# SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA



NEWSLETTER No. 98

November 2014

# SSSSA COUNCIL/GVSA RAAD: 2013-15

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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

Dear colleagues/Beste kollegas,

It is time for change. We have to change from expensive maintenance of the Society to promotion of Soil Science. However, very little is spent on promotion, the primary aim of the SSSSA. The Council has unanimously decided to fully support a central administration for the four societies. It has been a long road to unification. Two major obstacles were structures and perceptions. The most important structural constraint was leaving an established office. However, the society simply cannot afford more than 45c to collect R1 membership fees – the aim is to do it for less than 10c. In the centralized office, procedures will be e-based: for example, congress registration may include annual membership, elections will be done via the web, etc. The Treasurer will stay on to smooth the transition.

The biggest hurdle was and still is perceptions. Are we threatened? Can one discipline threaten another? Can Soil Science disappear, or Weed Science? Is the difference between sciences so small that sharing an office can wipe out all the differences?

Council expenses have soared as well. The amount is three times the total of the other three societies. Combined with the Treasurer, it exceeded the income from membership fees every year. This will be cut by about half next year and the savings will be used to build reserves and do promotions.

Dit is tyd vir verandering. Ons moet verander van duur onderhoud van die vereniging na bevordering van grondkunde. Tans word die minimum gespandeer op bemarking, die hoofdoel van die GVSA. Die Raad het eenparig besluit om die sentrale adminstrasie van die vier verenigings te steun. Dit was 'n lang pad na eenwording. Die twee groot struikelblokke was strukture en persepsies. Die belangrikste struktuur wat verander moes word is om die huidige kantoor te verlaat. Die Vereniging kan egter nie bekostig om 45c en meer te betaal om R1 ledegeld in te samel nie. Die mikpunt is om dit teen minder as 10c te doen. In die sentrale kantoor sal prosedures e-gebaseer wees, byvoorbeeld lidmaatskap kan met kongresregistrasie ingesamel word, verkiesings kan deur die web gedoen word, ens. Die tesourier bly aan vir die oorgang.

Die grootste struikelblok is nog persepsies. Voel ons bedreig? Kan 'n dissipline 'n ander bedreig? Kan Grondkunde verdwyn, of Onkruidwetenskap? Is die verskil tussen disiplines so klein dat dit in 'n gesamentlike kantoor kan verdwyn?

Raads uitgawes is ook baie hoog. Drie keer meer as die ander verenigings saam. Gekombineerd met tesourie is dit meer as ledegeldinkomste. Dit sal volgende jaar met ongeveer die helfte gesny word en die besparings sal vir opbou van reserwes en promosie aangewend word.

Best wishes/Groete,

#### Pieter le Roux

(051 401 2386; LeRouxPA@ufs.ac.za)

#### EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL

As we prepare for the 2015 Combined Congress, the Society will be focusing on three important current and recent milestones. These are: the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the SSSSA in April 1953; the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first SSSSA Congress, held in Pretoria from 19-21 July 1965; and the fact that the UN has declared 2015 to be the "International Year of Soils". To that end, I am delighted to include an article compiled by Giel Laker (assisted by Ruth Rhodes) that highlights some of the soil-related activities over the past decades. I am sure that it will awaken a few memories and hopefully stimulate some ideas as to how we can celebrate soil science in South Africa, to the benefit of the Society and the science as a whole. The article is produced separately from the Newsletter, so members get "two for the price of one" this time around!

On a personal note, it was great to hear that the 2022 World Congress of Soil Science will be held in Glasgow, Scotland. I will definitely make an effort to attend in the country of my birth. The SSSSA supported the Scots' bid, so it is nice to think that our recommendation made a little bit of a difference!

Finally, I was also delighted to receive a contribution from Gerhard Nortjé concerning his trip to the Serengeti. Some guys have all the luck!

Enjoy the newsletter, and I hope to see you in George.

Regards,

#### **Garry Paterson**

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

#### COUNCIL MATTERS/RAADSAANGELEENTHEDE

**New Members:** we welcome the following new SSSSA members:

#### **Full Members:**

S Gxalatane, NM Burri, MF Rabothata, SG Lusiba, MJ Mokgolo, MG Zerizghy, MC Masemola, F Unuofin, DG Cooper, MR Ngwepe, VE Mbanjwa, J Lanz

Our membership currently stands at 328.

In addition, you have all hopefully received the communication from Ailsa Hardie requesting entries in the "Beauty of Soil" competition, which is especially relevant to the "International Year of Soil" in 2015. Please upload your photos at <a href="http://www.soils/org.za/form/form.html">http://www.soils/org.za/form/form.html</a>, with Username: SSSA and password: 2015.

#### APPOINTMENTS/AANSTELLINGS

ARC-ISCW has recently lost three staff members. **Faith Seabi** left to take up a post within the Sustainable Land Use Management Directorate at the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Pretoria, **Raphael Kutu** departed for the North West University, while **Petrus van Staden**, who was based at Glen, also left.

#### DEGREES AWARDED/GRADE TOEGEKEN

Alen Manyevere received his PhD in Soil Science at the spring graduation of the University of Fort Hare with a thesis entitled: An integrated approach for the delineation of arable land and its cropping suitability under variable soil and climatic conditions in the Nkonkobe Municipality, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Profs Pardon Muchaonyerwa, Pearson Mnkeni and Giel Laker were his promoters. Alen inter alia compared classification of the soils by farmers according to their own local indigenous classification with classification according to the South African taxonomic system. He also compared the farmers' suitability evaluation of different soils for cropping with normal scientific evaluation.

#### AWARDS/TOEKENNINGS

At the recent Eskom Expo for Young Scientists, held at Birchwood Estate, Kempton Park, the SSSA again offered prizes for the best projects relating to soils. In previous years, a prize of R1 500 in the senior division (Grades 10 to 12) as well as the junior division (Grades 6 to 9) was awarded.

This year, however, the three SSSA judges (Garry Paterson, Liesl Wiese and Corrie



Swanepoel) decided that there were three projects that all deserved recognition, so the decision was taken to award three prizes of R1 000 each to the deserving pupils.

The three winners are as follows:



**Mpumelelo Mkhize** and **Sibonokunye Mabaso** (Northern KZN): "Indigenous fertilizers: go for the best".



Lindsey Muller (East London): "The comparative study of lettuce growing methods".



**Avuyile Mabagatha** (East London): "Worm tea: an ecological solution to agricultural issues in rural areas".

# SOIL SCIENTISTS ABROAD/GRONDKUNDIGES OORSEE

# Serengeti

Dr Gerhard Nortjé, SA Subtropical Growers' Association, Tzaneen

An important life lesson I have learned early in my life is that one should never stop dreaming. Dreams may just come true and it is almost like having goals in your life. It gives direction and hope in one's life. One of my dreams recently came true when I got the opportunity to visit the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. Everything one reads and sees of the Serengeti is true. This is the Kruger National Park, only on a much larger scale, without fences and telephone lines. One easily sees hundreds of thousands of wildebeest on a game drive of three hours (Plate 1). The section of the park that I visited, I would describe as grassland savanna - vast grasslands, dotted here and there with thorn trees (Plate 2) and granite inselbergs (Plate 3).



Plate 1: Wildebeest on the Serengeti plains



Plate 2: Thorn trees on the plains

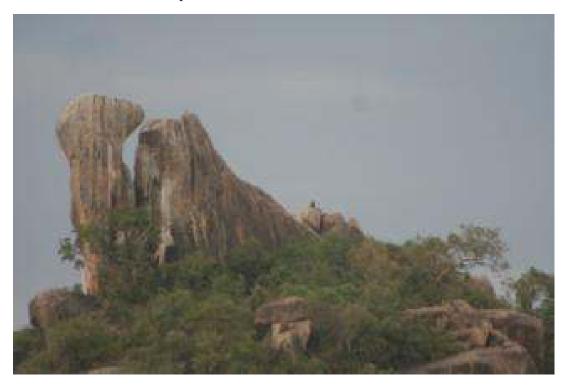


Plate 3: Granite inselbergs

The soils in the Serengeti are characterized by extremely unstable 'Solonetz' soils in the valley floors - the Estcourt soil form in South Africa. The gigantic prisms are striking (Plate 4). These soils are naturally extremely susceptible to degradation due human activities, such as overgrazing by Masai cattle (Plate 5) and off-road driving (Plate 6). Apparently, the large migratory herds of wildebeest are not the cause of the overgrazing problems. They migrate in a circle pattern, thus causing a typical pressure grazing scenario: non-selective pressure grazing for a very short time, followed by long enough recovery times. Selective grazing by Masai cattle causes the problem.



Plate 4: Escourt soil form - S.A. (Solonetz - WRB)



Plate 5: Soil and vegetation degradation because of Masai cattle overgrazing



Plate 6: Soil degradation because of off-road driving

I was invited by a major eco-tourism company operating in East Africa, including the Serengeti National Park. The purpose of my visit was twofold: 1) to give advice on sustainable soil and land management, with particular attention to 'off -road driving'; and 2) to initiate relevant trials with regard to the rehabilitation of degraded land and vegetation. Holiday and game viewing was a bonus (Plates 7 and 8).



Plates 7 and 8: Giraffe posing for the camera and the king of the jungle

The visit was a great privilege for me, as the Serengeti is very expensive to visit. I will go back in February / March 2015 to initiate the trials to see if we can alleviate the soil crusting, restore the grass growth and reverse the erosion process. Redesigning the road network is also planned, so that it is ecologically sensitive, yet goes through areas where the important wildlife can be seen.

## CONGRESSES/KONGRESSE

## COMBINED CONGRESS

The 2015 Combined Congress will take place at Tramanto Resort, outside George in the Western Cape. For general information, please go to the Combined Congress website (<a href="https://www.combinedcongress.org.za">www.combinedcongress.org.za</a>).

5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on SOIL ORGANIC MATTER. September 20-24, 2015, Göttingen, Germany. Web-site: www.som2015.org. Soil organic matter (SOM) is the most intriguing

feature of soils and one of the most fascinating properties of terrestrial ecosystems. The key role of SOM in stability of global C cycle and greenhouse gas emissions raised studies connecting soils with atmosphere, hydrosphere and phytosphere – all of them with the focus on SOM. Despite static properties of SOM being well known, we are just starting to understand processes: formation and functioning, interactions and fluxes, processes and rates. SOM 2015 will connect pools with fluxes, living and dead organic matter, organic and mineral compounds, topsoil and deep soil, experiments and modeling, terrestrial to aquatic ecosystems, dynamics and sequestration and surely the scientists investigating SOM from over the world. All this is necessary to elucidate Structure, Origin, Mechanisms of SOM formation and functioning. We are looking forward to welcome you in Göttingen for this exciting event of the International Year of Soils 2015.

Inaugural Global Workshop on Digital Soil Morphometrics. 1-4 June 2015, Madison, USA. Digital soil morphometrics is defined as the application of tools and techniques for measuring and quantifying soil profile attributes and deriving continuous depth functions. In digital soil morphometrics, proximal soil sensing and other tools are used in soil profile descriptions where techniques and toolkits have not changed in the past decades. This is a new IUSS Working Group and the inaugural workshop will be held in 2015. Conference topics include: 1. Soil profile attributes (horizons, texture, colour, structure, moisture, mottles, consistence, carbonates, rock fragments, pores, roots, and all physical, chemical or biological properties), 2. Soil profile imaging, 3. Soil depth functions, and 4. Use and applications (environmental consultants, soil classification). The workshop format will be symposia with keynotes followed by 5-10 minute presentations and ample time for discussions. For more information and expression of interest, go to <a href="https://digitalmorphometrics.org/inaugural-global-workshop-2015">https://digitalmorphometrics.org/inaugural-global-workshop-2015</a>.

#### MISCELLANEOUS/ALGEMEEN

#### World Soil Museum

ISRIC has opened a new World Soil Museum in Wageningen, Netherlands. ISRIC, founded by a proposal of the ISSS (now IUSS), has hosted an international soil museum since 1966. In the new World Soil Museum, visitors can learn about the role of soils in life and ecosystems and get an impression of the variation in soils of the world, from the colourful volcanic ash soil from Indonesia to the Terra Preta soil from the Amazon. The museum displays soil monoliths with accompanying data including a full profile description, soil chemical and physical data, and information on the landscape and land use. For more information, go to: <a href="https://www.isric.org/services/world-soil-museum">www.isric.org/services/world-soil-museum</a>.

## **App for WRB**

The recently released new edition of the World Reference Base for Soil Resources 2014 now has a support tool. It is an application for a smartphone that allows the user to browse step by step the key for reference soil groups and then to include the principal and supplementary qualifiers. The "help" button allows revising the definitions for each qualifier. The application has been developed by Denis Orlov on request of Division 1 of the IUSS. The app works under Android and the versions for Windows-based smartphones and iPhones are coming soon. The app can be downloaded at:

http://www.fao.org/soils-portal/soil-survey/soil-classification/world-reference-base/en/

#### **New Publications**

**3rd edition of World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB)** was presented at the 2014 World Congress of Soil Science. It is a follow-up to the first (1998) and second (2006) editions. It is available as pdf and Android app at the WRB homepage on the FAO website:

http://www.fao.org/soils-portal/soil-survey/soil-classification/world-reference-base/en/

This third edition provides a system for naming soils and creating legends for soil maps. The central concepts of most of the 32 Reference Soil Groups have been maintained.

12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Keys to Soil Taxonomy created an opportunity to update Soil Survey Technical Note No. 10 – Buried Soils and Their Effect on Taxonomic Classification. The buried soil concept was originally proposed in soil taxonomy to cover soils subject to catastrophic events like flooding on flood plains and burial by volcanic eruptions, and though recent interest in human-transported materials and subaqueous soils has expanded the application of the buried soil concept. This and other Soil Survey Technical Notes are available online at:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/ref/?cid=nrcs142p2\_053566

Soil Taxonomy was recognized as an international system of soil classification at the 2014 World Congress of Soil Science.

**World Soil Distribution educational poster**, IUSS Working Group WRB 2014. Published by European Commission Joint Research Centre, IUSS, UN FAO and NSW Office

of Environment and Heritage. Prepared by J. Gray, J. Deckers, B. Murphy and S. Dondeyne. Free download (2 or 26 MB file) from the JRC website:

#### http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/Conferences/20wcss.html

This free educational poster aims to convey some fundamental principles of soil formation and to graphically illustrate how different environmental factors give rise to different soils. The main feature is two central charts that graphically present the distribution ranges of 23 of the 32 World Reference Base (WRB) soil groups according to the factors of climate, parent material and topography. It also includes supporting information on the five main factors of soil formation, a table on WRB soil attributes with correlation to Soil Taxonomy and a number of soil profile and landscape photos. The poster is primarily intended as an educational tool, particularly for students but also for many practising soil and environmental scientists.

# Western Cape News

#### News from Elsenburg

The FruitLook program is up and running again for the 2014/15 irrigation season in the Western Cape. This is a project of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the data is being provided by a Dutch company called eLeaf, making use of the SEBAL technology (Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land).

Through the FruitLook web portal, information on 9 parameters is provided to registered users for the registered orchards/vineyards on a weekly basis. The information provided includes: 1) Vegetation Index, 2) Leaf Area Index [m²/m²], 3) Biomass Production [kg/ha/week], 4) Nitrogen Content Upper Leaf [kg/ha], 5) Nitrogen Content Plant [kg/ha], 6) Biomass Water Use Efficiency [kg/m³], 7) Actual Evapotranspiration [mm/week], 8) Evapotranspiration Deficit [mm/week] and 9) Crop Factor KcKs [-].

The information is available free of charge as the Western Cape DoA is paying the costs. Interested irrigators, advisors, students and researchers can access the data via <a href="https://www.fruitlook.co.za">www.fruitlook.co.za</a>. Any enquiries can be directed to André Roux (AndreR@elsenburg.com).

#### News from Stellenbosch University

During September 2014, Stellenbosch University PhD student, Naudé Smith, participated in the EU EcoDry Research and Knowledge Exchange Project. The aim of the project is to "enhance the understanding and share knowledge on strategies to build the resilience of farming systems to natural and man-made impacts in dryland and drought situations, including climate change, through collaboration of joint research and capacity building activities between participating universities".

Naudé was hosted in the Centre for Agroecology and Food Security at Coventry University, UK, as part of the EcoDry project. During his stay he came into contact with various

researchers and contributed to data collection and processing on a biochar research project currently being conducted in the UK. He also visited the Ryton Organic Garden to help with the CSA (community-supported agriculture) project. The visit offered a fantastic opportunity to make contact with researchers and postgraduate students from different countries and to learn more about farming practices in other parts of the world.

#### FOR PEAT'S SAKE

The <u>National Peatland Database</u> is currently being updated and expanded to try and collate all information about peat in South Africa - distribution, characteristics, threats etc.

All contributions are welcome, especially photos, so if you can help, please contact Dr Althea Grundling (althea@arc.agric.za) who will supply you with a recording spreadsheet. Peat soils are among the most threatened, not just in South Africa, but worldwide, so let's see how many SSSSA members can help with this initiative.

#### 2013-2015 - A Time to Celebrate Soils!

(by Ruth Rhodes and Giel Laker)

South African soil scientists have a lot of reasons to celebrate at the moment. Four major anniversaries and celebrations of soil fall within the period 2013-2015:

- 2013: The SSSSA turned 60!
- 2015: International Year of Soils.
- January 2015 Combined Congress: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first SA Soil Science Congress.
- 5 December: World Soil Day (we get to celebrate this one every year ©).

#### **60** years of South African Soil Science

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 1953, five soil scientists met as the newly-formed council of the then 'Bodemkundige vereniging van Suid-Afrika'. The minutes – a grand total of one page – are shown below. Membership fees were set at five shillings per year! The society later changed its name to 'Grondkundevereniging van Suid-Afrika / Soil Science Society of South Africa' with the new logo, which we still have today.

#### DODGO UNDERS VARIABILITIES VALUE SUID-APRILLA.

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#### 2015: International Year of Soils

On 24 April 2013 (within three days of the exact 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the SSSSA – Ed.) at the 146<sup>th</sup> UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) meeting, FAO member countries endorsed the request from the Kingdom of Thailand for the proclamation of the **International Year of Soils** (IYS) in 2015. The IYS will serve as a platform for raising awareness on the importance of sustainable soil management as the basis for food systems, fuel and fibre production, essential ecosystem functions and better adaptation to climate change for present and future generations.

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) will celebrate IYS 2015 with a number of events, including:

- Global Soil Security Symposium. Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, May 2015.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Global Workshop on Proximal Soil Sensing. Sensing Soil Conditions and Functions, Hang Zhou, China, May 2015.
- Global Workshop on Digital Soil Morphometrics. University of Wisconsin, Madison, June 2015.
- Pedometrics Conference. Cordoba, Spain, September 2015.
- IUSS Conference on the International Year of Soils and the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christian Albrechts University. Soil functions and climate change do we underestimate the consequences of new disequilibria in soil properties? SUSTAIN Christian Albrechts University, Kiel, Germany, September 2015.
- 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter. Göttingen, Germany, September 2015.

#### World Soil Day: 5 December every year

Many of us who work as soil scientists are fortunate enough to be able to celebrate soils every day. For others, the 5<sup>th</sup> of December can serve as a reminder each year of the importance of soils. In 2002, the IUSS made a resolution proposing the 5<sup>th</sup> of December as **World Soil Day** to celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to human wellbeing. Under the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the "Global Soil Partnership", FAO has supported the formal establishment of the World Soil Day as a global awareness raising platform. The FAO Conference, in June 2013, unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and requested official adoption at the UN General Assembly. In December 2013, the 68<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly declared the 5<sup>th</sup> of December as World Soil Day. Since 2012, the FAO-GSP has been organizing celebration events of this important day.

#### **HUMOUR**

Whether you are a cricket fan or not, the combination of players' names can often be quite amusing, to say the least....

#### Blowin' in the wind ...

The all-rounder Gareth *Breese*, who later played for Durham, won his only Test cap against India in Chennai in October 2002, when one of his team-mates was Chris *Gayle*. They had turned out together quite a few times for Jamaica - but now Breese and Gayle were playing for the *Windies*!

#### c Beet b Root

Derbyshire's teams either side of the First World War often featured wicketkeeper George *Beet* and Fred *Root*, a medium-pacer who later played for England after moving to Worcester. Although Beet was a keeper, there was only one instance of "c Beet b Root" for epicures to savour, the unfortunate batsman being Herbert Chaplin of Sussex at Derby in 1913.

#### Lillee c Willey b Dilley

This famous scorebook entry was recorded - not long after a commentator had pointed out the possibility of it happening - during the second innings of the first Test between Australia and England in Brisbane in 1979-80. It couldn't have happened before: this was Graham Dilley's Test debut. At Lord's in 1980 Viv Richards was "c Dilley b Willey" - Dilley was fielding as a substitute at the time.

#### **Horne and Bell**

In the Boxing Day Test against India in Wellington in 1998, New Zealand's batting was opened by the musical pair of Matthew *Bell* and Matt *Horne*. They played in seven further Tests together. And music lovers in New Zealand were entertained by a battle between Andrew *Strauss* of England and the Kiwis' new South African-born fast bowler Neil *Wagner*.

#### Cook c Mustard b Onions

In a county game between Kent and Durham in 2007, Simon Cook was caught behind by keeper Phil *Mustard* off the bowling of the England fast bowler Graham *Onions*. All the Durham pair need for the ultimate fast-food feast is to come up against the Namibian all-rounder Callie *Burger*.

#### Lee c Lee b Lee

During a Championship match at Lord's in June 1933, the Middlesex batsman Harry Lee was caught by his brother Frank off the bowling of another brother, Jack: the unique scorecard entry was "HW Lee c FS Lee b JW Lee 82". Harry later wrote: "I do not believe that brothers had ever before behaved so unbrotherly in a first-class game".

#### Lamb c Kourie b Rice

Playing for Western Province against Transvaal in Johannesburg in February 1980, Allan *Lamb* was caught by Alan *Kourie* off the bowling of Clive *Rice*. This was in the final of South Africa's domestic competition - but, sadly, the one-day one rather than the Currie Cup (in which Lamb was once c Cook b Rice for 130).

#### **Butcher and Baker**

Surrey in the 1970s often fielded teams including both Alan *Butcher*, the batsman who later played for England and now coaches Zimbabwe, and fast-medium bowler Ray *Baker*. John Arlott once mused on TV: "Butcher, Baker... but no sign of the candlestick maker".

#### Marks v Spencer

Playing for Oxford University against Sussex in the Parks in 1975, the future England off-spinner Vic *Marks* was dismissed in each innings (caught by John Snow both times) by the burly medium-pacer John *Spencer*. In the same fixture the following year, played at Pagham, Victor returned the favour: Spencer b Marks 6.

#### Money, money, money

Bangladesh's new-ball pair in their one-day international against Zimbabwe in Mirpur in October 2009 was *Dolar* Mahmud and *Rubel* Hossain. This sets off memories of Paul *Franks* and Vic *Marks* (again), not to mention the 1960s Glamorgan off-spinner *Euros* Lewis.

#### **Fleming and Bond**

James Dignan, a frequent contributor to CricInfo, recalled: "I still love the time when Henry Blofeld was commentating on a New Zealand Test involving [Stephen] *Fleming* and [Shane] *Bond*."

#### 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 practising thereof by its members with the view to the long-term sustainable utilization of the environment in the interest of the community.

#### Aims

- 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.

#### **Doelstellings**

- 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.