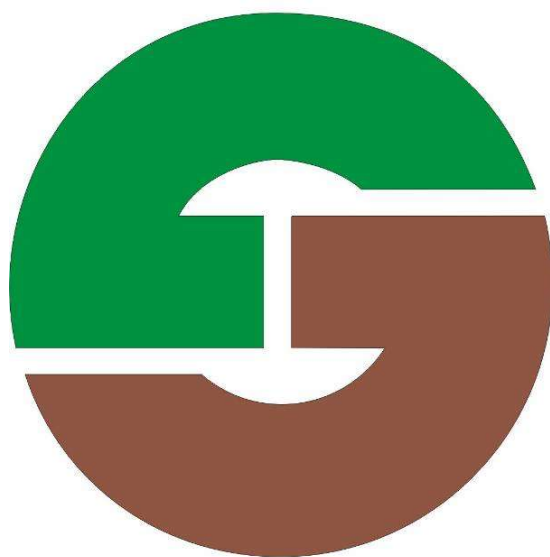


*SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIETY OF SOUTH
AFRICA*



NEWSLETTER

No. 103

May 2017

SSSSA COUNCIL/GVSA RAAD: 2017-19

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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 nuusbrieff nie.

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

Dear colleagues/*Beste kollegas,*

By the time you are reading this message, the year is already far advanced. I trust that the economic recession did not hit too hard. This is my first message to you as President of the Soil Science Society of South Africa (SSSSA) and I would like to highlight a couple of important issues.



Teen die tyd dat u hierdie boodskap lees, is die jaar alreeds v r gevorderd. Ek vertrou dat die ekonomiese resessie u nie veel skade berokken het nie. Hierdie is my eerste boodskap aan u as President van die Grondkundevereniging van Suid-Afrika (GVSA) en ek wil graag 'n paar belangrike kwessies uitlig.

The 2017 Combined Congress at Klein Kariba in Bela Bela was once again a resounding success, with close to 400 delegates attending the Congress. I am grateful to all who attended and contributed, and trust it was a very fruitful and educational experience for all. A special thanks to Dr Diana Marais and her organising team for all the arrangements and smooth running of the Congress. Apart from the success, two concerns were identified. Firstly, students represented 129 out of the 188 delegates not registered with any society. Secondly, for the past two Congresses it was noticed that SSSSA members attending the Congress, as well as those making presentations, are decreasing. Because the number of people attending per society is recorded for administration purposes, it is hereby requested that all members of SSSSA: a) indicate their affiliation at future Congresses, b) attend and participate at the Congresses and c) encourage relevant students to register with the SSSSA. By doing so you will help to strengthen your society.

Die 2017 gesamentlike kongres by Klein Kariba in Bela Bela was weereens 'n groot sukses, met net minder as 400 afgevaardigdes wat die kongres bygewoon het. Dankie aan elkeen van u wat die kongres bygewoon het en 'n bydrae gelewer het. Ek glo dat dit vir almal 'n baie leersame ervaring was. Baie dankie aan Dr Diana Marais en haar re lingskomitee vir die re lings. Ek is seker u sal saamstem dat alles baie goed afgeloop het. Ten spyte van die groot sukses is daar twee aspekte wat my bekommer. Eerstens, studente verteenwoordig 129 van die 188 afgevaardigdes wat nie geaffilieer is aan enige van die vier vakverenigings nie. Tweedens, gedurende die afgelope twee kongresse is opgemerk dat die getal GVSA lede wat die kongresse bywoon asook aanbiedings doen, drasties afgeneem het. Aangesien die aantal persone per vakvereniging wat die kongres

bywoon gemonitor word vir administratiewe redes, word daar versoek dat alle GVSA lede: a) hul affiliasie aandui by die volgende kongresse, b) kongresse bywoon en deelneem tydens kongresse en toepaslike studente aanmoedig om by die GVSA te registreer as lid. Hierdeur kan u 'n bydrae maak om u verenging te versterk.

The South African Society of Crop Production invited other Societies to join them at an African Crop Science Society Congress in January 2018. Therefore, the next Combined African Crops and Soils Congress is scheduled for 15-18 January 2018 in Stellenbosch. Members are requested to make a note in their diaries and start working on their abstracts, as the first announcement will soon be circulated. This is the main annual event of our society and the sole opportunity for interaction with like-minded colleagues.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Gewasproduksie het die ander vakverenigings uitgenooi om die Afrika Gewasproduksie Vereenging se kongres in Januarie 2018 by te woon. Derhalwe is die volgende Gesamentlike Afrika Gewas en Grondkunde kongres vir 15-18 Januarie 2018 in Stellenbosch geskeduleer. Lede word versoek om die geleentheid in hul dagboeke te noteer en te begin werk aan hul uittreksels, aangesien die eerste aankondiging binnekort gesirkuleer sal word. Dit is die grootste jaarlikse gebeurtenis van ons vakvereniging en die enigste platform om met kundiges in soortgelyke velde om te gaan en idees uit te ruil.

Apart from the awards handed out at the Combined Congresses for best oral and poster presentations as well as the best Soil Science article by a SSSSA member, the SSSSA has prestigious awards in the form of honorary membership and gold and silver medals for exceptional service to the society or to soil science in South Africa. You are encouraged to recommend candidates to the council for these prestigious awards. Submit the names with a short motivation (half page) to the Vice-President, Mr Martiens du Plessis, at martiens@nwk.co.za. You are also encouraged to visit our website (www.soils.org.za) and have a look at all the different awards that you can qualify for at the next Combined Congress.

Afgesien van die toekennings wat by die Gekombineerde Kongres vir die beste mondelinge en plakkaataanbiedings, asook die beste Grondkunde artikel deur 'n GVSA lid uitgereik word, het die GVSA gesogte toekennings in die vorm van 'n erelidmaatskap en goue en silwer medaljes vir uitsonderlike diens aan die Vereniging of om grondkunde in Suid-Afrika te bevorder. U word aangemoedig om kandidate aan te beveel om deur die raad oorweeg te word vir hierdie gesogte toekennings. Dien die name met 'n kort motivering (halwe bladsy) in by Mnr Martiens du Plessis, visie-President, by martiens@nwk.co.za. U word ook aangemoedig om ons webwerf (www.soils.org.za) te besoek en te kyk na al die ander

toekennings waarvoor u kan kwalifiseer tydens die volgende Gekombineerde Kongres.

Your continued support for the South African Journal of Plant and Soil (SAJPS) is appreciated and really benefits our society members. We receive free online access to current and past editions of the journal by logging on to <http://www.tandfonline.com/>. The search option provides a quick download function that is a useful tool. Please also remember to quote your past SAJPS references when submitting manuscripts. This is important as it will raise the ISI status of the journal to progressively become a foremost scientific publication medium. There will be five issues of SAJPS during 2017 of which one issue will be a special issue reporting on selected papers from the International Soil Classification Congress held in Bloemfontein during December 2016. Included also with this newsletter is a SAJPS flyer that you may like to put on your noticeboard.

U volgehoue ondersteuning van die Suid-Afrikaanse Joernaal vir Plant en Grond (SAJPG) word opreg waardeer en is werklik tot voordeel van ons vakvereniging se lede. Ons ontvang gratis aanlyn toegang tot huidige en vorige uitgawes van die joernaal deur aan te teken by <http://www.tandfonline.com/>. Die soektog opsie bied 'n vinnige aflaai funksie wat nuttig is. Onthou ook om u vorige SAJPG verwysings aan te haal by die indiening van manuskripte. Dit is belangrik aangesien dit die ISI-status van die tydskrif sal verhoog om geleidelik 'n gerekende wetenskaplike publikasiedium te word. Daar sal in 2017 vyf uitgawes van SAJPG wees, waarvan een uitgawe 'n spesiale uitgawe sal wees vir die verslaggewing van geselekteerde aanbiedings by die Internasionale Grondklassifikasie kongres wat in Desember 2016 in Bloemfontein gehou is. Saam met hierdie nuusbrieff is ook 'n SAJPG pamflet ingesluit wat u gerus op u kantoorkennisgewingbord kan aanbring.

I want to encourage members to visit our website (www.soils.org.za) and Facebook page for more information regarding soils and our society. Our Facebook page, in particular, has lots of interesting soil science related snippets and dates of upcoming events. The good news is that our website is going to be redeveloped and updated soon due to problems with the previous service provider.

Lede word aangemoedig om ons webblad (www.soils.org.za) en Facebook-blad te besoek vir meer inligting aangaande grondkunde en ons vakvereniging. Ons Facebook-blad veral het heelwat interessante grondkunde-verwante brokkies en datums van opkomende gebeurtenisse. Goeie nuus is dat ons webblad binnekort oorgedoen en opgedateer gaan word as gevolg van probleme met die vorige diensverskaffer.

The number of soil scientists registered at SACNASP is slowly but surely increasing, which will ensure that Soil Science keeps progressing as a

discipline. However, challenges are expected with the new system of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) that SACNASP has implemented and which will be linked to renewal of registration from 1 April 2017 for all registered persons according to this policy. This is new to everyone (including SACNASP), and I ask you to be patient during this period of transition. SACNASP has assured us that they are not looking for ways to de-register anyone; they rather want people to register and keep people registered. Therefore, they welcome feedback from members.

Die aantal grondkundiges wat by SACNASP geregistreer is, is ook besig om stadig maar seker toe te neem wat kan verseker dat Grondkunde as 'n vakdissipline bly voortbestaan. Daar is egter ook uitdagings te wagte met die nuwe stelsel van Voortgesette Professionele Ontwikkeling wat SACNASP geïmplimenteer het en wat gekoppel sal wees aan die hernuwing van registrasie vanaf 1 April 2017 vir alle geregistreerde persone volgens hul beleid. Dit is nuut vir almal, insluitend SACNASP, en ek vra u om geduldig te wees gedurende hierdie oorgangstydperk. SACNASP het ons verseker dat hulle nie op soek is na maniere om iemand te deregistreer nie; hulle wil eerder mense registreer en geregistreerd hou. Daarom verwelkom hulle terugvoer van lede.

SSSSA membership information is not up to date which affects proper communication. Forms for the updating of membership information will be distributed and all members are requested to complete and return the forms as soon as possible. Members are also requested to send the update form to colleagues who are members but have relocated or moved to new positions in order to make sure that all members receive the forms. **Please take note of the contact and bank details of the SSSSA Secretariat and make sure that you use the correct information** (Standard Bank; Account no: 411 241 109; Branch: Brandwag 051001; Proof of payment: ssssa.secretariat@gmail.com; Queries: Nancy Nortjé 051 401 9046).

*GVSA lidmaatskap inligting is nie op datum nie en bemoeilik behoorlike kommunikasie. Vorms vir die opdatering van lidmaatskap inligting sal binnekort versprei word en alle lede word versoek om die vorms so gou moontlik in te vul en terug te stuur. Lede word ook versoek om die opdateringsvorm te stuur aan kollegas wat lede is, maar verhuis of verskuif het na nuwe posisies om seker te maak dat alle lede die vorms ontvang. **Neem asseblief kennis van die korrekte kontak- en bankbesonderhede van die GVSA-sekretariaat en maak seker dat u die korrekte inligting gebruik** (Standard Bank; Rekening nommer 411 241 109; Tak Brandwag 051001; Bewys van betaling: ssssa.secretariat@gmail.com; Navrae: Nancy Nortjé 051 401 9046).*

I hope that the second half of 2017 will be a productive and exciting period for us all. I trust that you will all enjoy the rest of year and let us promote

the advancement of soil science and soil technology as well as the responsible practising thereof.

Ek hoop dat die tweede helfte van 2017 'n produktiewe en opwindende tydperk vir ons almal sal wees. Ek vertrou dat u die res van die jaar sal geniet en dat ons grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie, asook die verantwoordelike beoefening daarvan sal bevorder.

Warmest regards/*Beste wense*

Cobus Botha

(082 414 4386; BothaC@arc.agric.za)

EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL

One of the challenges in any walk of life, and definitely in any scientific discipline, is to maintain and even increase its relevance. Soil Science is no exception and in this regard, there is an interesting contribution elsewhere in this issue (p. 17) from Martin Tinnefeld. I urge you to read it.



Also, as mentioned above by our President, Cobus Botha, SACNASP has introduced a new system of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). To try and assist our members, there is a summarized document in the Newsletter (p. 18). Remember, it is a new approach, so feedback is welcome. The plea by Cobus regarding attendance of Combined Congresses also needs to be mentioned. While I realise that it is often difficult in these challenging economic times to find funds to attend, the fact that it is a “combined” event means there is the opportunity to listen to, and network with, a wider range of delegates than would be the case at many other events. Also, with the next event in January 2018 being combined with the African Crop Science Society Congress, the Combined Congress will be even more of a special happening (and in the Fairest Cape, *nogal!*). I plan to be there, for sure.

Finally, get your cameras out and send in some great photos of soils – our **Soils Photo Competition** is back (details on p. 23).

Regards,

Garry Paterson

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

COUNCIL MATTERS/RAADSAANGELENTHED

Members will probably be aware of the problems with the Society web site, best expressed as a severe lack of recent progress (including updating). SSSSA website co-ordinator, Ailsa Hardie, reports that the essence of the problem is that the website has to be transferred to a new host and programmer. Combined Societies secretary Nancy Nortje has suggested a person to do that, which the society agreed upon, but nothing has happened since we asked them to this in March. SSSSA is still waiting for the transfer to happen, and only once that has happened can we then make changes and begin to update the website. Currently, the website is at least a year out of date due to the problems with the old hosting company that didn't allow our programmer to make changes. This was the main reason why it needed to be transferred to a new host.

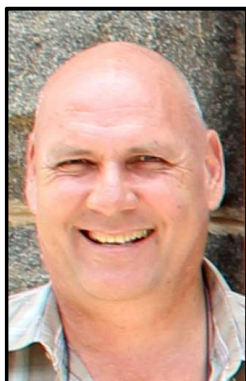


Unfortunately, it is difficult to say when the problem will be fixed because it is out of our hands. We are hoping the new company will sort out the problems as soon as possible, and SSSSA will do all in its power to make this happen.

APPOINTMENTS/AANSTELLINGS

Dr Gerhard Nortje, formerly of the Citrus Growers Association in Tzaneen, has been appointed as Senior Lecturer in Environmental and Soil Science at UNISA, from the beginning of March 2017.

Dr Rasheed Adeleke, of the ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water, has been appointed as an Extraordinary Professor in Soil Microbiology at the North-West University in Potchefstroom.



Dr Gerhard Nortje



Dr Rasheed Adeleke

SOIL SCIENTISTS ABROAD/GRONDKUNDIGES OORSEE

In December 2016 The Work [World?] Bank invited three members of the University of Stellenbosch (US) Soil Science Department, **Andrei Rozanov**, **Ailsa Hardie** and **Cathy Clarke**, to attend the World Soil Day celebrations held in Moscow. Liesl Wiese, a US PhD student, and representing the Global Soils Partnership of the FAO, gave a keynote address at this event. The keynote presentations were followed by a soil parade (at -12°C!) to lay a wreath at the V.R. Williams Memorial (Photo 1) and tours of the V.R Williams Soil-Agronomic and Moscow State University Soil Museums (Photo 2). The following day the US team took part in a round table meeting on scientific-education collaboration in soil science and food security, hosted by the Eurasian Centre for Food Security. The South African presentations were well received and stimulated much discussion on the role of South Africa in leading soil science training in Africa.

This two-day event demonstrated how large and important soil science is in Russia; for example, Moscow State University has a Faculty of Soil Science which

employs nearly 300 people and produces around 80 soil science graduates each year. This makes the South African soil science community look rather small!



Photo 1: World Soil Day parade, Moscow



Photo 2: Cathy Clarke, Andrei Rozanov, Liesl Wiese and Ailsa Hardie at the V.R. Williams Soil-Agronomic museum, Moscow

Prof Chris du Preez and Dr Elmarie Kotzé from UFS visited the University of Bonn, Germany in February 2017 for the finalization of a multi-disciplinary project they jointly worked on for the last 6 years (Vulnerability and resilience of soils under different rangeland use). While there, they also visited the experimental farm facilities of the University of Bonn.

Also from UFS, **Drs Johan van Tol and Johan Barnard** were invited to attend a NRF/NSFC joint researcher’s workshop in China. The theme of the workshop was “Meeting the grand challenges of surface-earth system process science: landscape-biogeochemical process-ecosystem service”. The aim of the workshop was to explore potential collaboration opportunities.



Photo: Beijing with the Forbidden City in the background, Johan van Tol (l) and Johan Barnard (r)

AWARDS/TOEKENNINGS

SSSSA CONGRESS AWARDS

At the January 2017 Combined Congress at Klein Kariba, near Bela Bela (Warmbaths), there were a number of awards presented by the Society:

- Best paper presented by a member older than 30 years: *Effect of sampling depth on determination of soil potassium and carbon stocks.* **Van Antwerpen, R., Miles, N. & Ramburan, S.**
- Best paper presented by a member younger than 30 years: *The effect of composted biochar on compost properties and mineralisation.* **Botha, O.G., Rozanov, A. & Hardie, A.G.**
- Best presentation by an MSc student: *Investigating available soil nutrient levels in irrigated wheat fields in South Africa.* **Sosibo, N.Z., Muchaonyerwa, P., Visser, L. & Dube, L.**
- Best poster presentation: *Rainwater harvesting through in-field runoff.* **Botha, J.J. & Anderson, J.J.**
- Best Soil Science paper of 2015 published in SAJPS: *Relationship between plant growth and organic acid exudates from ectomycorrhizal and non-ectomycorrhizal Pinus patula.* **Adeleke, R.A., Cloete, T.E., Bertrand, A. & Khasa, D.P.**

In addition, SSSSA Honorary Membership was awarded to **Dr Danie Beukes and Prof Eben Verster.**

Some of the award winners are shown below.



*Authors of best poster, **Kobus Anderson** and **Cobus Botha**.*



*Award of SSSSA Honorary Membership to **Danie Beukes** (**Eben Verster** could not be present).*



*Author of best presentation, **Rianto van Antwerpen**, with incoming SSSSA President **Cobus Botha** and SSSSA Council Secretary **Marjan van der Walt**.*



*Winner of best soil science paper in SAJPS for 2015, **Rasheed Adeleke**, with **Cobus Botha** and **Marjan van der Walt**.*

CONGRESSES/KONGRESSE

COMBINED CONGRESS

The next Combined Congress will be held in Stellenbosch from 15th to 18th January 2018, in conjunction with the African Crop Science Society. The first announcement will appear around the middle of the year, but members are encouraged to book the dates now. When available, members can get more information at www.combinedcongress.org.za

5th International Soil Classification Congress IUSS - Bloemfontein

The 5th International Soil Classification Congress of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) Commission 1.4 (Soil Classification) was presented from 1st to 7th December 2016 in South Africa. The congress is presented every four years, midway between the IUSS congresses. Prof Cornie van Huyssteen was the Convenor of the Local Organising Committee for the congress. The congress and field workshop was supported by the University of the Free State, TerraSoil soil science (Consulting firm), the NoordWes Koöperasie (North West Cooperative), North-West University, Omnia (fertilizer company), the Soil Science Society of South Africa, and the IUSS.

The scientific committee comprised: Arwyn Jones (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission), Augusto Zanella (University of Padua, Italy), Cezary Kabala (Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Poland), Cornie van Huyssteen (UFS, South Africa), Curtis Monger (Natural Resources Conservation Centre, USA), Erika Micheli (Szent Istvan University, Hungary), Ganlin Zhang (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), John Galbraith (Virginia Tech, USA), Lucia Anjos (Universidade Federal Rural de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Maria Gerasimova (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia), Peter Schad (Technical University of Munich, Germany), and Stephan Mantel (International Soil Reference and Information Centre, Netherlands).

A total of 54 delegates from 17 countries attended the congress and field workshop and presented a total of 30 oral and 11 poster presentations. The congress commenced with a pre-conference field workshop of four days (see photo), which started in Gauteng, progressed to Lichtenburg, Potchefstroom, Parys, and ended in Bloemfontein. The three-day congress proper followed the field workshop in Bloemfontein.



Photo: Congress participants looking at a red apedal soil on dolomite, near Pretoria

The first day of the conference was on 5th December 2016, coinciding with World Soil Day. This day was celebrated through a presentation made by Prof Erika Micheli and through the award ceremony of the Guy Smith Medal to Dr Juan Comerma (Venezuela). He is the fourth recipient of this award.

Global Soil Map

The next Global Soil Map Conference will be held in Moscow from 4th to 6th July 2017. For more information, contact Dr Dominique Arrouays (Dominique.arrouays@inra.fr) or the chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Dr Igor Savin (savgory@gmail.com) or go to globalsoilmap.net

MISCELLANEOUS/ALGEMEEN

News from SASRI, Mount Edgecombe

Dr Neil Miles reports that SASRI's Fertilizer Advisory Service (FAS) has recently introduced a 'reserve potassium (K)' test as part of its routine soil testing package – a first in South Africa. This test measures the extent of non-exchangeable ('slowly-available') K reserves for crop growth. Wide variations in the content of micaceous clays in soils imply significant variability in these reserves in soils.

Measurement of non-exchangeable K in the laboratory involves an extraction with boiling nitric acid. This procedure is clearly not suited to routine use. However, MIR spectroscopy has been found to provide predictions of non-exchangeable K reserves that are suitably robust for use in tailoring fertilizer recommendations to accommodate this factor. The introduction of this test thus has the potential to vastly improve K-use efficiency in sugar and related industries.

Contact Neil at neil.miles@sugar.org.za or 013 508 7437.

RESERVE ACIDITY – A NEGLECTED FACTOR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ACID SOILS

Recently SASRI investigated the effects of surface applications of lime and gypsum to sugarcane ratoon crops on the chemical properties of an acid sandy Cartref soil. The investigation involved the application of 5 t ha⁻¹ lime and 5 t ha⁻¹ gypsum, singly and in combination, and the monitoring of downward movement of these amendments over a period of five years. An unexpected aspect of the findings was the retarded movement of gypsum in the lime plus gypsum treatment (Figure 1).

A literature search for possible explanations suggested that reserve acidity could be implicated in this phenomenon. Indications are that reserve acidity emanating from Al-chlorite and Al complexed with organic matter can limit the effects of lime and gypsum, and restrict the impact of these products on subsoil chemistry. Interestingly, there appears to be a scarcity of literature that considers reserve acidity in the management of acid soils. In our view, there is a need to characterize the extent of reserve acidity in South African soils and for this component of soil acidity to be accommodated in the development of lime and gypsum recommendations.

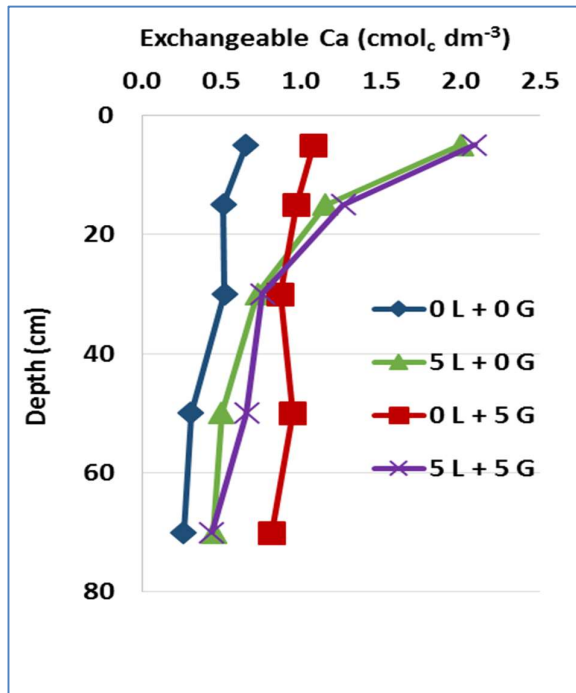


Figure 1: The distribution of Ca down the soil profile following surface applications of lime, gypsum, and lime plus gypsum on an acidic sandy Cartref soil. Soil samples were taken 5 years after the application of treatments (Elephant and Miles, data not published).

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Neil Miles: Senior Soil Scientist (SASRI)

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Martin Tinnefeld (Pedologist, Hydropedologist)

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the Combined Congress 2017, as I am busy with my PhD in hydropedology. But in another sense, I am glad I did not attend the Combined Congress, as there would only be a few presentations, mostly local to my university (UFS), which would tickle my fancy.

Soil science is still so drawn towards the agriculture sector. It is a pitiful scenario, where job creation, labour legislation and the conflict between excessive land availability and poor or erratic climate play such a big role, impacting on the trends of such congresses. And believe me, this is not only a RSA issue, but a global one.

This brings me to my next thought. Monsanto, the venue sponsor and thus primary sponsor, who have recently been bought over by Bayer (a pharmaceutical company) in Germany, are an agricultural company who have massive and such applicable research and monopoly (well done to their efforts, honestly). However, with the advent of converting urban warehouses to 'farms' and producing crops without soil, begs the question as to what soil science in future will hold?

I would like, after having read the abstracts of the congress, to advocate a little more lateral thinking when it comes to soil science. I am so frustrated that even at the UFS the Soil Science Department is focusing exclusively on agricultural production, still to this day promoting students on disturbed and A/B horizon mixed samples for microbe analysis and sustainability by adding fertilizers etc. We, as soil scientists, need to tear our concentration away from facilitating private companies who manipulate us with their funds, and start selling them more applicable research. Examples are: urban hydrogeology; modern pedology; pedometrics true/false?; digital soil mapping; evaluating the land type data as to its applicability; promoting young pedologists; rejuvenating governmental relationships; socio-pedological aspects; classifying the refined geophysical properties of soils;. and the list goes on.

I would love to see young soil scientists (below 35 years of age), of all spheres to have active tolerance and pride in their profession without the doubt of income or acceptance. Not to forget, we as philosophical scientists, based on hypothetical proof, must find it in ourselves to be able to sell our product. We are lagging behind in South Africa. Further, Africa awaits. Are we ready?

South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)

SACNASP has introduced a programme called Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This initiative seeks to encourage SACNASP registered scientists to actively continue with their development while they are practising their specific field of science. In terms of these activities, points (credits) will be earned by the SACNASP member depending on which activities are undertaken.

CPD credits must be obtained in **at least two** of the three categories listed below, with at least **5 credits per five-year cycle** from Category 1. The maximum credits, which may be accumulated annually in each category, is also indicated.

Category 1:

Developmental Activities: 4 credits = 40 hours (10 hrs/credit)

Category 2:

Work-based Activities:

- Natural Scientific Work: 2 credits = 800 hours (400 hrs/credit)
- Mentoring of Candidate practitioners: 1 credit = 50 hours (50 hrs/credit)

Category 3:

Individual Activities:

- Membership of a recognized Voluntary Association (VA): 1 credit (not linked to hours)
- Other activities: 3 credits = 30 hours (10 hrs/credit)

In order for this policy to meet the needs of all registered persons, the requirements for CPD need to be as flexible as possible. SACNASP expects that when registered persons are deciding on the contents and value of their CPD activity, they will ensure a balance in their CPD activities between the three categories.

Category 1: Developmental Activities

Refer to the policy annexures, where applicable (the recognised voluntary associations have drafted their own specific developmental activities). Where a VA did not specify the activities then this policy will apply.

Attendance of structured educational/developmental meetings will be credited with one credit per 10 hours of attendance. A full day activity will be regarded as being for 10 hours and a half-day activity will be regarded as 5 hours and hence a half a credit. A maximum of 4 credits (40 hours) may be accumulated annually under this category:

- Conferences
- Congresses
- Large group workshops
- Lectures
- Seminars
- Refresher courses
- Symposiums

Category 2: Work-based Activities

Refer to the policy annexures, where applicable (the recognised voluntary associations have drafted their own specific work-based activities). Where a VA did not specify the activities then this policy will apply.

A different formula is used to calculate credits in this category. Since registered persons also remain current by performing their day-to-day natural scientific responsibilities, a weighting of one credit for every 400 hours per year for natural scientific related work (including management) is awarded for this category. A maximum of two credits for 800 hours per year may be earned in respect of this activity.

In addition, the mentoring of candidate persons in the workplace will be recognised as CPD with a maximum of 1 credit for 50 hours of mentoring per

year. In-house skills training sessions organised by an employer/natural scientific company and career guidance for candidates may also be presented under this sub-category.

Category 3: Individual Activities

Membership of a SACNASP recognised voluntary association (natural scientific society/institution or institute) will result in a maximum of 1 credit per annum.

Other Activities:

Refer to the policy annexures, where applicable (the recognised voluntary associations drafted their own specific category 3 activities pertaining to the field of practice.) Where a VA did not specify the activities then this policy will apply.

If the VA did not draft a list of other activities, specific to the field of practice, then the registered individual can select from the following credited list:

- Part-time lecturing to undergraduate and postgraduate students: one credit for every 10 hours of lecturing.
- Supervision of students undertaking postgraduate studies: 2 credits per year.
- Oral examinations of final year and postgraduate students: 1 credit for every 10 hours of active involvement.
- Evaluation of M dissertations and PhD theses by external examiners: 2 credits per year.
- Evaluation of final year students by external examiners: 1 credit per year
- Publication of research in peer-reviewed journals: a single author: 2 credits per publication. Where paper has a number of authors: 1 credit per publication per author.
- Publication of technical articles: 1 credit per article published.
- Papers presented at conferences or congresses / poster presentations: 1 credit each.
- Participation in statutory, professional, institutional, technical or non-technical committees or task groups: one credit for every 10 hours of active participation.
- Evaluation of educational programmes at Universities and Universities of Technology (Technikons) for accreditation purposes: 1 credit for every 10 hours of active involvement.
- Evaluation of educational qualifications for SACNASP's Qualifications Examination Committee: 1 credit for every 10 hours of active involvement.
- Evaluation of competence and applications for registration for SACNASP's Registration Committees and Professional Advisory Committees: 1 credit for every 10 hours of active involvement.
- Relevant additional qualifications (these are exceptional allocations): A completed postgraduate qualification: 5 credits.

- Self-study (which includes, but is not restricted to studying of journals or electronic or computerised material), one credit for every 10 hours of study. All activities under this item must be verified.
- Writing referee reports for applicants applying to become registered scientists for the first time.

A maximum of 3 credits (30 hours) may be accumulated under this portion of this category, with the exception stated above for postgraduate studies. (Refer to the annexures for more detail on activities).

On the SACNASP website (www.sacnasp.org.za), much more information (including a FAQ document) is available and can be downloaded.

SACNASP
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

Register to be Recognised!

HOME NEW SUBMISSIONS REGISTERED SCIENTISTS NEWS, VIEWS, EVENTS ABOUT US LOGIN CPD CONTACT US

For validation of learning material and programmes for Continuing Professional Development (CPD), please [click here](#)

For Registration Applications, please [click here](#)

SOIL CLASSIFICATION WORKING GROUP

The Working Group, under the technical co-ordination of Dr Dave Turner, is currently busy finalizing a draft text of the revised edition of the Soil Classification Book. Once it has gone through the final editing phases, the aim is to have the book available for the start of the 2018 academic year.

Some changes will include an expanded system of noting soil information, as well as the ability to accommodate Anthrosols (man-made soils). However, the basic soil-family arrangement remains at the heart of the revised system.

Beauty of Soils Photography Competition – 2018

Get Snapping!



Photo: Johan van Tol - Ntabelanga Valley

In 2014, SSSSA members wowed us with their beautiful photographs of African soils.

We'd like to do it again! Details will be circulated later in 2017 but for now, please get snapping – capture those beautiful soils moments on your camera.

- Photos must feature African soil prominently. They may also feature plants, animals or humans, but the **focus should be on soil**.
- Photos should be in High resolution (above 1.5 MP).

Please keep an eye on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Soil-Science-Society-of-South-Africa-169158869802363/>), and your e-mail inbox, later in 2017, for competition entry details.

Enquiries: ruth@avorcane.co.za

HUMOUR

CONCEPTS OF "TIME"

Normal Time - this is what most of us experience every day. "What time is it?", "When does the meeting start?", "It's lunch time" and so on.

Africa Time - this is the somewhat relaxed attitude to punctuality and scheduling that exists on this continent. "Some time later on", "Any time now" and other phrases could mean in five minutes' time or maybe next week. Best expressed as "I'll get round to it now-now."

Musical Time - this refers to quavers, semi-quavers, beats to the bar and uses terms like tempo, rhythm, 2:4 time and 4:4 time. For more information, go to www.andrewlloydwebber.com.

Geological Time - a difficult concept to grasp, as it deals with eons, eras, millennia and the kinds of time scales necessary for dinosaurs to flourish, die out and be preserved as fossils. A hint: just use normal time scales and multiply by a few million or so.

Time-Space Continuum - as proposed by Einstein, where he suggests that time is not the same in all situations, light can bend, other dimensions are possible and suchlike concepts. If you don't understand it, go to Google (www.einsteinexplained.com/faq).

Institutional Time - specific to the working environment. In the short term, it is why an average working day seems to drag, why meetings seem to go on for much longer than scheduled and why deadlines seem to arrive so quickly. It is also encountered over longer periods, such as the time necessary to fill a vacant post, to receive an answer to a submission or to get a petty cash claim paid out. Even Einstein would struggle to find a rational explanation for any of this, but daily experience confirms it is a reality.

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

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.

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.