

HORTGRO NEWS

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LAND SYMPOSIUM: 'SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE AN AGRI OBSESSION'

Land reform, economic growth, job creation, and social cohesion in agriculture came under the spotlight recently at the PALS-Landbouweekblad land symposium that was held in the Koue Bokkeveld, outside Ceres. Read the article [here](#) and in the latest Transformation Times [here](#).

Attending the symposium, from the left Hortgro Chairman, Nicholas Dicey, World Rugby Player of the Year, Pieter-Steph du Toit, and VinPro Chairman, Anton Smuts.

DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY SHINES IN NOVEMBER

Buks Nel was named Agriculturist of the Year. Read more [here](#).

Ricard Myburgh was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Read more [here](#).

Sewis van der Horst was crowned Toyota Young Harvester 2019. Read more [here](#).



SAINSBURY'S STONE FRUIT RETAILER OF THE YEAR

Sainsbury's were presented with the Stone Fruit Retailer of the Year award after a strong 2018/19 season. Read more [here](#).

Pictured here: Hortgro's Jacques du Preez, with Sainsbury's Jessica Graham, Anabel Panela, Katarina Jasicova. At the back Hortgro Stone's André Smit and Daniël Theron.



THERE'S NO BEATING AROUND THE KBOS

The Koue Bokkeveld Opleidingsentrum (KBOS) does not beat about the bush, mince words or waste time. But they do constantly empower people with knowledge and life skills. Read more [here](#).



CA CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY

The R2.5m state-of-the-art controlled atmosphere (CA) facility at Stellenbosch University's Horticultural Sciences celebrated its first birthday this year. Post-harvest research is critical to the future success of new apple cultivars. Read more [here](#).

Photo from left: Wiehann Steyn (Hortgro), Pandian Thirupathi (SU), Gustav Lötze (SU), Monja Gerber (SU), Braam Mouton

(SU), Anel Botes (ARC), Heleen Tayler (Experico), Elke Crouch (SU), Richard Hurndall (CA Chairman).

IPA CELEBRATES PRUNE OPPORTUNITIES

The annual congress of the **International Prune Association (IPA)** was recently held in Cape Town. The IPA was established in 1990 and is the prune industry's trade entity that represents the interests of prune growers and packers across the globe. The event was attended by approximately 50 participants from the USA, France, Argentina, Italy, Australia, Chile, and South Africa.

- Donn Zea delivered a riveting **research report on prune health and benefits that can even reverse osteoporosis**. Read more [here](#).
- Economist Dr Roelof Botha addressed the delegates about **economic opportunities** in Africa. Read more [here](#).



IPA DONATES A 'VAN DER MERWE' PRUNE TREE TO SCHOOL

The International Prune Association (IPA) recently planted a young 'Van der Merwe' prune tree on the grounds of a farm school, Botha's Halte Primary School, in the Breede River Valley, close to where this winning variety was first discovered in the 1960s. Read more [here](#).

Pictured here are the school children with the IPA Chairman, Chris Krone (middle), planting the 'Van der Merwe' tree.



INSURANCE WOES: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Increasing difficulties with specifically fire insurance are giving many fruit industry stakeholders a headache. Read more [here](#).



HORTGRO SCIENCE AWARDS RESEARCHERS

Hortgro Science recently recognised research excellence. Advisory Chairman, Stephen Rabe, handed over awards to Dr Ida Wilson (left) and Dr Elmi Lötze. Ida received an award with Arrie de Kock (who was absent) for: "Survey and investigation on the impact of various fungicide application methods and technologies on decay control of plums in the pack-house." And Elmi received an award for: "Postharvest moisture loss studies in

Japanese plums (*Prunus salicina* Lindl).



Raymond's Talk - Notes from the CEO

Transfer and mentorship are tools of empowerment. Investing in skills transfer and development has positive spin-offs in the economy as it's about investment into the future. This issue has been inspired by success made in transformation. The theme being "Empowerment and wealth creation".

Following the theme has been the success and the award to Raymond Koopstad. He affirms that investing in your business whilst applying good governance, informs excellent leadership and decision making. Raymond was awarded the New Generation Award for 2019.



TRANSFORMATION TIMES NOVEMBER ISSUE

PALS-Landbouweekblad land symposium; winning streak for our growers; Mpumalanga transformation in progress; Pieter Graaff's Welgemeen empowerment project; December is a busy season... Read more [here](#).

→ UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2019: [Hortgro Langkloof Seminaar en Boordstap](#), Joubertina

Contact [Thea van Zyl \(thea@hortgro.co.za\)](mailto:thea@hortgro.co.za) for more information on our events.

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

Fresh Quarterly Issue 6: [Salinization / Verbrakking](#)

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke: December 2019](#).

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

Vind 'n magdom van bedryfsinligting in ons videobiblioteek [hier](#).

VANUIT DIE UITVOERENDE DIREKTEUR SE PEN

WENNERS BY DOSYNE

Die afgelope weke is verskeie toekennings aan individue binne die sagtevrugtebedryf en verwante bedrywe gemaak. En die jaar is nog nie verby nie!

Daar was die gala-aand toekennings waar Pieter Graaff, as bedryfsleier, en Raymond Koopstad, as Nuwe Era Produsent, vereer is. Daar is oor beide se toesprake tydens die geleentheid berig wat op hoop en groei vir ons bedryf dui.

Pas is Sewis van der Horst as die nasionale Toyota Nuwe Toetreder vereer, 'n voortsetting van 'n trotse rekord uit ons bedryf waar Jacky Goliath, Trevor Abrahams, Ricard Myburg, en Andre Cloete voorheen al die toekenning gekry het. Dan is Ricard Myburgh ook aangewys as die Jobs Fund se Jong Entrepreneur van die Jaar, terwyl Buks Nel as nasionale Landboukundige van die Jaar bekroon is. En die Wes-Kaap se Landbouwerker van die Jaar kom uit die olyfbedryf, Francois Cilliers van Willow Creek, wat uit 1392 deelnemers as die wenner aangewys is.

Voorwaar, weners by dosyne. Elders in die nuusbrieff word meer inligting oor van die toekennings gegee.

Hortgro en die breër bedryf was self ook 'n wenner tydens die onlangse Landbouweekblad-Witsenberg-PALS grondsimposium. Die geleentheid is ook deur Hortgro geborg en talle suksesverhale en uitdagings is onder Minister Thoko Didiza, wat bykans die hele dag bygewoon het, se aandag gebring. Dit is werklik bemoedigend dat sy soveel tyd hierop spandeer het wat dui op die erns waarmee sy en haar departement die grondkwessie ag. Die aanbieders van die simposium is selfs in die parlement daarmee gelukkiggewens.

Hierdie toekennings en geleenthede, saam met die fantastiese wen van die Rugby Wêreldbeker 'n paar weke gelede (wat terloops in die vorige nuusbrieff "voorspel" is!), bring hoop in 'n tyd waar die land werklik deur diepe waters gaan. Die gemors rondom die SAL-staking, voortslepende swak finansiële bestuur en dissipline op bykans elke openbare vlak (soos wat uit die ouditeur-generaal se jongste ouditverslag blyk), die dreigende kredietafgraderings, ens., is net die oortjies van die seekoei.

Ons kan met reg vra, waar is die leierskap?

Intussen moet ons self doen. Soos wat die drooggeteisterde gebiede, wat 'n nasionale ramp geword het, betref. Daar word nou vanaf 'n breë maatskaplike front hulp op vele terreine aan gemeenskappe gegee.

"Self-doen" is ook die anker van Hortgro se filosofie en benadering al die afgelope 15 jaar, en waarvolgens Hortgro se strategie en bedryfsaktiwiteite gerig word. Die erkenning aan die *mense materiaal* in ons bedryf, is bewys dat hierdie benadering werk. Dit bring hoop in 'n donker tyd in ons bedryf en die land as geheel.

Tot volgende keer.

Anton

Winning is fun Sure. But winning is not the point. Wanting to win is the point. Not giving up is the point. Never letting up is the point. Never being satisfied with what you have done is the point. - Pat Summitt



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