AGRI

UNIVERSITEIT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITEIT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

AGRI SCIENCES WETENSKAPPE

Land imbizo brings goodwill between ruling party, farmers

A recent *land imbizo*, the third of its kind since June 2012, provided an important communication mechanism for leading agricultural role-players to engage in frank dialogue with the leadership of the ruling party on agricultural and land reform matters.

ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe and a number of highly placed government officials met with a number of leading commercial farmers as part of a series of *imbizo* engagements driven collaboratively by Stellenbosch University's (SU) Standard Bank Centre for Agri-Business Development and Leadership in partnership with the 'In Transformation Initiative'.

The frank and at times terse exchanges during the *imbizo* emphatically established goodwill between the ruling party and leading commercial farmers. The participants agreed that both food security and land redistribution are non negotiables in the transformation of South African Agriculture; government views commercial farmers as a strategic partner in the process, who in turn strongly voiced their willingness to partner with government and committed themselves to empowering the development of small and emergent farmers into sustainable commercial farmers.

Pictured here are attendees of the recent 'land imbizo' held to discuss agricultural and land reform.

Although the *imbizo* remains a private initiative, Mr Mantashe and the attending commercial farmers concluded that this structured dialogue should continue on a regular basis.

On Mantashe's specific request, Mr Roelf Meyer (ITI) and Prof Mohammad Karaan (SU) were requested to jointly ensure that further dialogue is facilitated and – using the resources of the Standard Bank Centre for Agri-Business Development and Leadership at SU and the 'In Transformation Initiative' – a central point will be created whereby further steps could be co-ordinated and resources applied.

Fakulteit se oudste alumnus word 100!

Die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe se oudste alumnus, dr Danie Joubert, het op 9 April vanjaar sy 100ste verjaardag gevier.

In 2013 het Joubert, nog op 98-jarige leeftyd, 'n alumnifunksie van die Fakulteit op Stellenbosch bygewoon – nodeloos om te meld: hy was die oudste persoon teenwoordig.

In 2010 is hy deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Wynskouvereniging aangewys as een van die wynlegendes van die afgelope 300 jaar. Hy is vereer as 'n man met 'n passie vir studente, 'n geliefde dosent en 'n besonderse rolmodel.

Prof Danie Brink (regs), waarnemende dekaan van die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe, het namens die Fakulteit dr Danie Joubert met die besonderse mylpaal geluk gewens en hom bedank vir die rol wat hy oor die jare heen op verskeie terreine in die landbou gespeel het.

Joubert het sy verjaardag saam met familie en vriende in sy huis op Rawsonville, sy tuisdorp, gevier. Hy geniet nog goeie gesondheid en woon maar slegs die afgelope agt maande in die plaaslike ouetehuis, Huis Lafras Moolman. Hy hou nog elke Saterdag 'n wakende oog oor sy tuin se lojale werkspan.

Omdat hy op Rawsonville so te sê "onder 'n wingerdstok" grootgeword het, kon dié oudleerder van Hoër Seunskool Paarl nie anders as om landbou aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch te gaan studeer nie. Hy het sy BSc in Landbou in 1937 verwerf. Sy meestersgraad oor agt Suid-Afrikaanse wyngisrasse is in 1948 voltooi, en sy doktorsgraad oor knopwortelale wat op wingerdwortels voorkom, het eers heelwat later in 1971 gevolg.

Hy was op sy dag 'n voorligtingsbeampte, die opleier van sultana-boere by die Karos-Boegoeberg besproeiingskema, 'n vrugte-inspekteur en lid van die Wyn Uitvoer Adviesraad. Joubert was ook 'n jarelange dosent en hoof van die Afdeling Wingerdbou- en Wynkunde aan die Landboukollege Elsenburg waar hy die bekende kursus in Keldertegnologie van stapel laat loop het.

Toe koning George (vader van die huidige koningin Elizabeth) van Brittanje en sy gesin in 1947 deur Suid-Afrika gereis het, het die eer hom te beurt geval om die wyn te help uitkies wat bedien is op die Wit Trein wat vir hulle ingerig is.

Joubert is op 18 Desember 1943 met Kotie Moolman getroud. Sy het hom in 1982 ontval. Hulle het drie dogters (Chrisna, Ina en Riana), ses kleinkinders en drie agterkleinkinders.

Joubert sê hy tel gereeld sy seëninge en is ewig dankbaar teenoor sy Skepper vir puik gesondheid. Hy skryf onder meer sy lang lewe toe aan goeie genetika en die gereelde drink van druiwesap en volroommelk. Sy moeder is twee maande na haar 105de verjaarsdag oorlede.

KALENDER 2015

30 April	Laaste dag waarop modules van die eerste semester amptelik by fakulteitsekretarisse gestaak mag word.
1 Mei	Werkersdag: Openbare vakansiedag
15 Mei	Einde van klasse vir die tweede kwartaal.
19 Mei	Junie-eksamen (eerste geleentheid)
29 Mei	Laaste dag vir betaling van 75% van 2015-studentegelde.
9 Junie	Junie-eksamen (tweede geleentheid begin)
16 Junie	Jeugdag: Openbare vakansiedag
26 Junie	Einde van eerste semester

Nuwe Agri-doktore bekyk veldbrande, bobbejane, piesangs en wyn-kwessies

Elf doktorsgrade en 60 meestersgrade is aan nagraadse studente van die Fakulteit Agri-Wetenskappe op die onlangse gradeplegtighede aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) verleen.

Bosboukundige dr Benedict Othiambo het bevind dat die dikte en struktuur van 'n boom se bas die belangrikste rol speel om dit teen brandskade te beskerm.

Dr Ruth Kansky se tesis in bewaringsekologie het nagespeur hoe die algemene konflik wat tussen bobbejane en mense in die Kaapse Skiereiland ervaar word, opgelos kan word deur groter verdraagsaamheid.

Bewaringsekoloog dr Malebajoa Maoela het ondersoek hoe gebiede langs riviere wat eens oorgroei was, herstel wanneer indringerbome en -plante verwyder word.

As deel van sy navorsing in plantpatologie het dr Patrik Karangwa die verskillende stamme van die fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* (Foc) bestudeer wat in Sentraal- en Oos-Afrika gevind word. Die swamme veroorsaak Fusarium-verwelking, wat 'n verwoestende uitwerking het op piesangoeste wêreldwyd.

Plantpatoloog dr Mia Cloete het die voorkoms van die wingerdstamsiekte, *esca*, in Suid-Afrika ondersoek, en spesifiek die verskillende swamspesies wat die tipiese witvrot-simptome veroorsaak wat daarmee geassosieer word.

Appelskil is van nader bekyk deur dr Simeon Hengari as deel van sy studies in hortologie. Hy het die uitwerking bestudeer wat hitte, ultraviolet-B en fotosintetiese aktiewe bestralingstres het op die mate van sonbrand wat appelskil opdoen.

Veekundige Arnold Kanengoni het navorsing gedoen oor die gebruik van ingekuilde en gegiste mieliestronke as 'n voedsame varkvoer-opsie.

Hier is sewe van AgriWetenskappe se elf nuwe doktore (vlnr) Anina Guelpa, Malebajoa Maoela, Arnold Kanengoni, Ngwekazi Mahlomakulu, Mia Cloete, Ruth Kansky en Anscha Zietsman saam met prof Danie Brink (wnde Dekaan).

Dr Ngwekazi Mehlomakulu se doktorale studie in wyn-biotegnologie het gefokus op die dodelike gifstowwe wat afgeskei word deur twee stamme van die gis *Candida pyralidae*.

In nog 'n doktorale studie het dr Johanna Zietsman druiwekorrels se selwande bestudeer.

Die mikrobiese diversiteit in wyn was van belang vir wynbiotegnoloog dr Soumya Ghosh, wat verskeie giskwekings gesif het wat van druiwesap verkry is.

'n Mieliepit van 'n spesifieke hardheid word vereis om optimale opbrengs en gehalte te verseker wanneer mieliemeel gemaal word. Voedselwetenskaplike dr Anina Guelpa het daarom verskeie niebeskadigende beeldingsmetodes voorgestel wat die mieliemeelbedryf sou kon gebruik om die selektering van mielie-kruistelings met goeie maalkwaliteite te vergemaklik.

Unlocking value of smallholder beef cattle for food security

A multi-institutional and transdisciplinary food security workshop with the theme "unlocking the value of smallholder beef cattle for food security" was held in East London recently under the auspices of the Research Technology Fund and Centre of Excellence in Food Security Programmes. It was organised by Dr Cletos Mapiye and Prof Kennedy Dzama of AgriSciences' Department of Animal Sciences.

The attendees were comprised of ruminant nutritionists, meat scientists, animal breeders and biometricians, pasture and rangeland scientists, veterinary scientists, agricultural economists, agricultural marketing specialists and sustainable livestock production experts from the universities of Stellenbosch, Fort Hare (UFH), Limpopo (UL) and Pretoria (UP), and also from the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Organisation, the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) and the Dohne Research Station.

Dr Mapiye presented the keynote address and highlighted the key issues of unlocking the value of smallholder livestock for food security.

Discussions centered on a variety of subjects including research interventions to improve sustainability of smallholder cattle production systems and their contribution to food security.

Delegates concurred to conduct research aimed at finding low-cost and locally available alternative feeds for the smallholder cattle producers in the custom feeding programme.

Finally delegates agreed to share experiences and resources, and collaborate in finding solutions to feed and marketing challenges facing producers which could significantly contribute towards unlocking the value of smallholder beef cattle for food security in South Africa.

Food sercurity workshop delagates at custom feeding programme facilities in Elliot – from left to right: Dr Ngetu (NAMC), Prof Muchenje (UFH), Dr Mapiye (SU), Prof Ngambi (UL), Prof Makombe (UL), Mr Marandure (SU), Dr Simela (UP-NERPO), Prof Dzama (SU), Mr Goni (Dohne), Prof Mupangwa (UFH), Dr Dube (SU), Dr Nengovhela (ARC), Dr Esposito (UP), Miss Nkadimeng (UL) and Dr Strydom (ARC). Absent: Dr Raffrenato (SU).

In Memoriam

Linda Scatollin (40), an Assistant Professor in Forest Pathology from the University of Padua in Italy, succumbed to injuries sustained in a bus accident in the Franschhoek Pass on 7 March. She was visiting the Department of Forest and Wood Science as part of the Marie Curie IRSES Climate Fit Forests Programme.

Her particular work involved studying the *micorriza fungis* in terms of its current and potential role in tree growth in conditions of climate change across a climate gradient from Italy via Germany to South Africa.

Linda was due to complete her second six month visit to Stellenbosch University in April of this year. She was a vibrant and positive person and an excellent researcher, and will be sorely missed by the staff of the Department of Forest and Wood Science.

Bark protects trees in the Western Cape best during veld fires

To a tree, its bark is like a fire resistant coat that protects it from heat damage. The thicker the bark and the smaller the fissures or narrow cracks on it, the better it shields the wood inside.

These are some of the findings contained in the doctoral thesis of Kenyan Dr Benedict Odhiambo, who was awarded his PhD degree in Forest Science here a few days ago. He studied the effect of fire damage on the growth and survival of native and commercial trees in South Africa. His study leaders were Prof Martina Meincken and Prof Thomas Seifert of the Department of Forest and Wood Science at Stellenbosch University (SU).

Says Odhiambo: "Trees with thick bark are likely to be more resistant to fire damage than trees with thin bark. This is not surprising, considering the prominent effect that bark thickness has to insulate a tree."

Odhiambo conducted experiments as part of his research to compare the heat resistance of various tree species' barks commonly found in Western Cape plantations. These were the sugar gum (*Eucalyptus* cladocalyx), black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), cluster pine (*Pinus pinaster*), radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) and slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*). Tests were also conducted on three indigenous species: Cape ash (*Ekebergia capensis*), white karee (*Rhus viminalis*) and the wild olive (*Olea europea subsp africana*).

Dr Benedict Odhiambo during field work in the Jonkershoek Valley outside Stellenbosch. *Photo: Mhlengi Gumede*

When he compared the various species, Odhiambo made a few interesting discoveries. Among the pines, radiata pine had the thinnest bark which therefore provided the least protection against heat for the cambial layer (between the bark and the wood). In turn, the slash pine with its thick bark was the most resistant. Among the indigenous species the Cape ash had the highest heat resistance capacity due to its thick bark.

Experiments were conducted with fires of around 400 ^{0} Celsius with flames reaching up to 50 to 60 cm above ground. These are the conditions typical of a smaller summer veld fire that burns dry shrubs, litter, dead branches, leaves and twigs and in the process affects the lower stem sections of trees.

Heat resistance was mainly determined by bark thickness. "Moisture content did not provide protection, except in the case of radiata pine where it made a minimal but significant contribution to heat insulation," explains Odhiambo, whose findings on this matter were published in the scientific journal *Trees*.

In a successive study he found that the fissures or cracks in the bark also play an important protective role. In trees with structured bark, the thinner the fissures, and the less frequent they occurred, the better it is for the tree. Wide fissures allow heat in increasing the vulnerability of the thin inner cambial layer, while the air pockets trapped in a narrow fissure insulates the wood.

Odhiambo did further tests on the radiata pine, which so often grow in local plantations, to see what effect a fire has on the growth of trees. It revealed that high intensity surface fires significantly stunted the growth rates of these pines for at least a further two years.

Gerrit leef die droom om op Fonteintjie te boer...

Vir Gerrit van der Merwe is akademiese tekste al lank vergete, want deesdae swoeg en sweet hy in die Afrika son – as jong vrugteprodusent. In sy binnenste is daar groot vrede, want hy doen waarvan hy al van skooldae af droom … om op Fonteintjie te boer.

Links: Gerrit van der Merwe.

Bo: Gelukkige werkers – 'n foto geneem tydens blomuitdunning van nektariens by Excelsior (Dutoit Agric) in die Nuy-vallei, Worcester. *Foto: HORTGRO Science*

Maar hierdie is g'n gewone 'boer' nie. Die 24-jarige 'Mot,' soos sy vriende hom noem, het onlangs sy MScAgric-graad met lof aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) se Departement Hortologie verwerf. Sover bekend het hy die hoogste punt nog vir 'n M-studie in Hortologie behaal, naamlik 84%. In sy navorsing het hy oessisteme en werkerplatforms vir Suid-Afrikaanse omstandighede in die sagtevrugte-bedryf ondersoek.

Aanvanklik sou hy direk na die voltooiing van sy BScAgric na die familieplaas, Fonteintjie, terugkeer het, maar tydens 'n naweek-snoeiprakties is die akademiese saadjie om nog te studeer, geplant.

"Ek het uit pure belangstelling by die HORTGRO Science-projek betrokke geraak. My doelwit was nooit om 'n M-graad te doen nie, maar siende dat Fonteintjie self met vrae oor die verbetering van die produktiwiteit en doeltreffendheid van arbeid worstel, kon ek my ouers oorreed om my nog twee twee jaar op Stellenbosch te laat deurbring. Ek is nie spyt nie – dit was 'n lekker projek en ek het elke oomblik daarvan geniet."

Van der Merwe, 'n boorling van die Koue Bokkeveld, het aanvanklik Stellenbosch toe gekom om 'n ingenieur te word. Na twee weke het hy egter geweet dié veld is nie vir hom nie, en het hy tot groot vreugde van pa Thinus en ma Etta na landbou oorgeslaan.

Van der Merwe glo produsente kan sukses behaal as hulle met dit wat hulle het, so goed as moontlik woeker. "Outomatisering gaan nie kitsoplossings bring nie. Daar is altyd 'n menskomponent by landbou en arbeidsverhoudinge gaan altyd belangrik wees – veral in Suid-Afrika. As mens die mens raaksien, en werksbevrediging het, dan kom motivering. 'n Mens moet positief bly," sê hy.

Daar is verskeie opinies in die bedryf oor die moontlike voordele van oessisteme en werkerplatforms wat gebaseer is op besoeke van produsente en tegniese adviseurs aan meer gemeganiseerde bedrywe in Europa en die VSA. Die wydverspreide arbeidsonrus in November 2012 in die Wes-Kaap, en die gepaardgaande verhoging van die minimum loon, het die dringendheid van so 'n projek beklemtoon en die navorsing het onder heelwat meer verwagtinge, druk en belangstelling as 'n tipiese MSc projek verloop.

Daar is ook kommer oor die veiligheid van werkers op lere en die beskikbaarheid van gewillige werkers om swaar lere in 'n boord rond te dra. Binne hierdie konteks het die Suid-Afrikaanse Appel en Peer Produsente vereniging (SAAPPA) HORTGRO Science versoek om 'n bedryf-wye projek te begin wat oessisteme en werkerplatforms in Suid-Afrika ondersoek. Van der Merwe se studie was die eerste in sy soort in die Suid-Afrikaanse sagtevrugtebedryf. Vir die doel van die studie het HORTGRO Science die Hermes Tecno L™ oessisteem bekom, tesame met sisteme wat geleen is van Southtrade en sommige wat in privaat besit is.

- Van der Merwe het tydens sy studie reeds verskeie lesings in die bedryf gelewer.
- HORTGRO Science beoog om Van der Merwe se navorsing met produsente te deel in 'n reeks artikels wat in die loop van die volgende jaar in die SAFJ gepubliseer gaan word.

Readily available maize cobs could make pig farming more profitable

Maize cobs could be a valuable and readily available ingredient in pig feed, but are often overlooked by farmers in their efforts to limit overheads and increase profitability. This is the opinion of Dr Arnold Kanengoni, who was recently awarded a doctorate in Animal Sciences by Stellenbosch University.

Dr Arnold Kanengoni.

Kanengoni is a senior researcher in pig nutrition at the Agricultural Research Council Animal Production Institute (ARC) in Pretoria. This research is part of his doctoral studies and was conducted under the guidance of Prof Kennedy Dzama, chair of the Department of Animal Sciences at SU. It included the use of proteomics and metagenomics as tools to evaluate pig genetic resources.

Kanengoni says feed expenditure and high maintenance costs often hinder farmers' efforts to change their basic, informal pig-keeping operations into profitable commercial units. "Competition by humans and the biofuel industry for feed resources is limiting the pig industry, which already has a narrow range of feed ingredients to choose from."

As part of his research Kanengoni developed a recipe to ensile and ferment maize cobs into more edible and more easily digested silage for pigs. This was done by adding whey, molasses and specific enzymes.

After the feeding trials Kanengoni used new generation high throughput technologies, such as proteomics and metagenomics techniques to evaluate the responses of the pigs to the diets.

Kanengoni used proteomic techniques to evaluate thousands of proteins found in serum and liver tissue in search of markers that identify pigs with a special ability to use the high fibre cob diet. This could potentially be used to select pigs for breeding. He utilised metagenomics techniques to map and identify microbes found in the pigs' gut. These may be used as substitutes to the enzymes that were added to improve the cobs' digestibility and energy supply to the pigs.

US-navorser bekyk Suid-Afrika se wingerd-beroerteprobleme

Waar Europa met net een houtverrottende swamspesie te kampe het wat die witvrot-simptoom van die wingerdsiekte, *esca,* veroorsaak, is daar minstens tien soorte in Suid-Afrikaanse wingerde te vinde. Drie van hierdie spesies was tot onlangs toe nog onbekend aan wetenskaplikes en is danksy die studies van plantpatoloog dr Mia Cloete opgespoor en beskryf.

Cloete het enkele weke gelede haar doktorsgraad in plantpatologie op die Maart-gradeplegtigheid van die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) verwerf. Haar studieleiers was dr Lizel Mostert van die Departement Plantpatologie aan die US en dr Francois Halleen van die Landbounavorsingsraad (LNR).

Esca kan op die oog af nie sommer so in 'n wingerd uitgeken word nie. Boere praat egter dikwels daarvan dat hulle wingerd sogenaamde "beroerte" het, en nie op hul beste lyk nie. In sommige gevalle verskyn tieragtige strepe op wingerdblare net voor die herfs. Eers wanneer die stompe oopgesaag word, kan 'n mens duidelike verkleuring of vrot kolle in die houtweefsel waarneem.

Dr Mia Cloete besig met veldwerk as deel van haar navorsingswerk.
Foto: Francois Halleen

"Die impak van *esca* op Suid-Afrikaanse wingerde is nog nie in randwaarde omgesit nie, maar boere kry beslis nie meer deesdae die 30-jaar leeftyd en drakrag uit hulle aanplantings soos van ouds nie," vertel Cloete.

Twee van die nuwe fungusspesies wat houtverrotting veroorsaak en deur Cloete beskryf is, kom wydverspreid in wingerde in Wes-Kaapland voor. Die derde spesie is in wingerde in die somerreënvalgebiede van die Noord-Kaap en Limpopo gevind.

Cloete vermoed dat die meeste houtverrottende swamspesies wat in Suid-Afrikaanse wingerde gevind word, natuurlik in die inheemse omgewing voorkom en na wingerd as gasheerplant oorgedra word.

"Dis dalk die beste as boere fokus op snoeiwondbeskerming as beheermaatreël," raai sy aan.

Cloete het ook bykomende toetse gedoen om die siekteveroorsakende vermoë van witvrot-spesies op twee kultivars vas te stel. Al tien spesies het witvrot veroorsaak op Shiraz en Mouvedre. Mourvedre was ook oor die algemeen meer vatbaar vir witvrot as Shiraz.

Horticultural Science Department empowers small scale farmers in Zambia

Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products (ASNAPP) and Stellenbosch University's (SU) Horticultural Department have teamed up once again in an initiative to train and improve the lives of Zambia small scale farmers as part of the Commercial Agribusiness for Sustainable Horticultural (CASH) programme.

Tarryn de Beer (right) of the Department of Horticultural Sciences and Geoffrey Silungwe of the ASNAPP CASH team in Zambia explain to lead farmers about the importance of using water safely when trying to prevent the spread of food borne diseases like E. coli during irrigation and harvesting.

The programme, initiated in 2012, aims at empowering over 5000 farm/rural households and members of farmer and enterprise organisations residing in four eastern province districts and Lusaka's peri-urban areas by providing horticulture production and market support services.

A key objective of the programme is to grow smallholder market share on the fresh market in supermarkets and hotels, on the dry horticultural products market and on the processed foods market. Earlier this year Tarryn de Beer, a postharvest PhD student in Horticultural Sciences, lead a week long training camp that focused on food safety.

She trained over 70 farmers from the greater Chipata area on the dangers of contaminants, how to prevent the spread of the bacteria in the crop fields and limit contamination during harvesting and transport.

The training sessions were received with an overwhelmingly positive response from farmers, who had no previous knowledge about the risk and dangers associated with polluted water systems, poor hygiene and untreated manure. Each lead farmer received course material which they were eager to use in transferring their newly acquired knowledge to their communities and farm labourers.

As part of another objective to help farmers reduce postharvest losses, Tarryn also ran a week long pilot trial on the evaluation of basic cooling systems for enhancing shelf-life of fresh produce. The results from the study will aid in setting up a commercial size trail that will be run at the Department of Horticultural Sciences later this year.

Leerders ruk op na Agri-Voedsel Loopbaan- en Beursuitstalling

Chirene Jelbert was al 'n insek-navorser, 'n dosent, 'n kwaliteitbestuurder wat sorg vir die gehalte van vrugte nadat dit gepluk is en 'n tegniese bestuurder by 'n pakhuis. Deesdae is sy die plaaslike bestuurder van Bayer CropScience, en voltooi later vanjaar haar MBA.

Jelbert het 'n inligtingsessie op Stellenbosch vir beroepsvoorligters en wetenskaps- en landbouwetenskapsonderwysers toegespreek oor die beroepsgeleenthede en toenemende behoefte aan kundigheid in die voedselproduksiesektor. Dit was deel van die vierde jaarlikse Agri-Voedsel Loopbaan- en Beursuitstalling, wat onlangs deur die internasionale "Produce Marketing Association" (PMA) se "Foundation for Industry Talent"-inisiatief en die US se Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe aangebied is.

Hoërskoolleerders en voorgraadse studente kon meer uitvind oor 'n wye reeks beroepsgeleenthede en internskaps- en beursprogrammme in die groente- en vrugtesektor. Daar is bekend gemaak dat die toelatingsvereistes vir studie aan die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe verhoog is, met voornemende studente wat nou onder meer 60% vir wiskunde in hul matriekeindeksamen moet behaal.

Kobus Pienaar, tegniese bestuurder van Woolworths se Farming for the Future-divisie, het die toenemende veroudering van die kundigheidsbasis in die plaaslike landbousektor beaam. "Tien jaar terug was die gemiddelde ouderdom van mense in die bedryf 57 jaar oud, vandag is dit 62 jaar," het hy onlangse opnamesyfers aangehaal.

Pienaar, wat sy loopbaan as 'n grondkundige begin het, het gesê van saadkwekers, genetici en water- en energiespesialiste tot beleidmakers en die ontwikkelaars van nuwe verpakkingsmateriaal en verkoelingseenhede is nodig om te sorg vir die ewigstygende wêreldbevolking se behoefte aan genoeg volhoubaar én omgewingsvriendelik geproduseerde voedsame kos.

- Vir meer inligting oor landbougerigte studieopsies, kontak Monika Basson by 021 808 2978 of mh@sun.ac.za

Postgraduate students excel at Taj Classic Wine Competition

Anri Botha (left) and Marinda Kruger van Eck receiving their awards.

Postgraduate students Anri Botha and Marinda Kruger van Eck each received a Bacchus Trophy at the 17th Annual Taj Classic Wine competition recently held in Cape Town. These awards seek to recognise, reward and promote elegance, balance, finesse, ageability and sense of place achieved by vignerons in South Africa.

Anri Botha, a final year MSc student in the research group of Prof Wessel du Toit of the DVO, and assistant winemaker at Bellingham, received an award for her Bernard Series Basket Press Syrah from the 2013 vintage.

Marinda Kruger van Eck, a final year PhD student in the research group of Dr Helene Nieuwoudt of the IWBT, and wine manager/winemaker at Boutinot Ltd in Cheshire in the UK, was honoured for her winning wine, the Boutinot Mon Vieux Sauvignon Blanc 2014, produced from Elgin region grapes using natural fermentation in barrels. Marinda produced the wine as part of her PhD project in which she compared the fermentation kinetics, sensory and chemical profiles of the same batch of grapes that were split into three lots, which were fermented in three different ways: natural fermentation (no inoculated yeast), inoculation with *S. cerevisiae* and *Torulaspora delbruekii*, and inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* only. She also presented her results at the 2014 SASEV Conference in Somerset West. This Sauvignon Blanc won Marinda a silver medal at the International Wine and Spirits Challenge in 2014.

- See the full list of trophy winners and panel of judges at http://www.classicwinetrophy.co.za/, as well as the news item at http://boutinosity.boutinot.com

Hier is die wenners van die Wêreld Brafordkongres: (vlnr) Ndabenhle Mathenjwa (2de prys), Leanne Pickering (wenner) en Thuthuzelwa Stempa (derde prys).

Leanne wen hoogaangeskrewe opstelkompetisie op Wêreld Brafordkongres

Leanne Pickering, 'n MSc-student in Veekundige Wetenskappe aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US), het 'n uitgebreide werksvakansie in Argentinië of Brasilië om na uit te sien – een wat haar nie 'n sent sal kos nie, maar waarvoor sy beslis hard moes werk! Dit volg nadat sy 'n opstelkompetisie gewen het as deel van die 6de Braford Wêreldkongres, wat onlangs in Suid-Afrika plaasgevind het.

Haar uitstekende werk het ook aan Pickering die geleentheid gebied om saam met ander finaliste van die opstelkompetisie die wêreldkongres te kon bywoon. Die opstelkompetisie is onder veekundige wetenskapstudente regoor Suider-Afrika van stapel laat loop. Inskrywings moes die kongrestema rondom wyses om die doeltreffendheid van beesvleisproduksie te verhoog in gedagte hou.

Pickering se opstel het gehandel oor die toekoms van kunsmatige beesrasse in Suid-Afrika, soos byvoorbeeld die Braford. 'n Kunsmatige ras word geskep deur die kruisteling van twee of meer beesrasse waardeur die gene van die oorspronklike rasse vermeng word. Die Braford is 'n kruising tussen 'n Hereford en 'n Brahman.

"Die Brafordras is geteel om in warm, vogtige toestande te floreer en word daarom al hoe meer gesog in Suid-Afrika. Die diere is ook bekend daarvoor dat hulle taamlik bestand is teen bosluise en hulle vleis is ook redelik sag," sê Pickering.

Pickering is tans besig met haar MSc onder leiding van prof Kennedy Dzama van die Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe. Haar navorsing is toegespits op die vermenging van gene in Nguni-beeste wat aanpasbare eienskappe bevorder.

"Leanne het so hard gewerk aan die kompetisie dat ons geensins verbaas was toe sy wen nie. Die department is trots op haar," het Dzama gesê."