AGRI

UNIVERSITEIT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER • NUUSBRIEF 68 OKT/OCT2014

INHOUDSOPGAWE • CONTENTS

Click on links / Klik op skakels

UNIVERSITEIT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

AGRI SCIENCES WETENSKAPPE

Huge market opportunity beckons for smallholder beef cattle farmers in EP


Dr Cletos Mapiye and Prof Kennedy Dzama

Dr Cletos Mapiye and Prof Kennedy Dzama of AgriSciences' Department of Animal Sciences have played a significant role in initiating a deal to export beef cattle owned by smallholder farmers in the Eastern Cape (EP) to Indonesia. This was done in partnership with the National Marketing Council (NAMC).

The deal, clinched with Safeway Trading Manufacturers & Importers, will see over 100 000 beef cattle being exported from South Africa to Indonesia per annum for the next ten years. Lack of access to formal markets has long been a key challenge for the smallholder beef cattle farmers in the EP and South Africa at large. In response, the Department of Animal Sciences and NAMC have been working with smallholder cattle farmers in the EP to promote cattle market access by organising farmers into marketing groups and connecting them to formal markets through the formation of forward contracts with buyers.

To augment this programme, Mapiye is also currently conducting research under the NRF Research Technology Fund to develop lower-cost natural pasture-based diets to replace the expensive maize-soya-bean-based commercial diets currently used in the custom feeding programme, and create a brand for natural pasture-fed beef.

These initiatives will not only improve the volume and quality of cattle prior to marketing, but will also guarantee sale of larger numbers at a more favourable price and reduce marketing costs. More importantly, farmers would be afforded an opportunity to obtain extra income through premium payments for the branded beef. Ultimately, this could significantly contribute towards poverty and food insecurity reduction in the smallholder areas of South Africa.

Die A, B en C's van komposteer

Afvalkos, tuinafval en bees-, perd- of skaapmis, wat op die kampus en Welgevallen-proefplaas beskikbaar is, lewer jaarliks sowat 262 kubieke meter kompos – dis byna 8 700 standaardgrootte 30-liter sakke vol kompos!

Dit word tans in die US se tuine en op die proefplaas aangewend, en ook aan instansies soos die Skole Omgewingsopvoeding & Ontwikkeling-projek in Mitchellsplein voorsien.

Dié komposteringsprojek is reeds sedert 2010 aan die gang en is op aandrang van prof Mohammad Karaan, die dekaan, van stapel laat loop.

Martin Wilding, bestuurder van die Program vir Volhoubare Landbou, is sedert 2013 daarby betrokke. Hy stel ook 'n protokol saam oor hoe om – ideaalgesproke – statiese kompos-windrye te bou. Derhalwe word verskeie opsies en kombinasies tans by Welgevallen getoets, en bestuurder Willem van Kerwel is in dié verband 'n uiters waardevolle regterhand.

Sakke kompos wat danksy die volhoubare landbouprojek gelewer word. Foto: Martin Wilding

Opleiding vorm ook 'n belangrike deel van die komposprojek. So het Wilding bv. al onder meer vir leerders van Rhenish Girls' High op Stellenbosch geleer hoe om komposhope by hulle skool te onderhou.

Hy wil dit ook nou verder uitbrei deur werkswinkels vir belangstellendes aan te bied oor die jongste komposteringsopsies.

- Kontak Martin Wilding by martinw@sun.ac.za vir nadere besonderhede.

Louw Hoffman Wes-Kaap se top Landboukundige

Prof Louw Hoffman (foto), wat internasionaal as wêreldleier vir sy navorsing op wildsvleis gereken word, is Landbouskrywers SA (Wes-Kaap) se Landboukundige van die Jaar. Hy is hoogleraar in Vleiskunde in die Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe.

Hy en sy studente se studies rondom die verkeerde etikettering van vleis het verlede jaar groot opslae gemaak en daartoe gelei dat beleid en wetgewing ingestel is om te verseker dat dié etikette die korrekte inligting bevat. SA-veeboere is regstreeks bevoordeel aangesien die invoer van goedkoper vleis nie meer so maklik is nie en ook nie meer as plaaslik geproduseerde vleis verkoop mag word nie. Met dié navorsing het Hoffman ook daarin geslaag om te verseker dat die vleisbedryf self 'n slag 'n behoorlike soeklig op sy standaarde en praktyke laat val.

Hy was in Junie verlede jaar die eerste Suid-Afrikaner wat die gerekende Amerikaanse Vereniging vir Vleiskunde (AMSA) toegespreek het danksy sy ontvangs van dié liggaam se Internasionale Lektoraat-eerbewys.

KALENDER 2014

24 Oktober: Klasse vir die vierde kwartaal eindig

28 Oktober: November-eksamen (1ste geleentheid) begin

20 November: Fakulteit se Gholfdag

20 November: November-eksamen (2de geleentheid) begin

9 Desember: Tweede gradeplegtigheid (17:30): Fakulteit Agriwetenskappe

11 Desember: Sewende gradeplegtigheid om 14:00 Fakulteit: Agriwetenskappe se doktorsgraadkandidate

24 Desember: Universiteitskantoor sluit 12:45 tot 5 Januarie 2015

Fakulteit neem afskeid van geliefde Ouddekaan

Prof Hennie Louw, gewese dekaan van die Fakulteit Landbouwetenskappe aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US), is onlangs op Somerset-Wes oorlede. Hy was 85.

Louw se verbintenis met die US het in 1949 begin toe hy die eerste student was om vir die vak Mikrobiologie in die Fakulteit Landbouwetenskappe in te skryf. In 1958 verwerf hy 'n PhD in Mikrobiologie met onderskeiding aan die Universiteit van Aberdeen in Skotland en word sodoende die eerste Suid-Afrikaner met 'n doktorsgraad in dié vakgebied.

In 1961 is Louw aangestel as departementshoof van die nuutgestigte Departement Mikrobiologie. In 2012 het hy dié Departement se 50ste bestaansjaarvieringe bygewoon.

In sy termyn as dekaan van die Fakulteit Landbouwetenskappe – van 1973 tot en met sy aftrede in 1990 – het hy vele veranderinge in die Fakulteit en op die proefplase bestuur, waaronder die behoud van die Welgevallen-proefplaas. Onder sy leiding het 'n grootskaalse herbeplanning van landbounavorsing in SA ook plaasgevind.

Louw was 'n kranige rugbyspeler en perderuiter – hy het tot op ouderdom 82 gereeld een keer per week perd gery.

Hy word oorleef deur sy vrou, Rolene, en vier kinders.

Visie oor akwaponika help navorsing en hongeres

Danksy 'n besonderse filantropiese gebaar is nuwe akwaponikageriewe, waar vis en groente saam verbou word, op die Fakulteit se Welgevallen-proefplaas geopen. Die plaaslike gemeenskap gaan ook daarby baat, want alle opbrengste word aan die Stellenbosch Voedingskema (SVA) geskenk.

Dit is moontlik gemaak danksy 'n skenking deur Japie Muller van Table View. Hy is 'n IT-bestuurder by 'n petrochemiese maatskappy, en het 'n besonderse belangstelling in die verbouing van voedsel danksy akwaponikategnieke. Hy het besluit om 'n tiende van die erflating wat hy van sy pa ontvang het, daarvoor aan te wend en sodoende in die gemeenskap terug te ploeg.

Sy suster, Liesel Koen, is die jarelange projekbestuurder van die Stellenbosch Voedsingsaksie, wat in 1994 uit kerk- en sakegeledere begin is om hongersnood in die Stellenbosch-omgewing aan te spreek. Weekliks word bykans 12 000 borde kos aan 4 000 mense in die plaaslike gemeenskap uitgedeel.

Die nuwe geriewe bestaan uit onder meer vier 2 800 liter vistenks en 44 groeibeddens wat in 'n kweekhuis opgerig is. Voedingstofryke water afkomstig van die vistenks word deur die plantbeddens hersirkuleer, waarin tamaties, mielies, spinasie en slaaiblare tans welig groei. Die groente word volgens die behoeftes van die Stellenbosch Voedingsaksie geplant.

Akwaponika is 'n eeue-oue volhoubare voedselverbouingstegniek waardeur vis en groente saam verbou word, maar staan nog in sy kinderskoene in Suid-Afrika, sê Henk Stander, hoofbestuurder van die Akwakultuur Divisie in AgriWetenskappe se Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe. Die nuwe geriewe stel nou meestersgraadstudente in landbou in staat om praktiese en navorsingsondervinding op te doen hieroor, en optimale tegnieke te ontwikkel.

Werkswinkels gaan ook gereeld vir die publiek gehou word, terwyl 'n jaarlange sertifikaatkursus ook in die pyplyn is. Muller, wat op vrywillige basis

Henk Stander (middel) saam met befondser Japie Muller en sy suster, Liesel Koen. Foto: Engela Duvenage

by die navorsingsprogram betrokke gaan wees, gaan ook help om die werkswinkelsessies aan te bied én het van die kursusmateriaal help skryf.

'n Gemeenskapsprogram met vroue uit Philippi word ook beplan aan die hand van die nasionale Departement van Handel en Nywerheid se Akwakultuur Ontwikkelingsprogram, waardeur mense befondsing vir opleiding sal ontvang.

- Kontak Henk Stander om nadere besonderhede by hbs@sun.ac.za of 021 808 2544; of Japie Muller by japie.muller@gmail.com of 082 472 6693.

Food Garden Project teaches food security

Knowledge, says Xolisa Mbeleko, is what he and his friends Vuyisa Zibeko and Nicolas Sthembile gain most from their regular Tuesday visits to the Food Garden project hosted at AgriSciences' Welgevallen Experimental Farm. For Xolisa it's about what he can learn during these free afternoon sessions from Brian Joffin of the non-profit organisation Food Basket for Africa. He dreams of having his own sustainable vegetable garden.

This Grade 11 learner of the Makupula Secondary School in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch, also hopes to resurrect the school's food garden once he and his friends have completed the training.

Food security is about having enough food to eat and a diet that includes a nutritious diversity. It's a concept Mbeleko first learnt of earlier before entering an environmental sustainability competition run by the SA Institute for International Affairs. He learnt about Food Basket for Africa's training project at Welgevallen, thanks to Joffin's Facebook posts for FREEFARMING-SA.

Said Joffin: "Students in agriculture and conservation ecology work voluntarily, they learn how to grow crops in a sustainable way. Many students study agriculture, but have not yet had hands-on experience of what it means to farm."

Joffin, who is a member of the advisory committee of SU's new MSc course in Sustainable Agriculture, hopes the project can expand. He

Nicolas Sthembile, Vuyisa Zibeko and Xolisa Mbeleko of Makupula with Alison Clowes Harris, a volunteer at their school. (Picture: Engela Duvenage)

believes there's a need to teach community members how they can increase their own food security position and nutritional intake through gardening.

More space was recently set aside at Welgevallen for Stellenbosch residents to learn about sustainable vegetable gardening thanks to Food Basket for Africa's free training. The opportunity is especially for unemployed and unskilled people who wish to learn how they too can provide in the food needs of their family or community. Participants will be taught how to grow their own food plants at their homes or in their communities.

Three sessions at various time slots during the day – each between two and three hours long - have been set out on Tuesdays to accommodate as many people as are interested. Trainees will be expected to attend at least one session per week during the next 18 months.

- For free training, contact Brian Joffin at brian.joffin@gmail.com or phone 072 380 1526.

PYDA students hone their skills

A member of the PYDA tasting wine.

Staff members of the Department of Viticulture and Oenology (DVO) are playing a vital role in teaching vocational skills to students who are part of the Pinotage Youth Development Academy (PYDA).

The PYDA, based in Stellenbosch, prepares young previously disadvantaged Boland residents for work in the local wine industry and related tourism and hospitality sectors. Its first intake of students, in 2013, graduated earlier this year, while a new group of students started their training recently. The initiative is funded through the UK-based Dame Hilary Cropper Foundation.

The students follow an integrated programme focusing on personal growth and the development of vocational skills – and it's in the latter in which SU staff assists. In all, they will receive 27 days' worth of training and insights from SU staff on aspects such as the sensory evaluation of wine, the dynamics of a wine tasting panel, and cultivar tastings.

"It's all about giving the students a comprehensive background and technical skills so that they can be employable within the winemaking industry," explains Marianne McKay of the Department of Viticulture and Oenology.

- Students are selected to be part of the PYDA by undergoing a stringent seven stage selection process. Initial criteria for selection include being between 18 and 25; having passed matric and being unemployed. For more information, visit www.pyda.co.za.

3D X-ray microscope a first in Africa

The existing CT Scanner facility, hosted in the Faculty's Forestry Department, recently introduced a new high resolution X-ray nano CT scanner, also known as an X-ray microscope.

This new instrument extends the capabilities of non-destructive 3D materials analysis for researchers and companies in the region. It is the first of its kind anywhere in Africa and has unique capabilities in terms of high resolution full 3D imaging and analysis of the inside of any materials down to resolutions of 500 nm. A YouTube video was recorded before the official introduction in the PO Sauer building; it includes various academic users of the facility explaining how they intend using the instrument – watch the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQNeW7oqjLI&feature=youtu.be

Though large metal, rock, plastic or wooden objects of sizes up to 30 cm wide can be scanned in one go in the larger instrument, the new instrument is optimized for tiny sample sizes to allow the highest resolution. One good example of this high resolution is the 500 nm scan of the tip of a toothpick which was done as part of the instrument's installation. The images and videos pictured here show how clear cell wall thicknesses can be measured and even quantified by colour coding. This puts a nanoCT scan into perspective and shows how even the smallest details can now be visualized and analysed in-situ at this CT Facility.

For more information on the facility or to request a quotation for work, see www.sun.ac.za/ctscanner or email anton2@sun.ac.za

Cosmopolitan panel helps with wine research at SU

Among the members of the sensory panels are (in front) Kim Messina, Jeanne Brand, Olwethu Fana, (second row), Rochelle Elliott, Duncan Thokoane, Beatrix Selb, Svitlana Neill (sitting), Larisa Grigorieva (sitting), Jaydene van Rooyen, Carla Weightman, (back row), Elena Kuehl and Stephan Steyn.

Picture: Engela Duvenage

What does a librarian from Belarus, an engineer from Russia, a piano teacher from the Ukraine, a business owner with roots in Lesotho and an aspiring South African actress have to do with wine-making efforts at Stellenbosch University?

They are all dedicated members of the sensory panels based at the Department of Viticulture and Oenology (DVO). Three mornings per week they literally 'put to the test' the end results of many a student or researcher's hard work and evaluate and describe how the wines that have been made for research projects smell, taste and look. Their job is all about finding out what the influence is of various viticulture and winemaking techniques and treatments on the end product.

The wines made in the Institute for Wine Biotechnology, as well as in the Department, are often the culmination of years of hard work and sizeable investment from industry and other funders. The success of these research projects in most cases hinge on the effects of the treatments of the wine, and whether these can be picked up by the consumer. This is where the input and feedback from the sensory evaluation panellists becomes critical.

The room in the Neethling Building in which they put their sensory skills to the test is especially kitted out for this purpose, with tasting booths and many wine glasses at hand. Initially data was captured by hand, but the panels are now switching to a computerised system.

Navorsers, studente skitter by sitrussimposium

Navorsers en studente van AgriWetenskappe se departemente Hortologie, Plantpatologie en Entomologie het op die 8ste CRI-sitrussimposium, wat onlangs by Champagne-sportoord in KwaZulu Natal plaasgevind het, navorsing van hoogstaande gehalte aangebied.

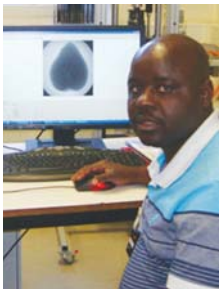
Hierdie tweejaarlikse simposium bied uitstekende geleentheid aan sitrusprodusseerders en relevante nywerhede om op hoogte te bly van die navorsing wat iedere twee jaar gedoen word en vanjaar het nie minder nie as 580 afgevaardigdes geleentheid gehad om op akademiese en sosiale vlak te skakel.

Nie minder nie as 55 lesings is op die simposium aangebied; 40 plakkate is uitgestal; en meer as 60 borge is kans gegun om hulle produkte aan die nywerheid voor te stel. Navorsingsessies was op spesifieke terreine gerig insluitend 'n inleidingsessie, vrugte- en blaarsiektes, geïntegreerde plaagbestuur, aspekte rondom kwekerye, hortologie en na-oesplaagbestuur.

Afgevaardigdes uit die sitrusbedryf wêreldwyd het Champagne-sportoord besoek en insiggewende navorsingsterugvoer en perspektiewe oor die belangrikste huidige uitdagings binne hulle spesifieke navorsingsveld aangebied.

Cells of mealy pears take Tavagwisa Muziri to Belgium

His quest to understand mealiness in 'Forelle' pears took Mr Tavagwisa Muziri, a PhD student in the Department of Horticultural Science, to Belgium to learn of the latest developments in this regard.



Mr Tavagwisa Muziri

Efforts to shed light on mealiness in 'Forelle', the second highest exported pear cultivar in South Africa, took Muziri to Belgium to attend the 12th International Pear Symposium where he presented part of the work titled "Mealiness in Forelle (*Pyrus communis*) is influenced by cell size." His presentation was made possible through scanning electron microscopy at SU, which showed that mealy pears have larger cells and larger intercellular spaces at harvest. Thus Muziri has shown that it is possible to classify batches of fruit into mealy and non-mealy fruit based on near infrared spectroscopy. The findings are the first of their kind for 'Forelle' pears.

Keeping it fresh in Cyprus

Dr Elke Crouch of the Department of Horticultural Sciences and her student team, which included PhD student Ms Tarryn de Beer, attended the recent annual Postharvest Unlimited ISHS International Conference held in Cyprus.

Dr Elke Crouch and Ms Tarryn de Beer (Horticulture PhD student) are pictured here in Paphos, Greece.

The conference was big on the academic calendar for postharvest agriculture. There were 17 plenary sessions, 69 oral and 132 poster presentations.

Crouch presented her work on postharvest factors that influence flesh browning in South African 'Cripps' Pink' apples and De Beer presented two papers from her PhD research project that focused on limiting postharvest losses of broccoli and tomato during domestic and export marketing using innovative integrations of packaging and ripening inhibitors. These projects were funded by Hortgro-Science (SAAPPA), the Postharvest Innovation Programme, and the SU-HOPE project and AgroFresh, respectively.

IFSA's international symposium a 'massive success'

The biggest event of the year for the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) was its 42nd international symposium held in British Columbia, Canada, this year. A delegation of Forestry students from SU's Faculty of AgriSciences was there to share in what has been described as a massive success.

The event was hosted by three universities: the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in Prince George and Thompson Rivers University (TRU) based in Kamloops. More than 100 delegates representing 51 universities from 36 countries around the globe were in attendance. IFSA presents an ideal platform for Forestry students to network and strengthen ties with fellow students from all over the world. Next year's symposium will be held in the Philippines.

Natalie meets international acarologists in Japan

Ms Natalie Theron of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology attended the 14th International Congress of Acarology held in Kyoto, Japan.

Natalie says 310 scientists from 43 countries presented their research during the five days of the congress. She says it emerged from the congress that there is a vast lack of knowledge regarding mites and the role they fulfil in the environment, especially in Africa. The next meeting will be in Turkey in 2018.

- Natalie also visited Prof Tetsuo Gotoh of the Ibaraki University in Japan who focuses his research on an international agricultural important mite group, *Tetranychidae* (spider mites). Spider mites are a major agricultural pest that feed on a wide variety of crops.

Pierre Ackerman weer Bos- en Houtkunde se voorsitter

Pierre Ackerman is 'n ruk gelede die derde keer as voorsitter van die Departement Bos- en Houtkunde aangewys. Sy termyn sal tot in Desember 2017 strek. Hy is die eerste keer in 2005 met die aftrede van prof Gerrit van Wyk as departementele voorsitter aangewys. Pierre is nasionaal en internasionaal goed bekend in die bosbounywerheid en in akademiese kringe. Sy loopbaan het in 1975 by die Staatsbos Rosehaugh in die destydse Departement van Bosbou begin nadat hy hom as bosbouer aan Saasveld-kollege gekwalifiseer het. Hy het ook by Mac Mac en die Staatsbos Weza gewerk voordat hy in 1994 besluit het om hom verder aan die US te kwalifiseer. Hy het in 2001 'n permanente personeellid aan die US geword en is op die oomblik senior lektor.

Drie het saam 75 jaar diens

Samuel Pietersen (Veekundige Wetenskappe), Daleen du Preez (Voedselwetenskap) en Salmon Swarts (Hortologie) is hier saam met die waarnemende Dekaan, prof Danie Brink (naasregs), afgeneem by geleentheid waar langdienstermyntoekennings onlangs aan hulle oorhandig is. Hulle het saam reeds 75 jaar vir die Fakulteit Agri-Wetenskappe gewerk – Salmon sê hy "was maar nog altyd in die Fakulteit", Daleen was eers by Verbruikerstudie en vanaf 2005 by Voedselwetenskap werksaam; en Samuel het in die era van Skaap- en Wolkunde daar in diens getree; dié departement het toe later Veekundige Wetenskappe geword.

Groen Sebenza pioneers addressed 3rd year Conservation Ecology students during Diversity Week. From left (at the back): Dr Shayne Jacobs, Ms Eleonore Slabbert, Dr Johnathan Corville (SANBI), Mr Eugene Marinus (curator, HNBG), Ms Rachel Balie (SANBI) and Ms Rhoda Malgas (ConseEcol). The interns, from the SANBI HNBG, are: Raymond Filander, Gershwin Klaaste, Deidre Koopman, Liezel Brand, Yolanda Thyulu (SANBI), Avril Frans and Mercia Steyn.

Staff members and students mingling with the acting Dean of AgrSciences, Prof Danie Brink, on the 'Rooiplein' during Diversity Week.

Groen Sebenza pioneers visit Agri-Sciences during Diversity Week

During the recent Diversity Week at Stellenbosch University (SU) AgriSciences' third year Conservation Ecology and Entomology class decided to add to diversity by hosting six members of the government sponsored Groen Sebenza internship programme.

The Groen Sebenza interns were invited to present case studies from their hometown, showcasing how the local communities of Nieuwoudtville and the Suid Bokkeveld in the Northern Cape influence conservation in that region.

These interns were matriculants from the aforementioned Nieuwoudtville, a small town that blossoms into a tourist destination of note annually from August to October with the popular spring veld flower displays. Presentations had been prepared under mentorship of Mr Eugene Marinus, intern mentor and curator of the Hantam National Botanical Garden at Nieuwoudtville.

During their two-day stay, the group was offered a full guided tour of the Stellenbosch Botanical Garden by its curator, Mr Martin Smit; they were accompanied to the JS Marais Nature Reserve by Dr Shayne Jacobs; they spent time learning about tertiary study with Ms Monika Basson, who heads strategic projects and recruitment in the Faculty and co-presented a practical with MSc student, Ms Eleonore Slabbert. Third year conservation ecology students expressed positive opinions about the visit. They appreciated the divergence from "normal" lecturing, and welcomed the perspective of a group of youths from a different town, area and professional context.

For five of the six interns their visit to SU was their first experience on a campus. It was the first time they prepared and presented content for an academic audience – a task they accomplished with much aplomb, professionalism and confidence.

As the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology and the Faculty continue with strategic missions to diversify their student profile, they also find inspiration in creating simple ways for their students to benefit from diversity inside and outside the classroom.

The Department of Viticulture and Oenology and the Institute for Wine Biotechnology had their external evaluation recently – pictured here (from left to right) are the members of the External Evaluation Panel (EEP): Dr Christopher Davies (Senior Research Scientist at the CSIRO Plant Industry in Australia), Prof Kevin Verstrepen (Associate Professor in Genetics and Genomics at the University of Luverne and director of the Luverne Institute for Beer Research in Belgium), Mr Chris Foss (convenor of the EEP and head of the Wine Department at Plumpton College in the UK) and Mr Willem Bestbier (CEO of the SA Table Grape Industry).

Small beginnings for knowledge partnership

Initially it was a matter of carry on regardless, as land-users and researchers involved in a new process of knowledge-sharing concerning ecological and agricultural aspects of honeybush production in the Overberg knew from the outset that their future discussions would not be easy going. A short field visit to the historical town of Genadendal in the Overberg in 2010 prompted this initiative. Since 2013 it has gained momentum around research opportunities and though in its infancy, members of the Honeybush Knowledge Partnership programme were invited to the symposium on community interaction. Three land-users were also invited.

The approach to enter into partnership around common interests in a particular crop has led to a diverse group of stakeholders. This includes established farmers with an interest in honeybush, land-users who have participated in previous research conducted by the ARC, members of the youth who are aspiring farmers and elders who are knowledge holders of honeybush in its natural environment.

- Funding is presently being sought for research questions generated at previous workshops.

At the Community Interaction Symposium were from left: Dr Jerome Slamat (Director, Division for Community Interaction), Ms Eleonore Slabbert (MSc student), land-users Ms Anna Joorst, Ms Patricia Stevens and Mr Abie Joorst and Ms Rhoda Malgas (Conservation Ecology and Entomology).

Bos- en Houtkunde se finalejaars in Mpumalanga en KwaZulu-Natal

Finalejaarstudente in die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe se Departement Bos- en Houtkunde is hier afgeneem op hulle onlangse nywerheidstudietoer in Mpumalanga en KwaZulu-Natal. Die toer het by die Johannesburgse lughawe begin en plekke soos Sabie, Lothair en Piet Retief in Mpumalanga en Kwambonambi in die noorde van KZN is besoek voor die toer in Durban geëindig het.

Op die plekke waar daar aangedoen is, is navorsingsfasiliteite, oes- en bosboubedrywighede, moderne meganisasie-tegnieke, om net enkeles te meld, deeglik bekyk.

Daar was ook tyd om besoek te bring aan die Kruger-wildtuin en die iSimangaliso-vleilandpark. Senior dosente Cori Ham en Pierre Ackerman het die studente vergesel.

Die studente het hulle dank aan al die bosboubeamptes en maatskappye uitgespreek wat ondanks bedrywige programme tyd gevind het om hulle te verwelkom en tuis te laat voel. Hulle sê die nywerheidstudietoer sou daarsonder beslis nie moontlik gewees het nie.

Third year Forestry students visit plantations at Tsitsikamma

Third year Forestry students of the Faculty recently attended a biomass sampling practical on Cape Pine plantations in the Tsitsikamma region in the Eastern Cape which lasted about a week.

The students collected foliar, branch and stem information on mature *Pinus elliottii* trees for use in the development of allometric tree models to be utilised in the reconstruction of above-ground biomass estimates for individual trees. These models will be further developed to estimate total above-ground biomass for the entire stands. Information of this nature is important in the processes of forest carbon accounting and carbon sequestration studies of the forestry industry.

In addition, the group visited a number of Silviculture operations pertaining to nutrient management, site-species selection, pruning and vegetation management. A guided walk through the picturesque indigenous forest, hosted by Graham Durrheim of SANPARKS, ended the week's proceedings.

Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel (centre), has won the first prize in the SASA Education Committee's 2014 Postgraduate Paper Competition. Ms Nienkemper-Swanepoel, a junior lecturer in the Biometrics Unit of the Department of Genetics, was awarded R13 500 for her paper on Multiple Imputation using Regularised Interactive Multiple Correspondence Analysis. Pictured with her are Mr Theo Pepler and Ms Annalene Sadie who are also staff members of the Genetics Department's Biometrics Unit. Nienkemper-Swanepoel's winning paper was one of eleven submitted by five universities this year.

Kettingsaagkursus 28ste keer aangebied

Die uiters gewilde jaarlikse Husqvarna-kettingsaagwaarderingskursus is onlangs die 28ste agtereenvolgende keer deur Husqvarna Suid-Afrika vir tweede- en derdejaarstudente in Bos- en Houtkunde aangebied. Agtien studente het die kursus wat kettingsaag-operasionele veiligheid en kettingsaag-operasies gedek het, meegemaak.

Hierdie kursus bied nie net aan studente eerstehandse waardering vir boswerk nie, maar skep ook die geleentheid vir hulle om in groepe aan 'n gemeenskaplike taak te werk. Die Departement Bos- en Houtkunde het hoë waardering vir hierdie soort opleiding wat Husqvarna aan studente bied.

'n Enorme woord van dank word aan Bronson Gunter en Roger Jackson gerig vir hulle professionele benadering en vir die feit dat hulle dit 'n genotvolle ondervinding vir die studente maak – 'n feit wat blyk uit die toenemende belangstelling daarin elke jaar.

Studente na D'Arros vir praktiese werk

Ses studente (voor op die foto) van die Departement Bos- en Houtkunde in die Fakulteit het onlangs na D'Arros-eiland in die Amirantes-streek van die Seychelles opgeruk met die doel om praktiese werk wat vir graaddoeleindes van hulle vereis word, af te handel. Hulle het vrywillig daarheen gegaan en moes hul eie koste dra.

D'Arros-eiland behoort tans aan die Save Our Seas-stigting wat maritieme navorsing in die seewater om die eiland, sowel as in die nabygeleë Sint Josephines-ringrif, doen.

Op talle eilande in die Amirantes-streek is daar tans klapperplantasies wat agtergelaat en derhalwe onbewerk is. Dié toedrag van sake maak dit feitlik onmoontlik om biodiversiteit te bewaar weens die indringer en homogene aard van die plantasies. 'n Belangrike aspek van die bewaringstrewe op D'Arros-eiland is rehabilitasie van plantasies.

Die studente moes jong klapperlote in strategiese gekose dele van die klapperplantasie verwyder en volgroeide klapperbome onaangeraak laat om as dekking te dien vir 'n verskeidenheid inheemse boomspesies wat agterna aangeplant is. Die gedagte was dat die nuwe saailinge die skaduwee wat deur die volgroeide klapperbome geskep word, gebruik om gerehabiliteerde natuurlike plantasiedele tot stand te bring wat op hulle beurt teen die indringer-klapper inwerk en natuurlike bos tot gevolg het.