor die sperdatums in gedien word.

The next Congress will be in Stellenbosch and members can mark the dates  $20^{th}$  to  $22^{nd}$  January 2009 on their calendars. The Congress will again be held jointly with the four Societies and the theme will be "Food Security". The first announcement will appear shortly, so keep an eye on the Congress web-site for further information. Due to time restrictions and available venues, there will be a fixed maximum number of papers allowed, so please ensure that you submit your abstracts before the closing date.

Sedert my uitnodiging in die vorige nuusbrief het heelwat lede gereageer om foute wat deur "onkundige" konsultante gemaak word uit te wys. Ek het ook 'n aantal foto's ontvang. By die mees onlangse Grondkundebesprekingsgroep het Tesman Beyers van die growwe foute uitgewys (sien ook nuus van Stellenbosch elders in nuusbrief). Veral van ons jonger kunsmisaanbevelers maak van verkeerde tabelle en/of inligting gebruik om aanbevelings te maak. Soms word die ontledingsmetodes buite rekening gelaat as daar aanbevelings gemaak word. So word byvoorbeeld fosforwaardes in programme gebruik wat vir Ambic ontledings geskryf is, maar die ontledingswaardes beskikbaar is deur Olsen gedoen. Die party wat die gelag betaal is gewoonlik die produsent, met ernstige ekonomiese gevolge vir hom. Baie van ons jong lede het ook die persepsie dat "ou" data en/of gepubliseerde artikels nie meer relevant is nie. Verkeerdelik word daar dan oorsese literatuur of waardes gebruik wat glad nie onder plaaslike toestande relevant is nie. Indien iemand onseker is of hy die regte waardes gebruik, kontak my of enige raadslid en ons sal jou na die regte persone verwys as ons nie self kan help nie.

Since my invitation in the previous Newsletter, a number of members have reacted and pointed out errors made by supposedly "expert" consultants and I have also received a number of photos. At our most recent Soil Science Discussion Group, Tesman Beyers looked at some of the serious errors (see also "News from Stellenbosch" elsewhere in the Newsletter). Especially some of our younger fertilizer advisors make use of incorrect tables and/or information for recommendations. For example, Olsen P values are used in programs that have been written for Ambic values. The person that usually pays the price is the producer, often with serious economic implications. Also, some younger members are under the impression that "old" data and/or published articles are no longer relevant, therefore overseas articles and/or values are used that may not be relevant under local conditions. If someone is unsure if he/she is using correct values, contact either myself or any Council member and we will refer you to the correct person if we cannot help ourselves.

Ek doen 'n baie ernstige beroep op al die lede wat nog nie by die Suid Afrikaanse raad van natuurwetenskaplikes (SARNAP) geaffilieer is nie, om dit so spoedig moontlik te doen. Die GVSA het 'n sekere minimum aantal lede nodig om as 'n vrywillige geassosieerde vakvereniging erken te word. Indien ons nie genoeg lede het nie, kan ons die lidmaatskap verbeur. Volgens wet moet <u>alle</u> praktiserende Grondkundiges wel aan SARNAP behoort, maak nie saak of u vir 'n universiteit, kollege, navorsingsinstansie, privaat maatskappy werk nie en/of u eie besigheid het nie. Kom lede, sluit asseblief aan, aansoekvorms is op die internet (<u>www.sacnasp.org.za</u>) beskikbaar

I would like to make a serious request to all the members who have not yet registered with the SA Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) to do so as soon as possible. The SSSSA requires a minimum number of affiliated members if we want to be recognised as a Voluntary Associated Body and without sufficient members, we may lose our membership. According to law, <u>all</u> practicing soil scientists need to belong to SACNASP, whether from a University, College, Research Institute or own business. Please members, join now, application forms are available on the web-site (<u>www.sacnasp.org.za</u>).

Sterkte vir die jaar vorentoe en onthou om ons vakgebied uit te bou en onder die jeug te bevorder.

All the best for the year ahead and remember to promote our discipline among the youth wherever you can.

Groete/Regards,

### Eduard Hoffman (Tel 021-808 4789; ehoffman@sun.ac.za) EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL

Thanks to Margaret Kieser, our "Webmistress", there is now a .ftp site where larger documents/folders can be transferred to our web site (<u>www.soils.org.za</u>). I have sent some photos from previous Congresses, as well as various miscellaneous photos. An archive of previous newletters, and (hopefully) previous Congress Abstract books, can also be established. We plan to load these when time permits in the coming months. If anyone has other information, articles, photos etc that might be of interest or of use to fellow members, please contact me and we will arrange for uploading.

Regards,

#### **Garry Paterson**

(012) 310-2601; 083 556 2458; garry@arc.agric.za

## **COUNCIL MATTERS/RAADSAANGELEENTHEDE**

1. Daar is voorgestel dat die getal Erelede van tien na vyftien verhoog word. Die besluit is egter onderhewig aan die algemene vergadering se goedkeuring.

It was proposed that the number of Honorary members be increased from ten to fifteen and this needs to be approved at the next Annual General meeting.

2. Daar gaan 'n keurder/redakteur deur die raad aangestel word met die doel om alle referate deur te gaan om sodoende te verseker dat die wetenskaplikevlak van Grondkunde se referate by die kongres verbeter word.

An editor will be appointed by Council to study all articles and to ensure that the scientific quality of soil science papers at each Congress can be improved.

3. New Members: we welcome the following new members to the Society:

JH Barnard J van Tol HQ Grundling Dr N Miles Dr JAJ van Vuuren CH Fraenkel D Gunter AM Malatji PM Maphumulo RC Ndwamato

## **MEMBER MOVEMENTS/ LEDE BEWEGINGS**

**Kimberly Jennings**, a master's student at the University of the Free State, started employment with the ARC-ISCW at Glen.

**Suzette Smalberger** has left ARC-ISCW to take up a post with Omnia Fertilisers. **Rinda Pienaar** (previously van der Merwe) has also deperted ARC-ISCW and moved to Clarens with her new family.

Carl Steyn has left ARC-ISCW to join Golder Consulting

## AWARDS/TOEKENNINGS

Jan Meyer, who retired from SASEX, Mount Edgecombe last year, was presented with the SSSSA Silver Medal at a function in Mount Edgecombe that was held in conjunction with the SSSSA Council Meeting there in April.

Jan is especially remembered for all his work in sugar cane cultivation and silica research in Kwa-Zulu Natal, and is busier than ever in his "retirement"!



**Dr Malcolm Hensley** was appointed as Affiliated Professor in Soil Science at the University of the Free State. This was in recognition of his long involvement with research and student guidance at the university.

Malcolm has also been awarded Honorary membership of the SSSSA, which was announced at Grahamstown.

Die referaat wat deur **Johan van Tol**, 'n M.Sc. Agric student in grondkunde aan die UV, by die tweejaarlikse hidrologie kongres (SANCHIAS - South African National Commission of the International Hydrological Sciences) wat in Kaapstad gehou is, is as die tweede beste deur 'n jong navorser aangewys. Die eerste en derde plekke is ingeneem deur Ph.D studente in hidrologie. Die titel van die referaat is "Pedofeatures as indicators of hillslope hydrology" en sy mede outeurs is Piet le Roux, Malcolm Hensley en Simon Lorentz.

## **DEGREES OBTAINED/GRADE BEHAAL**

#### University of Stellenbosch

**Michele Francis** was awarded the PhD (Agric) degree in Soil Science for her thesis entitled "Soil formation on the Namaqualand coastal plain". Below is a brief summary of her work.

The Namaqualand coastal plain is of special interest both ecologically and for its rich diamond and heavy mineral deposits. Its soils are poorly studied because agricultural potential is low. This field and laboratory investigation of soil genesis revealed much of novelty in the regolith. Secondary cemented enrichments of silica, carbonates and sepiolite (proposed new petrosepiolitic horizon), intensified by maritime influence, evaporative brine evolution and biogenic mediation linked especially to *heuweltjies* (broad termite mounds), present a subsurface complexity that challenges attempts to rehabilitate mined land sustainably in this ecologically fragile, arid landscape.

**Francis van Jaarsveld** het sy MSc verwerf. Francis was 'n Geologie meesters student wat sy projek geheel en al by grondkunde gedoen het. Die projek het gehandel oor die verspreiding van stof rondom die oopgroef gipsmyne in die Boesmanland en hoe hierdie stof die gronde in die omgewing beïnvloed. Dit het voorts ook gegaan oor die voorspelbaarheid van besoedeling gekoppel aan klimaatsmetings.

**Julia Harper** (MSc thesis topic: Soil fertility constraints to small-scale agriculture in north-west Zambia)

**Tarryn Eustice** (MSc thesis topic: An evaluation of water use efficiency on table grapes in the Hex River Valley)

#### University of the Free State

**Louis Ehlers** (PhD): "Responses of crops on shallow water table soils irrigated with deteriorating water qualities".

**Cobus Anderson** (PhD): "Rainfall-runoff relationships and yield responses of maize and dry beans on the Glen-Bonheim ecotope using conventional tillage and in-field rainwater harvesting."

**Obed Phahlane** (MSc Agric): "A three month stream flow forecast for water management in the upper Olifants catchment".

**Johan Potgieter** (MSc Agric): "The influence of environmental factors on reproductive phenology, fruit yield and quality of spineless cactus pear (Opuntia spp) in the Limpopo Province".

**Kimberly Jennings** (MSc): "Effect of varying degrees of water saturation on redox conditions in a yellow brown apedal B soil horizon".

**Malerata Macheli** (MSc): "Role of ferrolysis in the genesis of selected soils of the eastern Free State".

## CONGRESSES/KONGRESSE

#### **SSSSA Congress**

As intimated in Eduard Hoffman's message, the 2009 Combined Congress will be held in Stellenbosch on January 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, and arrangements are well under way, with Eduard himself as Chairman of the Organising Committee. This is always a popular destination, so make all your arrangements in good time.

Some members may not know the there is now a Combined Congress Continuing Committee (CCCC), which functions under the chairmanship of Prof Albert Modi and contains all Vice-Presidents, Presidents and Past Presidents. The aim of the CCCC is to make plans for, and ensure the smooth running of the current and future Combined Congress, including the registration, web-site and handling of funds. An administrative assistant will shortly be appointed to assist with the registration process for each Congress as it happens. After Stellenbosch, it has tentatively been decided that the next Congress will be in the interior (Kimberley/Bloemfontein) and the following one in Limpopo.

#### **SANCID Symposium**

The South African National Council for Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) is to hold its next Symposium at Club Mykonos, north of Cape Town, western Cape from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The theme is "Agricultural water management for sustainable livelihoods" and details can be obtained from the website <u>www.sancid.org.za</u>.

#### **Digital soil mapping - USA**

The 3rd Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping, "Digital Soil Mapping: Bridging Research, Production, and Environmental Applications" is 30 September to 3 October 2008 at Utah State University, Logan, Utah, USA. Go to <u>http://dsmusa.org/</u> for information on program, abstract submission, registration, travel and housing. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 10 May 2008, and final, full papers are due 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The optional field trip (30 September) focuses on DSM examples and environmental factors affecting soils and land use from 1400 to 2700 m in elevation.

#### **Soil Classification - Chile**

This conference will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The aim of the meeting is to bring together scientists and researchers in the field of soil classification to discuss recent progress in the World Reference Base for Soil Resources and other classification schemes. The conference is jointly organized by the IUSS, the Chilean Society of Soil Science, the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture, the

Universities of Chile, Concepcion and La Serena, and the Centre of Advanced Studies in Arid Zones. Please check the website <u>www.scc2008.uchile.cl</u>

#### 1st Conference on Hydropedology- USA

The conference will be held from 28-31 July at Penn State University, USA. The International Union of Soil Sciences' Working Group on Hydropedology (WG-HP) is organizing this inaugural conference to advance the emerging interdisciplinary field of hydropedology and to promote its synergistic collaborations across scientific disciplines, including soil science, hydrology, geomorphology, and other related bio-and geosciences. Hydropedology addresses interactive pedologic and hydrologic processes and landscape-soil-hydrology relationships across space and time, aiming to understand pedologic controls on hydrologic processes and properties, and hydrologic impacts on soil formation, variability, and functions. Such synergistic approach is needed to advance the integrated studies of the earth's Critical Zone, i.e., the critical interface between the solid earth and its fluid envelopes (generally viewed as that part of the earth from the top of vegetations to the bottom of aquifers). Abstract submission deadline is March 31, 2008. More information click here <<u>http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=618b0d67-41d2-4859-ad</u>

**4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (IV WCCA)** will be held on 4-7 February 2009 in New Delhi. The First Announcement is placed at the website <u>www.icar.org.in/wccagri/index.html</u>; <u>www.wccagri.ernet.in</u> for information to all those who are interested in agriculture and natural resources.

A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, KAB-II, Pusa, New Delhi – 110 012

Ph. +91-11-25848364; Fax: +91-11-25848366 Email: aks\_wtc@yahoo.com; aksingh@icar.org.in

## MISCELLANEOUS/ALGEMEEN

Prof. Giel Laker presented an invited paper titled *Understanding the nature, qualities and management requirements of Africa's soils* at the international EAGLES (European Action in Global Life Sciences) symposium on *Information and Communication Technologies and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*, which was held in Centurion on 15-16 November 2007. His presentation consisted mainly of slides of the global distribution of some WRB reference soil groups in comparison with the Google picture "*World at night*". The relationships between areas covered by certain soil groups and areas that are light or dark in the Google picture are quite incredible.

Johan van der Waals and Giel Laker contributed a chapter on *Micronutrient deficiencies in crops in Africa with emphasis on Southern Africa* to a recently published book on *Micronutrient deficiencies in global crop production*. The reference for the book is: Alloway, B.J. (Ed.) 2008. Micronutrient deficiencies in global crop production (Springer, Berlin).

#### SASSO

The South African Soil Surveyors Organisation (SASSO) held its first meeting for 2008 from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March in the Langkloof, Southern Cape. The meeting was attended by almost 40 people from all over South Africa (see photo). Under discussion was the production of deciduous fruit in the area and the associated problems as well as the degradation and restoration of the palmiet wetlands in the Krom River. Some of these wetlands are reported to be 5000 years old, but erode at an alarming rate due to injudicious drainage and canalisation.

The next SASSO meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June in the Burgersfort/ Steelpoort/Sekhukhune area. The discussion will be centred on subsistence farming and the associated impacts and challenges, chrome-rich soils and mine spoil rehabilitation and lastly a visit to irrigation plots. Interested persons can contact Cornie van Huyssteen (vhuystc.sci@ufs.ac.za).



Retired Prof Theo van Rooyen and SASSO delegates in the Langkloof

#### **IUSS News**

#### > Global Environmental Outlook 4

The Global Environmental Outlook 4 is now published; earlier outlooks were published in 1997 (GEO1), 2000 (GEO2) and in 2002 (GEO3). The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) project is the implementation of UNEP's mandate to keep the global environment under review. Initiated at the request of the UNEP Governing Council in 1995, GEO is both a process and a series of reports, analyzing environmental change, causes, impacts, and policy responses. It provides information for decision-making, supports early warning and builds capacity at the global and sub-global levels. GEO is also a communication process that aims at raising awareness on environmental issues and providing options for action. Full report can be downloaded (free) here: www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/

#### > NEW FOR 2008 - Ecohydrology

An international journal publishing original scientific and review papers that aim to improve understanding of processes at the interface between ecology and hydrology and associated applications related to environmental management. Don't miss out! Be the first to read the exciting new content and sign up for RSS Feeds to receive FREE Table of Content Alerts and EarlyView Articles straight to your desktop as soon as they publish online. Visit the journal homepage to set up your alerts or alternatively to submit a paper to this international publication. <u>www.interscience.wiley.com/eco</u>

#### > 3rd Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping

The 3rd Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping (DSM 2008 USA) is scheduled for 30th September to 3rd October 3, 2008, at Utah State University, Logan, Utah, USA. Bookmark the website for the IUSS Working Group on Digital Soil Mapping (www.digitalsoilmapping.org). The Digital Soil Mapping 2008 USA workshop website will be developed and linked to this site, where information including abstract submission, online secure registration, etc. will be posted.

#### > New book on no-till

No-Till Farming Systems, Special Publication No. 3 of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation - <u>http://waswc.soil.gd.cn</u> <u>www.waswc.org</u> edited by: T. Goddard, M. Zoebisch, Y. Gan, W. Ellis, A. Watson and S. Sombatpanit. Thirty-four contributions from renowned experts and practitioners around the world provide a comprehensive review of the rapid growth of no-till, the barriers that have been overcome and the challenges that still lie ahead. Chapters cover current research and new directions as well as policy needs, adoption and extension. Five other new books on the topic are also reviewed. ISBN: 978-974-8391-60-1. No. of pages: 544. Depending on the destination, price ranges from US\$15-20, including delivery. For details contact Samran Sombatpanit <u>sombatpanit@yahoo.com</u> < <u>mailto:sombatpanit@yahoo.com</u> >

#### ► No-till on CD ROM

This CD was planned as a collection of supplementary reference materials, to serve as a companion to the printed book No-Till Farming Systems (2008). This CD is entitled the 25th Anniversary Souvenir Edition of the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC - established 1983) and it is a contribution to the International Year of Planet Earth. There are 17 sections, comprising 1,008 files in 106 folders, mostly in PDF, PPT, Word, describing no-till and other related SWC works from many national and international organizations. An application form is also provided for those who wish to join WASWC. The CD, if purchased separately, costs US\$5/copy, with delivery to any post address worldwide. You are welcome to reproduce and use all materials in any form, without restriction. To get your copy please contact Samran Sombatpanit at sombatpanit@yahoo.com

#### ► Is that fun?.....(and for free)

See how good you are geographically: click here <<u>http://www.travelpod.com/traveler-iq?d7ad=d706</u>>

Measure your carbon footprint: click here <<u>http://www.breathingearth.net/</u>>

The complete Darwin collection online: click here <<u>http://darwin-online.org.uk/</u>> (including Vegetable Mould and Worms)

Who was the first scientist? Click here <<u>http://network.nature.com/forums/sciencewriters/609?</u>>

Online listening to The Economist? Click here <<u>http://audiovideo.economist.com/</u>>

Climate Change Podcasts - click here <<u>http://www.nature.com/climate/podcast.html</u>>

#### Wes-Kaapse Grondkunde Besprekingsgroep

Die Besprekingsgroep, onder voorsitterskap van Francois Roux, het vanjaar reeds twee byeenkomste gereel.

Willem de Clercq en Johann Lanz het oor die gebruik van die EM38 konduktiwiteit meter in grondkartering gepraat en Tesman Beyers oor verwarring en mispersepsies rondom grondanaliese en kunsmisaanbevelings. Veral laasgenoemde bespreking het heelwat reaksie uitgelok en daar was algemene ooreenstemming tussen die persone wat die byeenkoms bygewoon het dat daar deesdae growwe foute deur sommige (onkundige?) adviseurs plaasvind en dat iets hieraan gedoen moet word omdat kliente (meesal boere) duur vir sulke foute betaal.

#### NUUS VANAF STELLENBOSCH (WES-KAAP)

The conference keynote address at the 2007 CHEMRAWN XII conference in Stellenbosch was delivered by **Dr Pedro Sanchez**, a former recipient of the World Food Prize and currently the director of Tropical Agriculture at the Earth Institute, Columbia University. Following the conference Dr Sanchez, himself a soil scientist, had the opportunity of a soils field trip with colleagues in the Department of Soil Science at Stellenbosch University. Here he is (second from right) with staff members.



Die Departement het weer besoek gehad van Wolfgang Flügel en Jörg Helmschrot van die Heinrich Schiller Universiteit in Jena, Duitsland. Die Departement het 'n baie vrugtevolle bilaterale program met hulle Departement Geoinformatics. Hulle het ook twee meester studente by ons gehad wat op ons Droëland WNK projek kom werk het (Corinna Manusch en Mark Stscherbina). Ons bilaterale program het 'n verdere hupstoot gekry deurdat die program nou tussen die twee Departemente geformaliseer is. Ons is besig om in ons huidige projek 'n databasis vir hidrologiese en chemiese modellering op te bou. Ons eerste modelleringswerk het ook al gestalte gekry. In die afgelope jaar was Willem de Clercq na Jena en daar word beplan om vanjaar 'n verdere twee PhD. studente na Jena te stuur.

#### News from SASRI, Mt Edgecombe

SASRI will embark on a project to develop a soil field test kit. The objective is not to reinvent the wheel with so many comprehensive test kits available in various countries, but to create a kit that will be used by extension staff to assess the condition of a soil quickly. This means that a very good prognosis should be made from only a few in situ measurements (around 5). The kit should also contain only components that are locally available and easy to replace. If anyone has experience in this regard or comments to make, please forward them to: rianto.van.antwerpen@sugar.org.za

The recent dramatic increase in fertilizer prices has forced farmers to look for alternative sources of nutrients. The sugar industry is fortunate to have a number of excellent byproducts from the sugar mills at its disposal. Material that was previously too costly due to transport costs are now viable options. A summary of these organic products will be published in "The Link", an information publication for cane farmers. Anyone interested in a copy should contact the SASRI librarian at 031 508 7514 or priscilla\_moodley@sugar.org.za

## A SOUTH AFRICAN EXPLORATION PEDOLOGIST SURVEYING SOILS IN MALI, NORTH AFRICA

Early March this year, Eben Verster accompanied a team of agricultural engineers, an agronomist and an agricultural economist to the Morila Gold Mine, Sikasso Province for a scoping study in order to evaluate land for the establishment of a possible irrigation project. The soil-landform component of an area of about 40 000 ha was explored.

The area comprises an even plain overlying granite and sediments, has a tropical climate with a definite dry and wet season (from May to October the rainfall averages more than 1 000 mm; without any rain the rest of the year), and sustains a tropical savannah type of vegetation with large trees.

Not all the soils fit nicely into our soil classification system. Dominant upland soils probably belong to the Tukulu and Oakleaf forms with a bleached topsoil and luvic properties, while others are mainly shallow to moderately deep overlying hard plinthite. Texture varies from loamy coarse sand to sandy clay loam (granitic origin) to sandy clay loam/clay loam (from sediments). Other lower-lying soils belong to the Wasbank and Dresden forms. Bottomland soils along river channels that originated in very silty alluvium may be classified as Katspruit form (closest fit).

A feature of this area is the occurrence of ferricrete (as capping of low relief ridges, and obviously of an older age) and hard plinthite underlying the entire area except where rivers had cut through this very thick layer. In fact, ferricrete/hard plinthite/ laterite/"kaba bilen" (local term) covers hundreds of square kilometres in this part of Mali.



Mali Irrigation Survey team, Eben Verster second from right

## HUMOUR/HUMOR

Dear Tech Support,

I am desperate for some help. I recently upgraded from **Girlfriend 7.0** to **Wife 1.0** and found that the new program began unexpected child processing and also took up a lot of space and valuable resources. This wasn't mentioned in the product brochure.

In addition **Wife 1.0** installs itself into all other programs and launches during system initialisation where it monitors all other system activity.

Applications such as **Boys Night Out 2.5** and **Golf 5.3** no longer run and crash the system whenever selected. Attempting to operate **Sunday Football 6.3** always fails but **Saturday Shopping 7.1** runs instead. I cannot seem to keep **Wife 1.0** in the background whilst attempting to run any of my favourite applications. I am thinking about going back to **Girlfriend 7.0** but de-install doesn't work on this program.

Can you please help! Joe.

Dear Joe,

This is a very common problem resulting from a basic misunderstanding. Many men upgrade from **Girlfriend 7.0** to **Wife 1.0** thinking that **Wife 1.0** is merely a UTILITIES & ENTERTAINMENT program, whereas **Wife 1.0** is an OPERATING SYSTEM designed by its creator to run everything.

You are unlikely to be able to purge **Wife 1.0** and still convert back to **Girlfriend 7.0** as **Wife 1.0** is not designed to do this and it is impossible to de-install, delete or purge the program files from the system once installed.

Some people have tried to install **Girlfriend 8.0** or **Wife 2.0**, but have ended up with even more problems (see in manual under Alimony/Child Support and Lawyers' Fees). Having **Wife 1.0** installed myself, I recommend you keep it installed and deal with the difficulties as best you can.

When any faults or problems occur, whatever you think has caused them, you must run the  $C:\ I'MSORRY$  program and avoid attempting to use the \*Esc-key. It may be necessary to run  $C:\ I'MSORRY$  a number of times, but hopefully eventually the operating system will return to normal.

Wife 1.0, although a very high maintenance program, can be very rewarding. To get the most out of it consider buying additional software such as Flowers 2.0 and Chocolates 5.0. Do *not* under any circumstances install Secretary (Short Skirt version) as this is not a supported application for Wife 1.0 and the system will almost certainly crash.

Best of luck! Tech Support

#### SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: MISSION

The SSSSA is a scientific society, which, in the interest of its members, promotes the advancement of soil science and soil technology as well as the responsible practicing thereof by its members with the view to the long-term sustainable utilization of the environment in the interest of the community.

#### <u>Aims</u>

- 1. Promotion and protection of the professional status and prestige of soil science as a science and career.
- 2. Promotion and extension of the society.
- 3. Promotion of the standard of training of soil scientists and technologists.
- 4. Creation of opportunities for the free exchange of ideas on soil science and technology.
- 5. The obtaining and dissemination of knowledge, information and ideas having relevance to soil science by means of discussion and publication.
- 6. Promotion of contact between the society and other bodies with common or similar interests, both within South Africa and overseas.

#### GRONDKUNDEVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA: MISSIE

Die GVSA is 'n wetenskaplike vereniging wat in belang van sy lede verbind is tot die bevordering van grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie, en die verantwoordelike beoefening daarvan deur sy lede met die oog op die lang termyn volhoubare benutting van die omgewing in belang van die gemeenskap.

#### <u>Doelstellings</u>

- 1. Bevordering en beskerming van die professionele status en aansien van grondkunde as 'n wetenskaplike beroep.
- 2. Bevordering en uitbouing van die vereniging.
- 3. Bevordering van die standaard van opleiding van grondkundige wetenskaplikes en -tegnoloë.
- 4. Skepping van geleenthede vir vrye gedagtewisseling oor grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie.
- 5. Die verkryging en verspreiding van kennis, inligting en idees wat op grondkunde betrekking het by wyse van samesprekings en publikasies.
- 6. Bevordering van skakeling tussen die vereniging en ander liggame met gemeenskaplike of soortgelyke belange, beide in Suid-Afrika en in die buiteland.