



# SASTA NEWS

Newsletter of the SA Sugar Technologists' Association

September 2002

SASTA Secretariat contact details:  
sasta@sugar.org.za Tel: +27 (0)31 539 3205  
Website: www.sasta.co.za

## SASTA CONGRESS 2002

The Opening of SASTA 2002 was held at the Elangeni Hotel in Durban and attended by more than 430 delegates. The presentation by guest speaker Karen Michaels was well received, and numerous requests for a copy of her talk entitled "Impact of HIV/AIDS on the private sector in South Africa" have been received since Congress ended. All remaining sessions of Congress were held at Kwa-Shukela.

Of the 383 people attending the working sessions of congress, 201 were agricultural delegates and the remaining 182 were factory delegates. Significantly, at least 60 delegates emanated from outside South Africa, with half of these from the SADC.

As usual, the Congress programme was divided into factory and agriculture sessions, with a total of 43 agriculture presentations and 27 factory papers.

The outgoing President, Tim Murray, addressed all members at the Opening of Congress. A summary and excerpts from his address are included here. The full text is available on the SASTA website ([www.sasta.co.za](http://www.sasta.co.za)).

### Excerpts from the President's address

The address focused on the importance of research in sustaining our sugar industry so that it retains its place as a "World Class Industry". In

particular, Tim commented on the research environment that prevails in the industry, and the current measures that are adopted to ensure that all research initiatives are comparable with international standards. He made suggestions regarding the manner in which such measures could be further improved, and made reference to the development of a rating system for our scientists. He said, "I believe we should be interacting with the NRF to see if we can have their rating system extended to include institutions such as those operating in our industry." The possibility of increasing research output through the development of partnerships and collaborative initiatives with other institutions was also emphasized.

Tim spoke at length about the successes of the Brazilian industry and said that he "was impressed by the degree to which they make use of their waste products". He went on to say that, "A significant amount of research is conducted by 'private' research facilities. They have progressed to the point that privately developed varieties of sugarcane are commercialized and royalties are extracted from users and utilization is monitored by IR and satellite imagery."

Tim commented further on the incentives that are largely responsible for driving innovations in the Brazilian industry. He said, "If, in this industry, the

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current proceeds sharing arrangements, which are indeed an arrangement between Millers, Growers and Government are an obstacle to such development then an alternative arrangement needs to be sought that would provide an incentive for technological development in our industry".

Tim Murray concluded his address with concerns regarding the environment, and alluded to the new *Manual of Standards and Guidelines for Environmental Management in the Sugar Industry* that would be launched later in the proceedings. He commented on the importance of adoption of such standards, since they would likely become, "a prerequisite to any eventual accreditation of sugar sold from this industry".



# TWO SASTA GOLD MEDALS AWARDED IN 2002

At the Annual General Meeting, SASTA Gold Medal awards were made to Bernard Ravnö and Kevin Schaffler in recognition of their outstanding contribution to sugar technology in South Africa.



*Bernard Ravnö receives his Gold medal Award at the Annual General Meeting.*



*Kevin Schaffler receiving his SASTA Gold Medal from the President, Tim Murray.*

## SASTA WORKSHOP

### First announcement

Climate change - Implications for the SA Sugar Industry

**Date: Thursday 28 November 2002**

Trends in climate change have been well documented. Recent research has highlighted the anticipated rate of climate change, its spatial variability (eg coastal vs inland areas) and the implications for agriculture and our natural resources.

The South African Sugar Industry has not as yet initiated any detailed research or investigations into anticipated impacts of climate change on our industry's profitability, sustainability and viability.

A long term view is required, and this workshop will update delegates on the latest thinking from both a climatological perspective as well as in terms of likely impacts on sugarcane production, mitigating measures required and priority areas for research.

**Venue:** Kwa-Shukela Auditorium, Mount Edgecombe

**Time:** 09:00 – 14:00

**Programme:** Invited speakers will include Bruce Hewitson and Hannes Rautenbauch who will focus on climatological aspects. Roland Schulze and Bob Scholes will address the impacts and mitigating measures by highlighting work done elsewhere on impacts of climate change on water and natural resources and agricultural production, and will include the presenters' views on issues that should be of concern to the sugar industry.

The morning programme will conclude with lunch.

**Proceedings:** All delegates will receive a hard copy of the presentations at the workshop, and a full account of the discussion will be included on the SASTA CD that is prepared for the annual Congress.

**Registration fee:** R200 per delegate and will include copies of the presentations, teas and lunch.

**Enquiries:** All enquiries should be directed to the SASTA Secretariat:

Tel: 031- 539 3205 email: [sasta@sugar.org.za](mailto:sasta@sugar.org.za)

### CONGRESS 2003

Dates for the 77<sup>th</sup> SASTA Congress are from 19-22 August 2003. Diarise now!



# AWARDS 2002

During and following congress, judges from both the factory and agriculture sectors have been hard at work to decide on this year's award winners. Listed below are their decisions:

## Factory

### Talbot-Crosbie Prize

The judges noted two papers as being of high quality, and it was agreed that the prize should be awarded to:

PB Devnarain, DR Arnold and SB Davis for their paper, *Production of activated carbon from South African sugarcane bagasse*.

The judges highly commended the paper by SD Peacock entitled, *The use of Simulink for process modelling in the sugar industry*.

### Cecil Renaud Award

Again, two papers stood out from the others, and the judges agreed to award the prize to:

I Singh, H Jones and S Gayaparsad for their presentation, *Air cooling of A-crystallisers*.

The judges highly commended the paper by L Smith entitled, *Mechanical design of ion exchange vessel bottoms at Hulett's Refinery*.

## Agriculture

### Cecil Renaud Award

Co-authors M Isyagi and DMW Whitbread were adjudged the winners with their paper entitled, *Yield performance of South African sugarcane varieties in plant cane trials at Nchalo Sugar Estate, Malawi*.

### Kynoch Award

The judges have agreed that two papers were deserving of the award. Joint winners are:

E Meyer and N Govender for their paper entitled, *Trials comparing semi-mechanised and chopper harvesting methods over three seasons in Swaziland*; and

P Thorburn, R van Antwerpen, J Meyer and C Bezuidenhout for their paper entitled, *The impact of trash management on soil carbon and nitrogen I: Modelling long-term experimental results in the South African Sugar Industry*.

### Poster Award

Winning authors are C Bezuidenhout and C Gers for their poster, *Homogeneous climate zones for the South African Sugar Industry: Preliminary boundaries*.

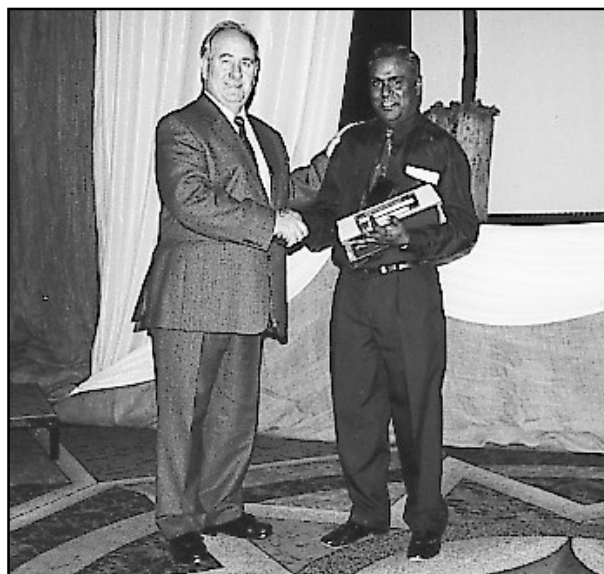
## INNOVATION AWARDS

In the **agricultural section** the Noodsberg Canegrowers' Association received the award for the environmental management system that they have adopted. Proposed by Geoff Maher, their submission entitled *Improving safety and sustainability of agricultural operations*, is based on the International Standards Organisation ISO 14001.

Solly Chinsamy of the SMRI workshop received the award in the **factory section** for his *Development of an apparatus for measuring the pith:fibre ratio of different cane varieties*.



Geoff Maher, who proposed the Noodsberg Canegrowers' Association for the Innovation Award, receives it on their behalf.



Solly Chinsamy receiving the Factory Innovation Award from the President, Tim Murray.



# ISSCT WORKSHOPS

Full details of the workshops listed below are available on the ISSCT website: <http://issct.intnet.mu>

Section	Venue / Organiser	Theme	Dates
<b>Agricultural Commission</b>			
<b>Agricultural Engineering</b>	American Sugar Cane League (ASCL) & American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) Thibodaux, Louisiana, USA <u>Contact:</u> Windell Jackson, Committee Chairperson Charles J. Melancon, Coordinator (ASCL) <a href="mailto:contact@amscl.org">contact@amscl.org</a> Denver Loupe (ASSCT) <a href="mailto:assct@assct.org">assct@assct.org</a> Eddie Meyer <a href="mailto:xengem@sugar.org.za">xengem@sugar.org.za</a>	Burnt cane v/s green cane mechanization: Agricultural engineering challenges	12 – 17 October 2003
<b>Agronomy</b>	Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) MAURITIUS <u>Contact:</u> René Ng Kee Kwong <a href="mailto:RNKKwong@msiri.intnet.mu">RNKKwong@msiri.intnet.mu</a>	Opportunities in sugarcane cultivation to confront the new realities in the 21st Century	21 – 25 July 2003
<b>Biology Commission</b>			
<b>Entomology</b>	Sugar Industry Research Institute of the Sugar Industry Authority of Jamaica JAMAICA <u>Contact:</u> Trevor Faloon <a href="mailto:sirijam@cwjamaica.com">sirijam@cwjamaica.com</a>	New advances in pest management	23 - 27 November 2003
<b>Pathology</b>	ASSCT in collaboration with Louisiana State University Agricultural Centre and USA Dept of Agriculture Sugarcane Research Unit Louisiana, USA <u>Contact:</u> Jeff Hoy <a href="mailto:jhoy@agctr.lsu.edu">jhoy@agctr.lsu.edu</a>	Advances and challenges in sugarcane pathology	11 – 16 May 2003
<b>Breeding</b>	South African Sugar Association Experiment Station (SASEX) KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA <u>Contact:</u> Karl Nuss <a href="mailto:nussk@sugar.org.za">nussk@sugar.org.za</a>	Sugarcane breeding: Basic elements and practical applications	4 – 9 May 2003
<b>Molecular Biology</b>	Centre de Coopération Internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, FRANCE <u>Contact:</u> Angélique D'Hont & Catherine Remondat <a href="mailto:molbiol2003@cirad.fr">molbiol2003@cirad.fr</a>	Genome analysis and molecular physiology	7 – 11 April 2003
<b>Factory Commission</b>			
<b>Engineering</b>	Berlin Sugar Institute, GERMANY in collaboration with MSIRI, Mauritius <u>Contact:</u> Lutz-Guenther Fleischer <a href="mailto:P.Seifert@LB.TU-Berlin.De">P.Seifert@LB.TU-Berlin.De</a>	Energy management in raw cane sugar factories	7 – 11 Oct 2002
<b>Processing</b>	The Sugar Technologists Association of India (STAI) Goa, INDIA <u>Contact:</u> Vinay Kumar <a href="mailto:staidel@vsnl.com">staidel@vsnl.com</a>	New technologies for manufacture of quality sugar	10 – 12 Nov 2003
<b>Co-products Commission</b>			
<b>Co-Products</b>	BRAZIL Copersucar Technology Center Piracicaba, São-Paulo, Brazil <u>Contact:</u> Dr. Manoel Regis L. V. Leal <a href="mailto:regis@copersucar.com.br">regis@copersucar.com.br</a>	Ethanol production and use	9 – 13 July 2003

## Logo Competition

In the search for a new SASTA logo, Council has launched a logo competition, and invites submissions from all members. Closing date is the 31 December 2002. All submissions should be sent to the SASTA Secretariat. The winner will receive a prize.

## Noticeboard

- Laboratory manuals are available at R35 each (for members)
- SASTA ties: R25.00 each
- The CD of Congress 2002 Proceedings are now available (and include proceedings of workshops held in 2001) at R100.00 each

All items are obtainable from the SASTA Secretariat

