

*SOIL SCIENCE
SOCIETY OF SOUTH
AFRICA*



NEWSLETTER

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May 2019

SSSSA COUNCIL/GVSA RAAD: 2019-21

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	Dr A. Rozanov (Stellenbosch University)
	Dr J. van der Waals (Terra Soil Science, Pretoria)
	Prof J. van Tol (UFS, Bloemfontein)

ADDRESS/ADRES

**P O Box/Posbus 13429
Noordstad
9302**

TELEPHONE/TELEFOON

**President: 072 285 5414
Sec./Skr.: 083 389 0543**

E-MAIL

admin@soils.co.za

WEB PAGE/-TUISTE

<http://www.soils.org.za>

(Website co-ordinator: Ailsa Hardie; aghardie@sun.ac.za; 021 808 4790)

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

The past rainy season in the summer rainfall areas was characterised by various rainfall stations reporting the lowest rainfall figures to date, coupled with extremely high temperatures. Delegates attending the Combined Congress in Bloemfontein during January 2019, definitely experienced the effect of the extreme drought and scorching heat. Despite this, yet another very successful congress was presented, attended by 266 delegates.



Something new at this congress was the workshop with Conservation Agriculture as the theme, which was initiated by Prof Giel Laker, and which replaced the excursions. Delegates could register for either the congress or only the workshop. The workshop was very well attended, which is an indication that a specific need was fulfilled. It took in the form of a number of presentations with specific themes, after which breakaway groups discussed the themes, before reporting back to the main group. We are looking forward to publishing the presentations in a special edition of the SA Journal of Plant & Soil.

A highlight of the gala dinner was the SSSSA gold medal, presented to Prof Malcolm Hensley, most certainly a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

Sincere thanks to each and every SSSSA member who was prepared to attend the 2019 Combined Congress, and special thanks for every presentation that was presented. Without delegates attending and people presenting, there could be no congress.

Die afgelope reënvalseisoen vir die somerreënvalgebied was gekenmerk deur verskeie reënvalstasies wat die laagste reënval tot op datum, aangeteken het. Voorts het uiters hoë temperature hiermee gepaard gegaan. Afgevaardigdes wat die Gesamentlike Kongres te Bloemfontein gedurende Januarie 2019 bygewoon het, het die effek van die droogte en die versengende hitte intens beleef. Dit nieteenstaande, is nog 'n baie suksesvolle kongres aangebied. Die kongres is deur 266 afgevaardigdes bygewoon.

Iets nuuts by dié kongres was die werkswinkel met Bewaringslandbou as tema, wat deur Prof Giel Laker geïnisieer is. Dit is in die plek van ekskursies aangebied. Afgevaardigdes kon vir die hele kongres of net die werkswinkel registreer. Die werkswinkel was baie goed bygewoon, wat 'n aanduiding daarvan is dat 'n spesifieke behoefte aangespreek is. Dit was in die vorm van 'n aantal voordragte met gespesifiseerde temas, waarna daar wegbreekgroepe was om die temas te bespreek. Daarna is terugvoer van elk van die wegbreekgroepe gegee. Ons sien daarna uit dat die referate in 'n spesiale bundel van die SA Tydskrif vir Plant & Grond gepubliseer gaan word.

’n Hoogtepunt van die gala-dinee was die goue medalje van die GVSA wat aan Prof Malcolm Hensley toegeken is. Dat hy ’n uiters waardige ontvanger van dié toekenning is, is seker.

Opregte dank aan elke GVSA-lid wat sy/haar weg oopgesien het om die 2019 Gesamentlike Kongres by te woon, en ’n meer spesiale dank vir elke referaat wat voorgedra is. Sonder mense wat bywoon en mense wat referate lewer, is daar nie ’n kongres nie.

COMBINED CONGRESS 2020 / GESAMENTLIKE KONGRES 2020

The arrangements for the 2020 Congress, which will be held in Bloemfontein once again, are already at an advanced stage. Due to limited opportunities for excursions, a workshop is once again on the cards. SSSSA members are encouraged to prepare their presentations for the 2020 Congress in the meantime. The first announcement for the 2020 congress is included in this Newsletter. Please support our own congress, organised by our Society, for our own people.

Die reëlings vir die 2020 Kongres, wat weer in Bloemfontein gehou gaan word, is reeds in ’n gevorderde stadium. Omdat die opsies vir ekskursies min is, word daar weer ’n werkswinkel in die vooruitsig gestel. GVSA lede word aangemoedig om solank hul referate vir die 2020 kongres gereed te kry. Die eerste aankondiging van die 2020 kongres word in hierdie Nuusbrief ingesluit. Ondersteun ons eie kongres, deur ons eie Vereniging gereël, vir ons eie mense.

JOURNAL / JOERNAAL

All paid-up members of the SSSSA have free access to the SA Journal for Plant & Soil. The Journal is hosted by Taylor & Francis, who do a fabulous job. All previous issues are available electronically on Taylor & Francis’s web site.

Important:

- Cite articles in our Journal
- Download articles from our Journal
- Publish in our own Journal
- Assist in uplifting the status of our Journal

Alle opbetaalde lede van die GVSA kry gratis toegang tot die SA Joernaal vir Plant & Grond. Die Joernaal word deur Taylor & Francis gehuisves, wat hul uitstekend van hul taak kwyd. Alle vorige uitgawes is elektronies op Taylor & Francis se webwerf beskikbaar.

Belangrik:

- *Verwys na artikels in ons Joernaal*
- *Laai artikels van ons Joernaal af*
- *Publiseer in ons eie Joernaal*
- *Help om ons Joernaal se status te verhoog*

SACNASP / SARNAP

The SSSSA encourages members to register with SACNASP as Natural Scientists in the field of Soil Science. According to law, it is compulsory for practicing soil scientists to register with SACNASP.

Die GVSA moedig sy lede aan om by SARNAP as natuurwetenskaplikes in die veld van Grondkunde te registreer. Volgens wet is praktiserende grondkundiges verplig om by SARNAP te registreer.

FACEBOOK

The SSSSA has an active Facebook page. Please “like” our Facebook page and be part of the excitement. It is there for our members. Prof Andrei Rozanov (Stellenbosch University) takes care of it.

Die GVSA het 'n aktiewe facebook-blad. “Like” assebleif ons facebook-blad en wees deel van die opwinding. Dit is vir ons lede daar. Prof Andrei Rozanov (Universiteit Stellenbosch) sien hierna om.

PHOTO COMPETITION / FOTOKOMPETISIE

Have a look on our Facebook page at the winning soil-related photographs of previous years. AGT Foods is our sponsor and this competition will be presented once again this year with new prizes, sponsored by AGT foods. Take along your camera every day when going to the veld or on holiday and take pictures of all those interesting subjects with soil as main theme.

Kyk gerus op ons facebook-blad na die grond-verwante wenfoto's van die vorige jare. AGT Foods is ons borg en hierdie kompetisie gaan weer aan die einde van die jaar geloods word met nuwe pryse deur AGT Foods geborg. Vat jou kamera elke dag saam veld toe of op vakansie en neem daardie interessante foto's met “grond” as tema.

NEW MEMBERS / NUWE LEDE

The Society acquires new members annually, and it is especially encouraging to see so many young members joining. Senior soil scientists must encourage juniors to join.

Die Vereniging kry jaarliks 'n aantal nuwe lede by. Bemoedigend is soveel jong lede wat aansluit. Senior grondkundiges moet hul juniors aanmoedig om aan te sluit.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOIL SCIENCES (IUSS)

The SSSSA is affiliated with the IUSS. Every paid-up member of the SSSSA hereby receives the privileges of the IUSS. SSSSA delegates regularly attend congresses of the IUSS.

Die GVSA is by die IUSS geaffilieer. Elke opbetaalde lid van die GVSA kry hierdeur die voorregte van die IUSS. GVSA-afgevaardigdes woon gereeld die IUSS se kongres by.

BULLETS FROM THE BOARD / KOEËLS VANUIT DIE RAAD

- SSSSA members are encouraged to nominate members for the special awards from the SSSSA. Guidelines may be found on the SSSSA web site. Nominations can be forwarded to Prof Jude Odhiambo at Jude.Odhiambo@univen.ac.za.
GVSA-lede word aangemoedig om lede vir spesiale toekennings deur die GVSA te nomineer. Riglyne hieroor is op die GVSA se webtuiste uiteengesit. Nominasies kan aan Prof Jude Odhiambo by Jude.Odhiambo@univen.ac.za gestuur word.
- The South African Soil Surveyors Organisation (SASSO) is now officially affiliated to the SSSSA.
Die Suid-Afrikaanse Grondopnemersorganisasie (SAGO) is nou amptelik by die GVSA geaffilieer.
- The SSSSA is currently considering hosting the 2030 International Soil Science Congress in Cape Town and we are busy preparing a bid in that regard to the IUSS, in collaboration with Wesgro.
Die GVSA oorweeg dit om die IUSS se Internasionale Gondkundekongres in 2030 in Kaapstad aan te bied en is besig om 'n bod daarvoor, in samewerking met Wesgro, voor te berei.
- The SSSSA is in a healthy financial state and we enjoy a positive cash flow. We also have sufficient investment reserves in order to buffer the cash flow, should it be necessary. We are busy registering the Society as NPO with SARS.
Dit gaan goed met die GVSA se finansies met 'n positiewe kontantvloei. Ons het ook redelike reserwes op belegging om die kontantvloei te buffer indien nodig. Ons is besig om die Vereniging by SARS as NPO te registreer.
- Members are most welcome to drop me an e-mail at martiens@nwk.co.za with bright ideas regarding the Society, or anything worrying you, or just to have a conversation.
Lede is baie welkom om vir my 'n e-pos te stuur by martiens@nwk.co.za met 'n goeie idee rakende die Vereniging, of iets wat jou bekommer, of om sommer net kommunikasie te hê.
- The Board is concerned about so many members not paying membership fees. The worst aspect of this is that we thereby lose so many members. Members who did not yet pay their subs, please contact Nancy Nortje at admin@soils.co.za.
Die Raad is bekommerd dat soveel lede nie hulle ledegeld betaal nie. Wat baie sleg is, is dat daardie lede lidmaatskap verloor en die GVSA dus lede verloor. Lede wat nog nie hul ledegeld betaal het nie, moet dringend met Nancy Nortje skakel by admin@soils.co.za

- Remember that we offer the option to advertise your products / services on our website and Facebook, or even to advertise a vacancy in your organisation. Naturally, this will be at an affordable fee.
Onthou dat ons die opsie bied om jou produkte / dienste op ons webtuiste en facebook te adverteer, of om 'n vakature by jou organisasie te adverteer. Natuurlik sal dit teen 'n baie bekostigbare fooi wees.

Kind regards, till next time

Groetnis, tot volgende keer

Martiens du Plessis

(072 285 5414; martiens@nwk.co.za)

EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL

We are on the verge of an election as I write, and while there a number of burning political issues, the one that will probably occur first to soil scientists is that of land. Without becoming in any way controversial about the various aspects of land ownership, South Africa has a growing population that will need to be fed. This means that every possible hectare of productive land, and every available litre of water to help in that production (whether from the sky as rain or from elsewhere as irrigation), needs to be utilised as effectively as possible, as well as in a sustainable way.



It is therefore the responsibility of each and every soil scientist, as well as everyone who has a desire to see the agricultural sector (at every level) in South Africa prosper, to speak out against all instances where potentially productive agricultural land is either removed from production or where there are threats to do so.

If we want our children and grandchildren (as in the photos on the next page) to live in a country with healthy soils and a flourishing agricultural environment providing sufficient food, it should be a continuous and conscious way of life.



Finally, as always, many thanks to all the contributors to the Newsletter, but if any of the SSSSA members have news, views, photos, announcements or anything else, please send them to me. I will be delighted to receive them and share with fellow members.

Regards,

Garry Paterson

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

COUNCIL MATTERS/RAADSAANGELENTHED

A warm welcome to the following new members of SSSSA:

Full member: Mr David Taverna-Turisan.

Student members: Mr Christiaan Gericke, Mr Mashapa Malobane, Mr Sibongiseni Mgozozeli, Mr Siphon Ntonta, Mr Thembaletu Taeni, Mr Maduabuchi Ukabiala.

Congratulations to all our SSSSA members who will be celebrating their birthdays between November and May. Best wishes for a memorable day and an adventurous year!!



Birthdays

(November – May)

The list below is according to our latest membership records. It might be that some of your details are recorded wrongly or outdated or there might even be members that are not even included in the list. If your membership details are not recorded correctly, you are kindly requested to email any changes or updates on your details to the society secretariat, Ms. Nancy Nortje (admin@soils.co.za).

JUNE

1 Mr. J.P. du Plessis
 1 Mr. J. L. le Roux
 2 Dr D.P. Turner
 6 Mr. P.J. Snyman
 9 Mr. F. Botha
 10 Prof J.C. Hughes
 11 Dr J.J. Botha
 14 Mr. M. Ginster
 14 Mr. B.L. Plath
 14 Dr J.A.J. van Vuuren
 17 Dr L.T. Mupondi
 19 Mr. R.H. van der Merwe
 19 Prof S. Walker
 20 Dr H.G. Jansen van Rensburg
 20 Ms. I.L. Mathys-Snyman
 23 Mr. M. Madyaka
 24 Dr J.B. Rwanika
 28 Mr. M.J. Du Plessis
 28 Mr. H.W. Hattingh

JULY

1 Mr. J. Lanz
 1 Mr. S.T. Maseko
 1 Mr. C.H. Wessels
 2 Mr. J.G. Dreyer
 3 Mr. M.M. Masowa
 4 Ms. S. Dinwa
 4 Dr M.B. Schneider

7 Mr. D. Van Zyl
 8 Mr. M.S. Mothlatlole
 12 Ms. L. Grobler
 14 Dr P Muchaonyerwa
 15 Dr D.J. Beukes
 17 Mr. M.K. Lesesa
 18 Mr. W.F.A Kirsten
 19 Dr J.J. Van Tol
 24 Ms. P.B. Chauke
 25 Dr J.G. Annandale
 25 Ms. M. Pienaar
 26 Mr. S.J. Dlamini
 27 Dr A.T. Grundling
 27 Mr. K.P. Taylor
 28 Dr A.J. Mills
 30 Ms M. Van Der Walt

AUGUST

1 Ms. S.G. Lubisa
 1 Ms. R.F. Seturumane
 2 Prof M.P. Nephumbada
 3 Mr. P. Dongi
 3 Mr. G.J. Malan
 6 Dr F.J.P. Botha
 6 Ms. K.N. King
 7 Mr. W.Z. Heathman
 8 Prof S.A. Materechera
 9 Prof I.I.C. Wakindiki
 10 Dr C.E. Dowding-Clarke

12 Dr W.P. De Clercq
12 Dr J.W. Crous
17 Dr P.D. Tanner
19 Mr. D.J. Kritzinger
22 Prof C.W. van Huyssteen
23 Mr. C.B. Bothma
25 Dr D.G. Paterson
25 Mr. P.W. van Deventer
26 Mr. R. Kuschke
28 Mr. F. Unoufin

SEPTEMBER

1 Dr K.R. Barichiev
3 Prof P.A.L. Le Roux
4 Ms. L. Mudaly
5 Mr. M.D. Michael
7 Mr. F.T. Seabi
9 Dr T.P. Fyfield
11 Mr. J.S. Erasmus
12 Dr A.G. Hardie-Pieters
16 Mr. H.J.J. Van Zyl
16 Prof E. Verster
18 Mr. E.J. Haumann
21 Mr. B.B. McLeroth
22 Mr. J. Fourie

22 Dr P. Swanepoel
24 Dr R.M.B. Auerbach
25 Dr M. Hensley
25 Mr. A.J. Van Zyl
29 Ms. K.J. Molepo

OCTOBER

1 Ms. M. Wuite
2 Mr. G.C.H. Venter
3 Mr. P.B. Botha
5 Dr F. Netterberg
7 Mr. L. Mariberg
12 Dr D. Haarhoff
12 Prof R.F. Kutu
12 Mr. K. Snyman
15 Dr A.D. Nciizah
16 Mr. J.H. Meyer
19 Mr. S.G. van Heerden
22 Mr P.B. Goede
23 Dr N. Miles
31 Mr. P.C. de Jager
31 Mr. M. Mamera

APPOINTMENTS/AANSTELLINGS

Congratulations to **Dr Johan van Tol**, who was appointed as Professor: Soil-, Crop- and Climate Sciences in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, from 1st January 2019.

DEGREES AWARDED/GRADE TOEGEKEN

At the April graduation ceremony of Stellenbosch University, two Soil Science PhD degrees were awarded to **Dr Liesl Wiese** and **Dr Adrian Adams**.

Three MSc degrees in Soil Science were also awarded to **Mr Vivian White**, **Ms Karla Hoogendijk** and **Mr Fanie van Heerden**.

Summaries of the PhD theses:

- **Adrian Adams**

Lipid humification by soil clays

The capacity of common soil minerals to humify lipids was investigated in terms of the reaction products formed, the mechanistic pathways involved and the rates at which these reactions occur. Manganese oxides were shown to be the most reactive minerals and the reaction follows a complex, multistage pathway involving numerous intermediates. This is the first study to show the abiotic humification of lipids at environmental temperatures and demonstrates that this, previously overlooked, process could be an important contributor to carbon sequestration in soils.

- **Liesl Wiese**

Mapping soil organic carbon stocks by combining NIR spectroscopy and stochastic vertical distribution models: a case study in the Mvoti River catchment, KZN, South Africa

This study significantly contributed to future soil organic carbon accounting by developing a model to map carbon stocks in the first meter of soil while minimizing the need for field and laboratory measurements. Once the model is in place for specific land uses or soil types, only samples at the soil surface are needed to predict carbon stocks down to one meter. For the first time, the measurement error of carbon stock determination is included in the uncertainty assessment of digital soil carbon maps, based on which the accuracy of maps may be determined.



“Soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all.” - *Wendell Berry*

Capture the Beauty of African Soils and get ready to enter our
2019 SSSSA Soils Photo Competition!

Photo: R van Antwerpen – *Boundaries*



Watch this space – entry details to follow in the next SSSSA newsletter

Enquiries: ruth@avorcane.co.za

MOVEMENTS/BEWEGINGS

- In January, **Prof. Rasheed Adeleke** left the Microbiology Unit at ARC-Soil, Climate and Water to take up a new position at the North West University, based in Potchefstroom. However, due to the close ties between the two organizations, as well as the numbers of PDP students at ARC who are registered at NWU, there will continue to be good co-operation in the future, and Rasheed will not be a stranger at ARC-SCW for some time to come.



The photo shows Prof Adeleke receiving a farewell gift from two of his staff, Dr Maryam Bello-Akinosho (Post-Doc) and Dr Ashira Roopnarain (Senior Researcher).

- Also at ARC-SCW, **Dr Edwin Moshia** left his post as Specialist Researcher in Soil Science after just over a year at the Institute.
- **Dr Dimpho Elephant** joined North West University in Potchefstroom as a lecturer on 1 April 2019 after 5 years' service at South African Sugar Research Institute, Mount Edgecombe (KZN).

AWARDS/TOEKENNINGS

Congratulations to the following members, who received awards at the 2019 Combined Congress, in Bloemfontein:

President's award for best verbal presentation at the congress by a presenting author who is a member of the SSSSA.

EF Tesfamariam, PL Simwaka, PW Chirwa & AP Ngwira

The role of conservation agriculture on soil hydraulic properties and carbon sequestration is soil and climate dependent

Best paper presented by a SSSSA member older than 30 years.

JJ Botha, M Hensley, PAL le Roux, LD van Rensburg & JJ Anderson

The role of water conservation strategies and benchmark ecotopes for increasing yields in South Africa's semi-arid croplands.

Best paper presented by a SSSSA member younger than 30 years on the day of presentation.

SG Lusiba, JJO Odhiambo, R Adeleke & S Masko

Biochar derived from poultry litter as an alternative soil amendment to improve nutrient availability of three different soil types.

Best poster presentation by a SSSSA member on any soil science subject and author of any age.

JJ Anderson & JJ Botha

Yield responses of dry beans on the Glen-Bonheim ecotope using conventional tillage and in-field rainwater harvesting.



Dr Cobus Botha (left) and Dr Kobus Anderson (right) with their awards

Also at the Bloemfontein Congress, Honorary membership was formally awarded to **Prof Allan Bennie**, who was unable to be at the previous Congress.

In addition, the Gold Medal of the Society was presented to **Prof Malcolm Hensley** for his contributions to soil science over a long and distinguished career.



Prof Allan Bennie and his wife with outgoing SSSSA President Dr Cobus Botha



Prof Malcolm Hensley, SSSSA Gold medal recipient


CONGRESSES/KONGRESSE

The next **Combined Congress** will be held at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein from January 20th to 25th 2020.

COMBINED CONGRESS 2020

GESAMENTLIKE KONGRES 2020

Soil Science Society of South Africa / Grondkunde Vereniging van Suid-Afrika
South African Society of Crop Production / Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Gewasproduksie
Southern African Weed Science Society / Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Onkruidwetenskap
Southern African Society for Horticultural Sciences / Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Tuinbouwetenskappe



S A S H S

“Basic and applied sciences – Fundamentals of sustainable agriculture”
“Basiese en toegepaste wetenskappe – Grondbeginsels van volhoubare landbou”

<u>First Announcement</u>	<u>Eerste Kennisgewing</u>
<p>Date: 20 - 23 January 2020 Venue: University of the Free State, Bloemfontein</p> <p>Bloemfontein, the capital city of the Free State Province in South Africa, is centrally situated in the middle of the country. The "City of Roses" is the sixth largest city in South Africa and lies on the main road, rail and air links between north and south, east and west. Bloemfontein is a Metro Municipality, but the country hospitality and peaceful atmosphere is almost tangible.</p> <p>Accommodation: Each delegate is responsible for booking their own accommodation. <i>Please book in good time.</i></p> <p>Excursions / Workshop: On Wednesday there will be an excursion and a workshop. The workshop will be registered with SACNSP and participants will be able to claim CPD points. Congress attendees will have a choice to attend one of the two events. Please make your choice when registering.</p> <p>Registration and submission of abstracts: Registration will open soon. <u>Early bird</u> registration will be open until <u>midnight on 31 October 2019</u>. More information on the programme, congress excursions, workshop and guidelines for presentations will be posted on the congress website as it becomes available.</p> <p>Abstracts should be submitted before 30 September 2019. This is to allow enough time for the selection and editing processes. Notification of abstract acceptance shall be sent out before 31 October 2019. <i>Note: No changes to submission dates will be made or granted.</i></p> <p>We count on your support to make this an outstanding scientific congress. Please react as soon as possible!</p> <p>Dr Cobus Botha (Chair: Organising Committee)</p> <p>REGISTRATION: Register online at www.combinedcongress.org.za or via an affiliated society website.</p>	<p>Datum: 20 - 23 Januarie 2020 Plek: Universiteit van die Vrystaat, Bloemfontein</p> <p>Bloemfontein, die hoofstad van die Vrystaat Provinsie in Suid-Afrika, is sentraal geleë in die middel van die land. Die "Stad van Rose" is die sesde grootste stad in Suid-Afrika en lê op die hoofweg, spoor- en lugskakels tussen noord en suid, oos en wes. Bloemfontein is 'n Metroraad, maar die plattelandse gasvryheid en rustige atmosfeer is byna tasbaar.</p> <p>Akkommodasie: Elke kongresganger is verantwoordelik vir hul eie akkommodasie-reëlings. <i>Bespreek asseblief vroegtydig.</i></p> <p>Ekskursies / Werkswinkel: Woensdag sal daar 'n ekskursie en 'n werkswinkel aangebied word. Die werkswinkel sal by SACNSP geregistreer wees, en deelnemers sal CPD punte kan eis. Kongresgangers sal 'n keuse kan uitoefen om een van die twee te kan bywoon. Maak asseblief u keuse wanneer u registreer.</p> <p>Registrasie en indiening van opsommings: Registrasie sal binnekort oopmaak. <u>Vroeë registrasie</u> sal oop wees tot om <u>middernag op 31 Oktober 2019</u>. Meer inligting oor die program, kongres-ekskursies, werkswinkel en riglyne vir sprekers sal op die kongres webwerf geplaas word soos dit beskikbaar raak.</p> <p>Uittreksels moet voor 30 September 2019 ingedien word. Dit is om genoeg tyd vir die keurings- en redigeringsproses toe te laat. Kennisgewing van die aanvaarding van uittreksels sal voor 31 Oktober 2019 uitgestuur word. <i>Nota: Geen verandering aan indieningsdatums sal aangebring of toegestaan word nie.</i></p> <p>Ons reken op u ondersteuning om dit 'n uitstaande wetenskaplike kongres te maak. Reageer asseblief so spoedig moontlik!</p> <p>Dr Cobus Botha (Voorsitter: Reëlingskomitee)</p> <p>REGISTRASIE: Registreer aanlyn by www.combinedcongress.org.za of via 'n geaffilieerde vereniging webwerf.</p>

ENQUIRIES / NAVRAE:
Ms Nancy Nortjé P.O. Box 13429, Noordstad, 9302 Fax: 086 642 2292 e-mail: nancynortje@icloud.com



The **Land Rehabilitation Society of South Africa (LaRSSA)** is holding its **7th Annual Conference** at **Glenburn Lodge, Muldersdrift** from **15th to 18th July 2019**. Located in the Kromdraai Valley and on the Crocodile River, Muldersdrift forms part of the Crocodile Ramble, a scenic tourist route generally regarded as the most popular of all the craft routes around South Africa. It is the gateway to the West Rand, and forms part of the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site.

The LaRSSA conference aims to bring together key industry, governmental and academic land practitioners, all of whom have valuable insight into and contributions to make to the land rehabilitation discipline in Southern Africa. Details at www.larssa.co.za

The **pre-conference workshop** will focus on **"Soil Science Principles for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Land"** and will be facilitated by Jaco Koch (North West University), Piet van Deventer, Dries Bloem (Geolab) and Johan Hattingh. At the evening's casual Meet & Greet, there will be a variety of delicious potjiekos at the River Lapa, Glenburn Lodge.

The **two days of conference proceedings** will include renowned keynote and plenary speakers, as well as industry leaders on pertinent topics. These include: **Johan Zietsman, Lucy Koelslag, Mike Bruton, Junior Gabela, Professor Sikhhalazo Dube, Rudy Joles and Professor Roy Lubke**. The programme will also be packed with presentations of case-studies and/or research projects focusing on our theme. Conference day one will be completed with an entertaining evening at Gilroy's Pub (which includes transport, entertainment and dinner).

This year LaRSSA will be honouring **Professor Roy Lubke** with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Our gala dinner entertainment will be **Mike Bruton**.

The two **post-conference tours** will feature a trip to **Rustenburg to the Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (Working for Wetlands) and the Rustenburg Kloof project (Working for Water)**. The second post-conference tour will be hosted by **The Harties Foundation**, a non-profit company that is addressing the water **hyacinth infestation at the Hartebeespoortdam** by not only cleaning up the dam, but also creating jobs. This tour will include a ride on the magnificent **Harties cableway**.

The 8th **World Conference on Ecological Restoration** will be held in Cape Town later this year. Details below:



8TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION
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SOIL SCIENTISTS ABROAD/GRONDKUNDIGES OORSEE

At the end of last year **Dr. Andrei Rozanov** and **Liesl Wiese** from the Department of Soil Science, Stellenbosch University, celebrated World Soil Day 2018 in St. Petersburg, Russia. They presented their report on human capital in soil science in Africa.



The event was organized by the Eurasian Centre for Food Security (ECFS), St. Petersburg State University and the Dokuchaev soil museum.



Dr. Andrei Rozanov (center left) and Dr. Liesl Wiese (center right) at the 2018 World Soil Day presentations in St Petersburg, Russia.

MISCELLANEOUS/ALGEMEEN

1. Article on soil crusting

Dr Gerhard Nortje and Prof Giel Laker have had an article published in Advances in Agronomy entitled "Review of existing knowledge on soil crusting in South Africa".

Links to the article are as follows:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0065211319300148>

or

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0065211319300148?via%3Dihub>.

2. Book on sugar cane management

Dr Rianto van Antwerpen and his colleagues at SASRI are writing a book on the impact of field management options on root growth and distribution of sugar cane. The book will cover a range of factors such as soils, tillage, pest control, disease control, irrigation systems, traffic, nutrition and many more.

Our problem is that literature covering the effect of field management on root distribution is limited. Members are requested to assist with literature by contacting the team at rianto.van.antwerpen@sugar.org.za

3. Lecture at Stellenbosch

In March of 2019 the Department of Soil Science, Stellenbosch University hosted a public lecture given by Prof Roland Schulze, who



is the Emeritus Professor of Hydrology at UKZN (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Roland_Schulze).

Prof Schulze is one of the leading South African thinkers and experts in the field of hydrology, modelling water in agricultural catchments and projecting water supply in a changing environment. His talk entitled "*The Water-Energy-Ecosystems-Food Nexus in South Africa under present and projected future climatic conditions*" was well attended by researchers across the Western Cape.

4. Conservation Agriculture Workshop

As mentioned elsewhere, a very successful “Conservation Agriculture (CA)” Workshop was held on 23rd January 2019 as part of the Combined Congress of the Crop, Soil, Horticultural,



and Weed Science Societies of South Africa held at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. The Workshop was attended by about 210 people who included delegates from the private sector, researchers and farmers.

The aim of the Workshop was to share and exchange experiences and lessons in different types and fields of CA in order to identify research and development gaps that need to be addressed. The broad objectives of the Workshop were to:

- Facilitate sharing of information and experiences, focusing on lessons learned with regard to the contribution of CA to sustainable production and improved food security,
- Identify key issues in the development, promotion and adoption of CA in commercial and subsistence farming,
- Involve a wide range of representatives from across the CA community of practices in South Africa in the collective discussion of key challenges faced within CA practice,
- Link challenges to underlying knowledge gaps and plan collaborative approaches to best address these gaps in future, in the form of concept notes that might be the basis of future research proposals,
- Promote networking and improve dissemination of existing and new knowledge in order to support the scaling-up of CA in South Africa.

Prof Giel Laker, internationally recognized soil scientist (retired) and honorary member of the SSSSA, was the overall workshop facilitator. Dr Pieter Swanepoel from the University of Stellenbosch was the overall rapporteur. The Workshop consisted of a general introductory session with an introductory paper “Introduction to conservation agriculture” by Dr Johan Strauss. The introductory session was followed by a session in which the Workshop theme and objectives were addressed through introductory papers on seven thematic sub-themes:

1. No-till CA in rain-fed annual crop production (Dr Hendrik Smith)
2. CA systems other than no-till in rain-fed annual crop production (Prof Rianto van Antwerpen)
3. CA in orchards and vineyards (Dr Pieter Raath)
4. CA in irrigated agriculture (Dr Willem de Clerq)
5. Soil fertility management in CA (Dr Gerhard Nortjé)
6. Importance of detailed soil surveys in CA (Prof Eben Verster)
7. Responsible weed control in CA (Dr Elbe Hugo).

This was followed by discussions and deliberations by breakaway groups around the themes. Each breakaway group had a facilitator and rapporteur. The rapporteurs gave feedback from the breakaway groups during the report back and final deliberation session. It is envisaged that the introductory papers and final conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop will be published as a special issue of the South African Journal for Plant and Soil. This workshop was registered with SACNASP and attendees were able to claim CPD points.



Speakers and organizers of the CA Workshop at the Combined Congress held at the Free State University, Bloemfontein. From left: Prof J Annandale; Dr N Taylor; Mr. A Mostert; Dr P Raath; Dr G Nortjé; Prof R v Antwerpen; Dr P Swanepoel; Dr N Cook; Dr H Smith; Dr Elbe Hugo; Dr J Strauss; Dr M van der Laan; Dr J van Biljon; Dr W de Clerq; Dr C Botha.



Prof Giel Laker addressing the Workshop (left) and the delegates at the venue (right)

According to **Dr Cobus Botha** (past President of SSSSA and CA researcher based at Glen, FS), this was the first time in South Africa that stakeholders of widely differing industries came together to discuss their CA experiences and that was an important factor in ensuring that many of the goals of the workshop have been achieved.

5. News from NWU

From 2019, the North West University has added two agriculture qualifications to its offerings on its Potchefstroom campus. Two four-year degrees are offered, namely B.Sc. Agric. with Soil Science and Agronomy and B.Sc. Agric. with Agronomy and Agricultural Economics. These programmes are intended to fill a niche currently in tertiary agricultural education, as they will have a strong focus on precision farming in the summer grain production areas.



The courses owe their establishment to the bi-annual precision agriculture conferences hosted by the NWU, where the need for tertiary training in precision agriculture was raised by stakeholders. With Potchefstroom situated in the heart of the maize-producing areas in the

North West and Free State Provinces, the University is also ideally situated to provide training in precision agriculture. The need for precision farming education was highlighted by 54 students who enrolled for the courses for 2019, after having initially been capped at only 50 students. In addition to the undergraduate courses, post graduate qualifications in Agriculture are also now offered at the NWU (Potchefstroom) campus.

Drs. George van Zijl and Dimakatso Ramphisa were appointed at the start of 2019 to join the soil science staff of Jaco Koch, Jasper Dreyer and Angelique Daniell in providing teaching in soil science. The soil science modules offered include: Introduction to Soil Science, Soil fertility, Soil degradation and rehabilitation, Soil Physics, Principles of Irrigation, Soil Genesis and Classification and Precision Agriculture.

For enquiries into the agriculture program, the contact person is the program coordinator, Prof Huib von Hamburg, at 018 299 4376 or huib.vanhamburg@nwu.ac.za.

HUMOUR

- PEDOLOGISTS never retire – they just keep a low profile!
- AGRONOMISTS never retire – they just go into dormancy phase!
- WEED SCIENTISTS never retire – you can never get rid of a weed!
- LIVESTOCK SCIENTISTS never retire – they just get put out to pasture!
- ECONOMISTS never retire – they just cut their losses!
- FARMERS never retire – they just lie fallow!
-

(Add your own to the list – Ed.)

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.

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.