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Hortgro Bursary Programme | Fostering future leaders

Hortgro, has spent more than R55m over the past decade on bursaries. "Investing in the future of our industry is crucial," said Anton Rabe, Hortgro Executive Director. "By supporting students through our bursary programme, we are helping them achieve their educational goals and fostering a new generation of professionals who will bring fresh perspectives and expertise to the deciduous fruit sector. This initiative underscores Hortgro's commitment to advancing the sector and ensuring its long-term sustainability." Read more [here](#).

Pictured here and speaking at the function: OSH Reinecke Frontrunner 2024, Pieter du Toit, previous bursary holder, Ayesha Shaikh Abrahams, and Hortgro's Astrid Arendse.



In memoriam | Robert Zulch

It is with great sadness that the industry said goodbye to Robert Zulch. Described by colleagues as an apple pioneer and independent thinker, his story is one of dedication, adaptability, and a deep-rooted love for the land that shaped his life and his legacy. Read more [here](#).



Global threat antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

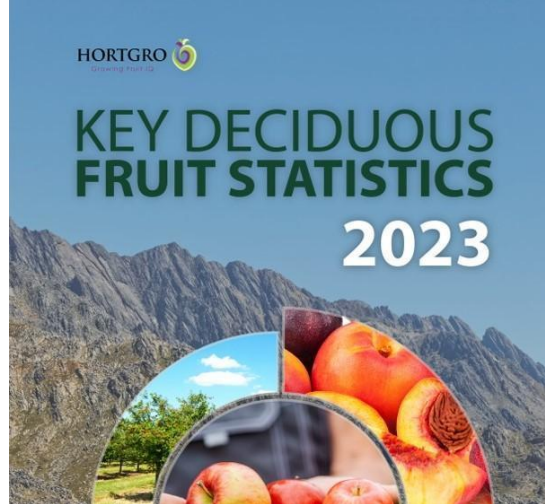
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is emerging as a significant threat to the sustainability of global agriculture, and South Africa's deciduous fruit industry is no exception. Hortgro recently took part in an international dialogue. Read more [here](#).

Pictured: Matthew Addison, Linka Maritz (CREST) and Dr Julia Meitz-Hopkins.



Sustainable agriculture | Nitasha's top tips

Hortgro Resource and Sustainability Manager, Nitasha Baijnath-Pillay shares her seven tips on how to become a more sustainable fruit grower [here](#).



Hortgro in numbers | Key deciduous fruit statistics

The popular Hortgro Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics booklet is now available online. Did you know there are 1155 deciduous fruit producers in South Africa, cultivating fruit on 54 271 ha; 68 119 agri workers are employed on farms in our industry - supporting 272 477 dependents. Download your copy or read it online [here](#).



Hortgro Science Annual Report 2023

Hortgro Science is the research dynamo of the South African deciduous fruit industry.

In 2022/23 a total of 111 research projects were funded by the industry. Download your copy or read it online [here](#).



Hortgro Cherries ZA | AJV

Hortgro Cherries ZA het verlede week hulle algemene jaarvergadering in Ceres gehou. Kersie aanplantings het die afgelope vyf jaar met 54% toegeneem. Dit ten spyte, bly Suid-Afrikaners swak kersie eters, met die gemiddelde persoon wat slegs 18 gram kersies per jaar eet. Hoewel hierdie gesogte vrug groot winste kan oplewer, is daar verskeie struikelblokke wat die bedryf in die gesig staar. Lees meer [hier](#).

Hortgro in pictures at the EGVV Stakeholder Networking Exhibition



Events

- EU market access training in the Western Cape, 12-13 September. More info [here](#).
- Provar Information Day 2024, 19 September. More info [here](#).
- Save the date: **Hortgro Stone Fruit Seminar and Orchard Walk**, 12 November, Worcester.
- Save the date: **Agri's Got Talent Gala**, 11 October, Dawn Mountain, Simondium.

INDUSTRY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

About three years ago, Hortgro changed gears regarding its learning and development programme (L&D). With the bursary programme going strong for roughly 20 years, several other programmes have been added in recent years.

This was driven by the needs identified in the industry. During the past year, 21 undergraduates at six institutions of higher learning, and 32 honours, MSc, PhD and postdocs linked to the Hortgro Science research projects, have been funded to the tune of R4,7 million. This follows on an investment of ±R55 mill over the past 10 years in the L&D-programme. Over the years the AgriSETA, the Fruit Workers Development Trust (FWDT), the Deciduous Fruit Industry Development Trust (DFIDT) and some of the alternative crops within the Hortgro umbrella, have also financially contributed to the bursary programme, but the main investment has been forthcoming from Hortgro Pome and Stone. (See first story in newsletter).

The L&D programme includes an internship programme where on average 30 students are mentored annually. More than 80% of these interns are employed permanently after their internship. Proof of its practical value in commercial entities. During the most recent Farm Worker of the Year awards of the WC Department of Agriculture, a range of category winners came through this programme.

The industry leadership programme is currently in its second cycle with 24 young leaders from various spheres being exposed to the industry. The first group of 19 completed the programme in 2023 which included international exposure via study trips. Some of these individuals have already been drawn into industry decision making committees, advisory structures and the producer councils.

Other L&D initiatives include a leadership development programme for production managers, a NQF4 plant production programme, health and safety/first aid programmes on farms and at packhouses, and an internship/mentorship programme for our emerging farmers linked to our Economic Development projects in conjunction with the Jobs Fund.

Personally, I am extremely proud of these initiatives. Although the numbers are starting to add up, we can merely scratch the surface to the training needs in our industry and sector. We cannot be everything for everybody, but those individuals that we do manage to include in our programmes, will most certainly make a huge contribution in the next generation.

Until next time.

Anton

Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn - Benjamin Franklin.

Education is not preparation for life; Education is life itself – John Dewey

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

- **Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics**
 - [Latest 2023 statistics](#)
 - [Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics booklet 2022](#)
- **Fresh Quarterly**

- [Issue 25 Honeybees and pollination](#)
 - **Timely Hints**
 - [September 2024](#)
 - **Fresh Notes**
 - [214 Presence of spotted wing Drosophila & 215 MRL Notification](#)
 - **New Roots**
 - [Volume 6 | August 2024](#)
 - **Hortgro News**
 - [All previous issues](#)
 - **Fruit South Africa** [Transformation Summary](#)
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→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- All of Hortgro's online platforms in one place, link [here](#)
 - E-mail info@hortgro.co.za for more information
-

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE

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