



# SASTA NEWS

Newsletter of the SA Sugar Technologists' Association

MAY 2011

SASTA contact details: [sasta@sugar.org.za](mailto:sasta@sugar.org.za) Telephone: 031 508 7543 Fax: 031 508 7420 Website: [www.sasta.co.za](http://www.sasta.co.za)

## SASTA CONGRESS 2011

17 – 19 August 2011  
ICC, Durban, South Africa

### A Premier Sugarcane Industry Event

The annual SASTA Congress strives to be recognised as one of the world's premier events for sugarcane technologists. Delegates attending Congress 2011 can expect to hear about cutting-edge research and innovations, spend time viewing an extensive Trade Exhibition of over 40 stands and network with more than 500 delegates from the sugarcane industry both within and beyond Africa.

### A Record number of Abstract Submissions!

For the technical programme, 82 Abstracts have been received for paper and poster submissions. Of these, 29 are for the Factory Session and 53 for the Agriculture Session.

We also have some very exciting guest and plenary speakers secured – check the SASTA website for regular updates and speaker profiles!

### Registration and Delegate Fees

Registration is now open! Please go to the SASTA website to register on-line ([www.sasta.co.za](http://www.sasta.co.za)) or contact:

Sizile ([sizile@confco.co.za](mailto:sizile@confco.co.za)). Tel: +27 (0)31 3039852

**Trade Exhibition:** Sales are now open and stands are selling fast!

**Sponsorship Opportunities:** A number of variously-priced advertising / sponsoring opportunities are available. Please email [jason@confco.co.za](mailto:jason@confco.co.za) for the list of available options.

### Contact Details

Exhibition and Sponsorship: Jason Saayman ([jason@confco.co.za](mailto:jason@confco.co.za)).

General Congress related queries: Deidre Hancke-Haysom [deidre@confco.co.za](mailto:deidre@confco.co.za) or Tel: +27 (0)31-3039852

Proceedings, Papers, any other SASTA related queries: Danile Macdonald - [sasta@sugar.org.za](mailto:sasta@sugar.org.za) or Tel: +27 (0)31-5087543.



## SASTA INTERNATIONAL VISITORS GRANT

SASTA has created two grants (one in the field of agriculture and one in the field of milling) to fund research visits by international experts. Persons who are interested to apply for this grant are welcome to contact the SASTA secretary. The following criteria need to be met:

- The visitor must be willing to spend at least two weeks in South Africa while working intensively with local scientists on an approved small project.
- The project must have a distinctive outcome, such as a new set of standards, a scientific paper, etc...
- The project should generate a relatively wide interest among sugar technologists and should ideally be of a pre-competitive nature.
- To further enhance networking, local university academics and students should be attracted to the activities that will be carried out.
- The visitor may be asked to act as a keynote speaker at a coinciding SASTA workshop or congress.

SASTA council will review a short application first and if successful, will then invite candidates for a more detailed elicited application. The SASTA International Visitors Grant is open at all times and does not have any specified closing dates for applicants.

### In this issue:

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- SASTA Congress 2011
- SASTA Roadshow 2011
- Innovation awards – call for nominations
- New SASTA members
- SASTA International Visitor: Prof Malcolm E Sumner
- SASTA Symposium on Sustainable Soil use
- AGM Notice

	Early Registration (and payment): 1 March – 20 May 2011	Standard Registration (and payment): 21 May 2011 – 31 July 2011	Late/on-site registration (and payment): 1 August – 19 August 2011	Day Registrations
S A S T A members	R 1 600.00	R 1 970.00	R 2 370.00	R 1 340.00
N o n - members	R 1 950.00	R 2 350.00	R 2 750.00	R1 680.00



# SASTA Roadshow 2011 to Sezela

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Roadshow was held at the Sezela Country Club on Wednesday 23 February. The talks presented on the day had already been presented at Congress 2010, and were of particular interest to growers in the region.

Fifty four delegates attended, fifteen of whom became new SASTA members in order to attend the event. The sponsorship contribution from KwaZulu Hybrid seeds is gratefully acknowledged, and was used to subsidise the teas and lunch enjoyed by delegates.

Gavin Smith, the SASTA President, welcomed the delegates, and gave them a short introduction to SASTA, and explained the role that members could play in nominating candidates from the grower sector for the annual SASTA Agriculture Innovation award.

Gavin and Kerry Redshaw (The SASTA Vice-President) shared the chairing duties for the two sessions.

The talks that were given were:

- Eighty-fifth annual review of the milling season 2009-2010 (South Coast region only) by Gavin Smith,
- Review of South African sugarcane production in the 2009-2010 season from an agricultural perspective (South Coast region only) by Abraham Singels
- The revamped SASRI weather data service also by Abraham Singels
- Development of the V-Choice variety selection system. (Linked with Integrating economic principles into variety recommendations: The Illovo case study by Sanesh Ramburan

- Nutrition of the South African sugar crop: current status and long-term trends by Michael van der Laan
- The value of leaf analysis in optimising yields by Neil Miles
- An applied approach to sugarcane harvest scheduling decision by Carel Bezuidenhout
- A running grass control strategy that is working (originally presented by Dave Sutherland) presented by Lawrence Polkinghorne
- Integrated weed management for sugarcane field verges by Des Conlong
- Impact of sugarcane thrips on sugarcane yield in field trials by Mike Way

SASTA would like to thank all the presenters, the Extension Specialists (Dirk McElligott, Justin Bowley, Otto de Haas and Billy Gillespie), Keith McFarlane, Gail Jack, Danny MacDonald and the Sezela Country Club for making the day such a success.



## E-Mail Address appeal

SASTA would like to send all correspondence including annual invoices, statements, notices of upcoming events, and newsletters by email. If this newsletter is being posted to you snail-mail, it is because SASTA does not have your current email address. Please email your updated particulars to [sasta@sugar.org.za](mailto:sasta@sugar.org.za)



# Innovation Awards

## Call for nominations

Nominations are invited from SASTA members for candidates to be considered for the 2011 Innovation Awards, in either the Factory or the Agricultural sectors. Please send your nomination with a detailed motivation to [sasta@sugar.org.za](mailto:sasta@sugar.org.za). Closing date for 2011 nominations: 30 June 2011

## The criteria

The criteria which are considered by Council are: The design, development and implementation of an idea, machine, process or technique which has shown definite value in improving technology, cost-effectiveness or sustainability or safety of factory and agricultural operations. Corporate innovations will not be considered.

## The award

The award consists of a trophy (mounted steel sugar cube for Factory and mounted steel plough for Agriculture) and a SASTA certificate.

## Previous winners of the Innovation awards are:

### Factory Trophy

2000 - Len Helfrich, THS Felixton - for the McGyver clamp

2001 - Gert Beukes (received by Bas Govender for the late Beukes), Gledhow - for the Heat Seal Liner

2002 - Solly Chinsamy, SMRI - for the pith:fibre ratio measuring apparatus.

2003 - Duncan Dennis, Illovo Sezela - for his modified labyrinth seal

### Agriculture Trophy

2000 - Dave Dinklemann, SASEX - for many innovations in the eldana-rearing unit in the Entomology Department at SASEX

2002 - Noodsberg Canegrowers' Association - for the environmental management system that they have adopted

2004 - Walter Redinger - for his innovations in harvester design

2005 - Chris Garnett - for development of the Mayfield knapsack granule fertilizer applicator

2006 - Ewald Albertse, SASRI - for the design and construction of the "Serial RS232 Score-Assist"

2007 - Bert Hillermann - for his organic fertilizer "banding" machine

2008 - Abraham Singels, SASRI - for a system of "Irrigation scheduling advice to small-scale sugarcane farmers using a crop simulation model and cellular technology"

## Distinguished Soil Scientist to visit the South African Sugar Industry

Professor Malcolm E. Sumner from the University of Georgia in the USA will visit the South African sugar industry through an international visitor's grant made available by SASTA. Professor Sumner has 55 years experience in soil science and has worked in many countries, including South Africa, Swaziland, central America, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, the USA, Australia and Greece.



He has written more than 250 peer reviewed articles and has been involved in the publication of eight books. His visit will coincide with the annual SASTA congress in late August where he will also present a plenary session paper. During his visit, Professor Sumner will work closely with Dr Neil Miles and other SASRI scientists on issues pertaining to nitrogen mineralization and soil organic matter. A special workshop on sustainable soil use is being organised where Prof Sumner and a number of other specialists will share their knowledge. The workshop will take place on 31 August 2011: see advert in this newsletter if you are interested to attend this workshop.

The SASTA international visitors grant was made possible out of the revenue generated from the 2007 ISSCT congress that was hosted in Durban. A call for the grant is open at all times and SASTA members who are interested to host international guests are welcome to contact the SASTA administrator for more details.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SA SUGAR TECHNOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

17 AUGUST 2011

Time: To be confirmed (lunch time on Day 1 of Congress)

International Convention Centre, Durban

Venue: SASTA Congress Plenary Hall

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM of 25 August 2010
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Presentation of awards from Congress 2010
5. President's report 2011
6. Membership
7. Financial Statement
8. Election of auditors
9. Changes to Constitution
10. Result of ballot for Council members 2011/2012
11. General



# SASTA Symposium on Sustainable Soil Use

Date: Wednesday 31 August 2011

Venue: KwaShukela Auditorium, SASA, Mount Edgecombe

Cost: R150.00 for SASTA members  
R350.00 for non-members

Booking is essential as numbers are limited. "First come – first served" principle will apply to delegate bookings. To book a place and receive an invoice, contact Danny Macdonald (sasta@sugar.org.za) or phone 031-5087543 or fax 031-5087420.

## AGENDA

Chair: Dirk McElligott

08:30 – 09:00 Coffee and registration

09:00 – 09:10 Welcome (SASTA Council)

09:10 – 09:45 Soil management for optimising yields – the world scene (Prof Malcolm Sumner, USA)

09:45 – 10:20 Nutrition of the Australian sugar crop: current knowledge and challenges  
(Dr Graham Kingston, Australia)

10:20 – 10:55 Modelling: does it have a role in nutrient management? (Dr Michael van der Laan, SASRI)

10:55 – 11:25 TEA

11:25 – 12:00 Soil cover – why I'm a convert (Dr Mart Farina, consultant)

12:00 – 12:35 Carbon legislation, carbon mitigation and sustainable agriculture – what does the future hold?  
(Prof Brian Purchase, consultant)

12:35 – 13:10 Nematodes – a war lost? (Dr Shaun Berry, SASRI)

13:10 LUNCH



## New SASTA members

(since July 2010)

Adam, Moses (RSSC)

Armstrong, David (grower)

Arysta Life Science SA

Basera, Needmore (RSSC)

Bense, Rudi (grower)

Boucher, Derick (Illovo HO)

Broodryk, Fredwyn (Illovo Eston)

Buckman Africa

Cole, Barry (grower)

Cooper, Colin (Illovo Noodsberg)

Crookes, Tim (grower)

De Witt, Dwain (Mpumalanga Cane-growers)

Gaza, Muzi (Illovo Agric)

Gxaba, Ayanda (SAST)

Hirawan, Ranjeetha (Illovo HO)

Hlela, Sifiso (SASRI)

Hyslop George (grower)

Jensen, Paul (SMRI)

John Deere (Pty) Ltd

Kaligan, Jerome (Illovo HO)

Koch, Aimee (SASRI)

Luthuli, Vivian (Illovo Agric)

Makhanya, Siphon (RSSC)

Madiya, Bonisile (Illovo Agric)

Maharaj, Arvin (CTS)

Mashwama, Oscar (RSSC)

Mativandlela, Fikizolo (Tsb – Malelane Mill)

McAdam, Gordon (Tsb SI)

Mnguni, Rudolf (THS – Felixton)

Msani, Vitalis (Illovo Agric)

Munian, Thumba (Tsb – Komati Mill)

Ngidi, Thulasizwe (grower)

Nikwe, Danny (Illovo Agric)

Nkala, Zazele (SASRI)

Nzama, Bheki (Illovo Eston)

Powell, Peter (grower)

Ramaru, Rendani (SMRI)

Ramsumer, Ramesh (SMRI)

Rein, Derrick (Illovo Agric)

Richards, Peter (grower)

Sibiya, Thembi (Tsb Malelane Mill)

Singh, Anil (Illovo Eston)

Singh, Roshan (RSSC)

Snyman, Theuns (grower)

Sutar, Chetan (Illovo HO)

Sutton, Mike (Illovo HO)

Thom, Mark (Illovo HO)

Tsupko, Yuriy (SASRI)

Welch, Bradley (Bosch Projects)

Wenman, Bruce (e-pc)

Wheeler, Miles (Illovo HO)

Wilkinson, Dave (SASRI)

Zizhou, Njodzi (SMRI)

Zulu, Eric (Tsb – Komati Mill)

