

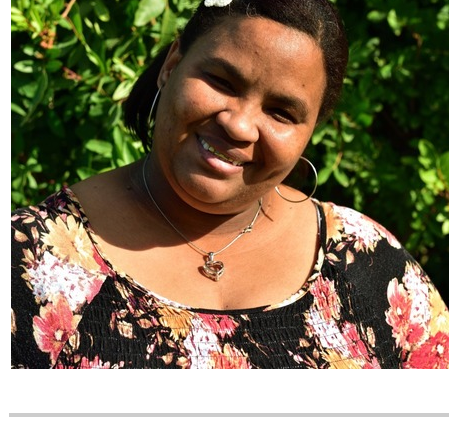
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## LESSONS LEARNT FROM ORGANIC FARMING

Consumer demand for organic food is rising, so why are so few producers taking up organic farming? We visited Tierhoek Organic Farm just outside Robertson and spoke to **Bruce Gilson** (pictured here) about the challenges and rewards of organic farming, and why he is hanging on to his pigs — but the cows must go. Read it [here](#).



## HOW TO GO FROM AGT TO MATRIC

Agris Got Talent 2020 runner-up, **Jenny Maarman** from Diemerskraal Farm, Wellington, did not believe she was capable of achieving her matric, but when Agri's Got Talent crossed paths with Jenny, things were about to happen. Read her remarkable story [here](#).

**ENTRIES FOR AGRIS GOT TALENT IS OPEN UNTIL 20 JULY 2021.** Click [here](#) or email Thea ([thea@hortgro.co.za](mailto:thea@hortgro.co.za)) for more information.



## A SHORT HISTORY OF CA IN SA

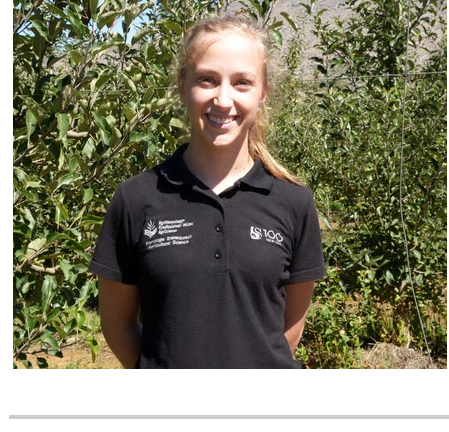
The Fruitways Molteno storage facilities near Elgin station were built by Molteno Brothers in 1934. The initial 7-room complex was the first commercial CA facility built outside of England, where research on the technology started in 1918. **Dr Elke Crouch**, new Post-Harvest Physiology Research Chair in Deciduous Fruit at Stellenbosch University, with former Hortgro Postharvest Manager, **Richard Hurdall**, went down memory lane. Read the story about South Africa's formidable CA history [here](#).



## SCIENCE IN DIE KLOOF

In Mei vanjaar het die hele span van Hortgro Science afgesak Langkloof toe. Die span het 'n veranderende Langkloof gevind met heelwat jong produsente wat nuwe, interessante en innoverende produksiemetodes gebruik, wat illustreer dat innovasie kan wortel skiet ten spyte van moeilike omstandighede. Lees die storie [hier](#).

Foto, van links: Mamo van der Westhuizen, Wiehann Steyn en Hugh Campbell.



## YOUTH MONTH: MEET THE HORTGRO STUDENTS

June is Youth Month. Over the next couple of months, we will introduce you to several of the Hortgro Science post-grad students.

We are kicking off the series with Ansul Theron, who told her story to Thomas Davidson. Read the full story [here](#).



## HORTGRO KEY DECIDUOUS FRUIT STATISTICS

The latest Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics for 2020 is available to download on our website [here](#).

## Publications of note

- [The 2021 Confronting Climate Change benchmark reports for pome and stone fruit.](#)
- [Practical guidelines for the handling of bare-rooted and potted nursery trees.](#)
- [FruitLook technology solving industry problems.](#)

## HORTGRO WEBINARS

Watch **Covid-19: The facts, the myths, and the vaccine**, with Dr Gerald Maarman.



Watch **CA Engineering Webinar** with Prof Marius Huysamer.



Watch the **Hortgro Symposium Webinar series**:

- Chill models with Dr Esmé Louw, Dr Nigel Cook and Dr Eike Luedeling (University of Bonn)
- Climate Change with Prof Stephanie Midgley.
- The effect of nets with Willie Kotze, Petru du Plessis, Koos Bouwer and Prof Wiehann Steyn.



## DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY AWARDS 2021

**Nominations are open until 20 July 2021**

Please visit the [event's website](#) or contact Thea ([thea@hortgro.co.za](mailto:thea@hortgro.co.za)) for more information.

## → INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- D6/Hortgro24 Information app.
- [Stone fruit app](#).
- E-mail [thomas@hortgro.co.za](mailto:thomas@hortgro.co.za) for more information.

## → HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

- [Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)
- Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke](#), July 2021
- Fresh Quarterly: [Issue 13](#)
- Transformation Times: [April Issue](#)

## → HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

- Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting [hier](#).
- PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGELS](#)

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

### Van 0 tot 100...en...100 tot 0

Ons, dis nou seker grootliks die mangeslag (maar ek weet daar is ook van die skoner geslag), wat in kleintyd met ons Pa's se rygoed gesop en gestry het. Wie sal die debatte oor Ford (F250's), Chev's en Dodge's ooit vergeet. En vir ander het dit gegaan oor Buick's, Daimler, MG, Jaguar, Rolls Royce, Jeep, Studebakers en vele meer. En sekerlik ook Land Rover, en Land Cruiser en Nissan Patrol.

Dikwels het die argument gegaan oor hoe vinnig daar van 0 tot 100 versnel kon word – en destyds is nog 100 myl per uur bedoel, maw 160 km per uur! Dikwels in 'n bakleiery, maar nie juis kwaai vriendskap nie, geëindig.

Dit is waaraan ek die afgelope week gedink het toe Pres. Ramaphosa uit die bloute aankondig dat privaat kragopwekking voortaan tot 100MW toegelaat sal word. Dit na jare se gesukkel met 1MW en 'n derms uitygerd oor 10MW en argumente van minstens 50MW. Letterlik van 1 tot 100 – 'n besluit wat wyd verwelkom is, maar met 'n *reality check* dat dit nie 'n *quick fix* gaan wees nie en dat beurttrag 'n realiteit vir minstens nog 24 maande sal wees.

Net so kan ons hoop dat omkeerbepluie en vennootskappe met die private sektor op baie ander terreine vinnig sal volg. Uiteindeklik is daar nou 'n (brandende) vloggie in die tunnel, en nie meer 'n aankomende trein of vetlamps nie.

On the other hand, one would also hope that Government will seriously re-look many outdated policies and rhetoric which is hamstringing our economy and undermining investor confidence. The disproportionate threat of trade unions to our future is huge and need to be balancing with the rights of other stakeholders. The continued fixation and unrealistic dream of recapitalising a lame-duck SAA with a private investor - again with some *sursous* with the credentials of the selected partner being suspect, to say the least, remain mindboggling.

I for one also hope that the fetish of a crazy and unaffordable national health scheme, power ships (thankfully the applications were declined), and the continued deployment of a large number of inept public servants (there are a few good ones too), who have basically sunk municipal services in many parts of the country without any consequences will come to a halt too. As long as the supply of water and electricity remain so totally unreliable given criminal neglect, we will, unfortunately, see more examples of the Clover's of the world withdrawing from rural economies. Let's hope these all go from 100 to zero soon.

Aan die anderkant blyk dit uit onlangse koerantberigte dat huispryse 'n omkeer gemaak het, dat transaksies in Afrika vorentoe net makliker, vinniger en (hopelik) ook minder korrup gaan wees met elektroniese transaksies wat goed groei. 'n Effektebeurs wat hom skynbaar deur niks laat stuit nie. En in talle dorpe en stede waar die gatvolheidsvlak van mense 'n punt bereik het waar hulle na hulself begin omsien. Alles nog voorbeelde van 0 tot 100. Ons kan net hoop dat die korrupte onbevoegde kaders in die volgende plaaslike verkiesings uitgeskop sal word.

Kom ons hoop ook die inentingsprogram, wat maar net nie momentum wil kry nie, verbaas ons gou met 'n 0 tot 100 – of eerder 0 tot 160!

Tot volgende keer.





Anton

*A wise man changes his mind, a fool never will - Icelandic proverb.*  
*If you never change your mind, why have one - Edward de Bono*

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