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If we've learned anything from recent years of vast personal, societal and global change, it's that we don't have any idea what's coming next. That despite proper planning and preparation, we can never anticipate how our lives will unfurl.

Maybe the daily reminders of the instability around us provide a source of comfort, as they reinforce the universality of our experiences and their corresponding feelings. Perhaps focussing on what is within our control, we can promote progress toward a more definite future.

What we do know for certain, is that the advertisers in the August | September 2023 edition of the AGRIFOODSA Magazine can guarantee excellence in customer service. With a large variety of products and services, our readers can rest assured that success is imminent with the assistance of these experts in their respective fields.

Our cover featured advertiser for this edition is Afrikelp. With a rich history, ranging almost 50 years, Afrikelp is committed to continuously provide trusted seaweed solutions. Our liquid seaweed is extracted from the unique brown kelp, Ecklonia maxima, which can only be found on the southwest coast of South Africa. This unique extract contains essential biostimulants that increase yield, enhance the quality and improve the growth performance of your crops. Afrikelp biostimulants, rich in auxin, can be applied as a foliar spray, dip or drench and through irrigation systems to stimulate and support root and shoot growth as well as fruit development. To find out more about their products and services, go to www.afrikelp.com.

Our AGRIFOODSA.INFO website (www.agrifoodsa.info) is in the first phases of its complete redesign. Check in regularly to keep up with the progress.

Also, be sure to head on over to our AFSA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/agrifoodsa) for more competitions, funnies, Advertiser Showcases and recipes, as well as helpful and informative articles uploaded on the daily.

Lastly, be on the lookout for our bi-monthly AGRIFOODSA Newsletter, featuring our digital magazine, informative articles, exciting competitions and more. To sign up to our newsletter, contact info@agrifoodsa.info.

We are never able to predict what's to come, we can wonder about the secrets of the great unknown while staying adaptable to the intriguing advancements that may catch us by surprise. The wonders of life—however pleasant, painful, or unpredictable—are limitless. Despite what lies ahead, the pursuit will unquestionably be riveting.

All the best,



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We're stronger together – how collaborating with the right partners can help the agrisector thrive.

Despite South Africa's agricultural value chain, which contributes between 10% and 12% to the country's overall economic output and being fraught with challenges, it still offers immense opportunity.

The sector is one of the few that have thrived since the Covid-19 pandemic because of high crop prices and demand as well as high export activity, with agricultural exports reaching a new record of \$12,8 billion (R234 billion) in 2022. But relentless Eskom blackouts, higher interest rates, poor infrastructure, service delivery failures, geopolitical tensions and now the government's controversial draft water regulations are pushing the sector to the brink. According to Stats SA, agricultural output fell by a substantial 12,3% in the first quarter of 2023, and the latest Agbiz/IDC Agribusiness Confidence Index has recorded the lowest reading for the past two quarters since the second quarter of 2020.

While many of these challenges are out of the sector's hands and require a sincere commitment by the government to rebuild the economy and a systematic approach to achieve this, the players in the sector need to find ways to manage the complexities within their control. John Hudson, Head of Agriculture at Nedbank Commercial Banking says that one of these ways is to seek out the right partnerships to support and help them grow. 'Choosing the right financial partner is particularly important in helping agribusiness owners navigate the ups and downs of this challenging environment and support their long-term growth aspirations.'

'At Nedbank, our agricultural specialists have a deep passion for the sector and by taking a long-term view and applying a relational, client-centred approach, we're able to gain a full understanding of the unique risk drivers and mitigation strategies of agribusinesses. Combining this with client-specific pain points and needs, we can design sustainability-focused solutions that are underpinned by Nedbank's overarching purpose to do good for individuals, families, businesses and society,' he says.

Hudson adds that Nedbank is deeply committed to contributing to a growing, competitive, transformed and climate-resilient agricultural sector, which is why they are among the market leaders in financing sustainable solutions across the entire value chain. 'Incorporating sustainable business practices into growth plans ensures that clients make a meaningful impact on the economy and environment while also remaining competitive and relevant.'

In collaboration with its many sustainable solution partners, Nedbank has developed affordable financing across a spectrum of requirements, including energy security, water efficiency, shade netting, waste and recycling, soil health and sustainability finance. 'Our tailored sustainability funding enables clients to prioritise and implement structures to improve efficiencies in their businesses. Among others, we offer extended terms matched to the payback period of financed equipment, cash flow neutrality where future cash flow improvements are considered, and opportunities to qualify for tax incentives.'

Aside from enabling a growing and resilient agribusiness, Nedbank partners with its clients to ensure that their legacy remains intact for many generations to come. We help guide growth by unlocking the right funding to suit each client's requirements and circumstances, whether for diversification, market expansion, investment, or transformation and inclusive growth purposes. And by offering effective ways to sustain their cash flow requirements to strengthen their capacity to respond to seasonal and cyclical changes, we enable our clients to minimise potential adverse effects on their bottom line.'

Hudson says that this holistic approach, together with leveraging technology to its full extent and harnessing the power of the right partnerships, means that Nedbank can cater to the evolving needs of our rapidly changing agricultural sector. 'We believe that, together, we can achieve more. That's why we partner with leading stakeholders in the sector, like WWF-SA, Agrico, SA PALS, neXgro and Hohm Energy to gain insight into on-the-ground challenges and opportunities to unlock the full potential of South Africa's food value chain.'

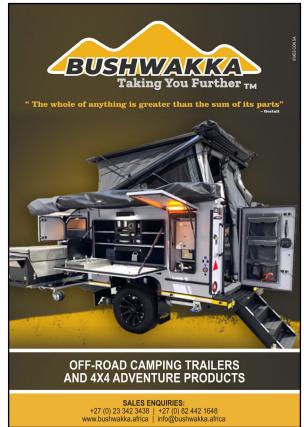
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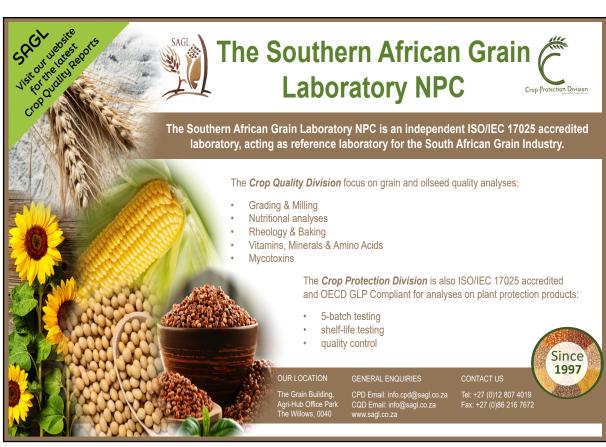
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ACTION NEEDED

TO SERVICE EXPECTED FERTILIZER DEMAND

by Dr Pieter Haumann, CEO, Fertasa

It was noted at the annual Grain SA – Fertasa planning meeting for the coming summer crop season, that fertilizer imports in 2023 were slower than in previous years.

FERTASA FERTILIZER IMPORTS

| Month | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------|---------|---------|
| January | 51 921 | 35 600 |
| February | 96 662 | 98 839 |
| March | 96 774 | 36 833 |
| April | 135 915 | 129 514 |
| May | 196 639 | 124 544 |
| June | 219 934 | 78 867 |
| | | |
| YTD | 797 845 | 504 197 |
| | | |

This was probably due to uncertainty of when falling international fertilizer prices would reach their low benchmark and waiting for grain prices to increase.

Both of the above have happened! The latter is due to the cancellation of the Black Sea contract. Additionally, a larger-than-average maize yield is expected.

The above factors and the fact that Grain SA are motivating Producers to rather buy their fertilizer earlier than later will most probably lead to a rapid increase in fertilizer demand.

Fertilizer companies are therefore urged to finalize orders for their usual imports to avoid fertilizer shortages later this year.

Transnet is urgently requested, as in 2022, to give the necessary priority to the unloading of fertilizer at the ports of entry to allow rapid flow of the expected fertilizer imports.

FERTASA
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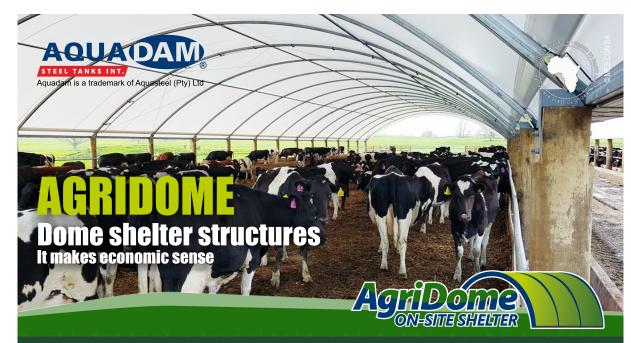






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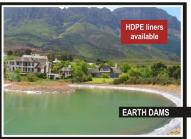
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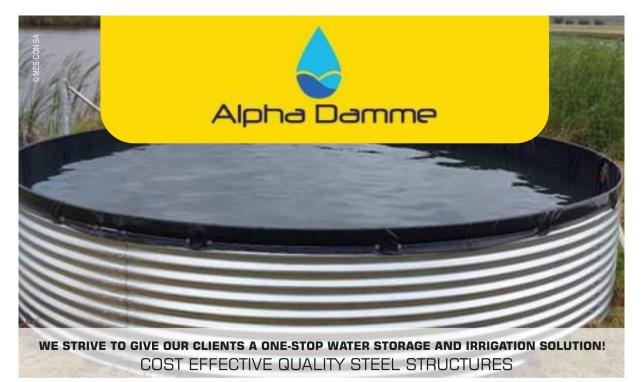
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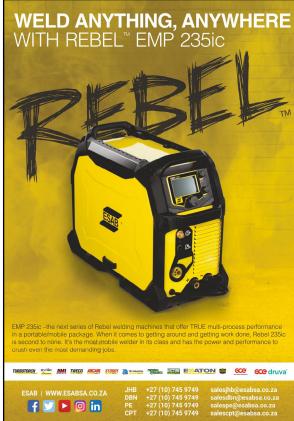


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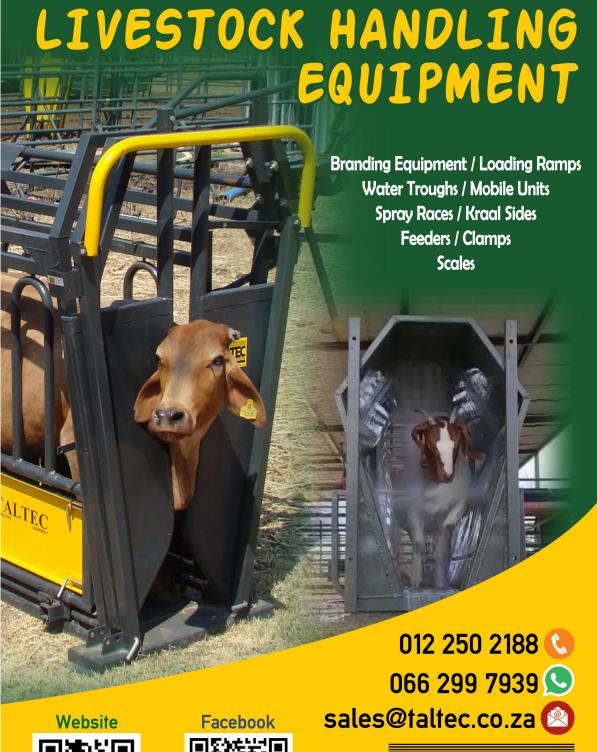








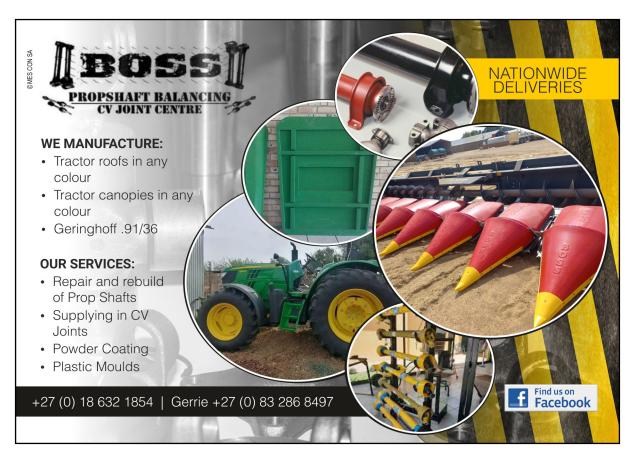


















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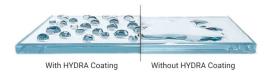


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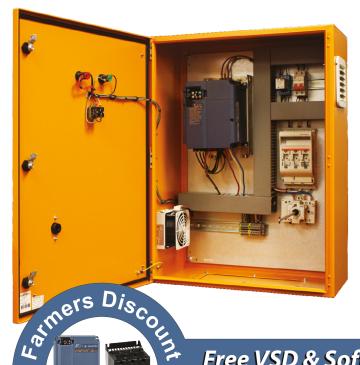
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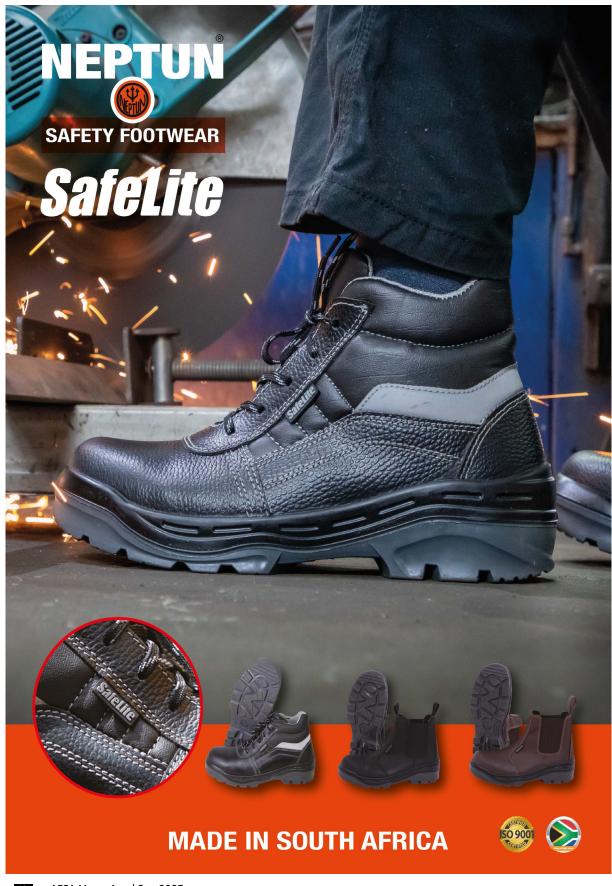








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Ons is almal bekend met die konsep van massabalans en energiebalans. Enige biologiese sisteem, insluitende ons eie liggame bestaan uit 'n massablans en energiebalans. In gewasverbouing fokus ons baie energie en koste op die massabalans deel van die plant se behoeftes; die in-balans bring van die grond en/of groeimedium in terme van nutriënte en ander toepaslike aspekte.

Die vraag bly staan hoe kan ons dan die energiebestuur doeltreffend in 'n plant doen? Ons "balanseer" al die nutriënte in die grond, maar die resultate is nie altyd soos verwag word nie. Daar vind nie welige groei plaas nie, patogene kry vastrapplek of skadelike insekte kom besoek die gewasse vir voortplanting. Die opbrengs bly ver agter die genetiese potensiaal van die spesifieke gewas. Die oplossing vir die vraagstuk is doeltreffende energiebestuur in die plant en in die grond.

In die natuur is daar 'n paar sisteme wat die plant ook in staat stel om sy energie beter te bestuur soos byvoorbeeld die effek van metaboliete op die grondlewe. Die sleutel tot sukses lê by sekere sekondêre metaboliete wat organismes afskei.

Soos urease en glomalin, is ETP (Epipoydioxiperizine) ook veronderstel om vrylik in die natuur beskikbaar te wees. Urease is gelukkig nie 'n probleem nie. ETP is 'n ensiem afkomstig van onder meer fungusse soos onder andere trigoderma.

'n Effektiewe sleutel tot plantenergiebestuur lê in die ETP wat die organismes as metaboliete vir die plant teruggee in die simbiotiese verhouding wanneer dit effektief in die rizosfeer aktief is.

Dit is soms moeilik om die die rizosfeer in 'n kommersiële omgewing effektief te kry sodat die lewende organismes genoegsame ETP afskei om die gewenste effek te verkry. Vir die rede kan ETP (Gliogrow) as blaarbespuiting gebruik word om die gewenste effek herhaaldelik te verkry.

Die effek van ETP op die plant is onder meer die volgende:

- Verhoogde wortelgroei aktiwitieit (aangesien die plant nog toegang tot die metaboliet wil verkry)
- Verhoogde ensiem-aktivering vir die plant se metaboliese bestuur en nutriënt-opname
- Verhoging in die konsentrasie van die komplekse plantsuikers/voedingstowwe (Brix)
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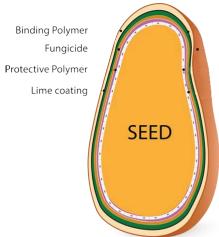
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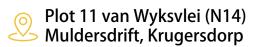


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MECCONICA

FERTASA, CERTIFIED CREDIBILITY.

WE STAND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF FERTILIZER.

Fertasa and its members are committed to the promotion of sustainable soil fertility and enhanced plant nutrition.



Fertasa strives to provide information on fertilizer and crop related topics. Apart from assistance with fertilizer applications, queries relating to fertilizer usage, plant nutrition and soil fertility usage, plant nutrition and soil fertility are referred to our Technical Advisers or Subject Matter Specialists for their expert opinions and advice.

Member companies and others are encouraged to share their experiences in proven techniques and novel approaches in ensuring social, environmental and economic sustainability for all.

STRUCTURE OF FERTASA

Fertasa is managed and directed by a Board of Directors who are elected by and representative of the ordinary members. The Board of Directors report to the Members which comprise representatives from all ordinary and affiliate members. The Members appoint operational committees to attend to various aspects of the business of Fertasa.

PURPOSE

Fertasa is a recognised and preferred body aimed at promoting the image of the fertilizer industry through:

 Promoting the integrity of each Member and building preferential trust for their products and services. Enhancing and protecting the interest of its members through effective engagement with government and organised agriculture.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of directors manages and directs the business and affairs of Fertasa. The Board comprises six (6) directors, and one (1) executive director (the Chief Executive Officer of Fertasa).

The directors are elected by the ordinary members with equal representation from both smaller and larger member companies.

CORE FUNCTIONS

 Actively promote the agro-economic and environmentally accountable fertilizer,

WHO ARE WE?

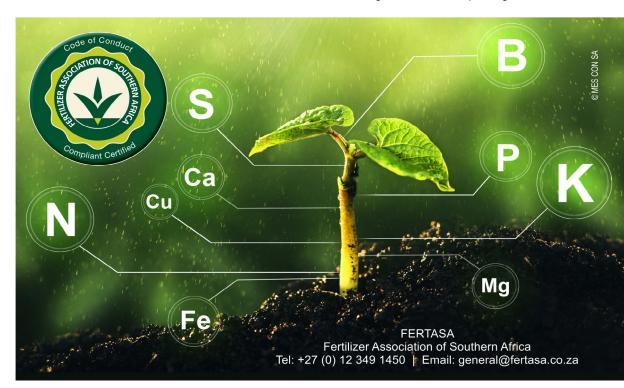
- A code of conduct.
- A set of standards audited by an independent compliance management body.
- · Quality products.
- Relevant scientifically-based recommendations.
- · Continual learning and improvement.
- · Complying with all legal requirements.

bio-fertilizer and aglime practices;

- Develop a positive public awareness and acceptance of the need for fertilizer, bio-fertilizer and aglime use in food production;
- Improve the operating environment within which its constituent industries operate in a spirit of free enterprise and fair trade;
- Assimilate, adds value to and disseminates fertilizer, bio-fertilizer and aglime related information;
- Provide a discussion forum for its members and other parties on all aspects relating to fertilizer, bio-fertilizer and aglime distribution, agronomic advice and product quality.



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OPTIMUM FEED SOLUTIONS DESIGNED FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA



Nova Feeds is a provider of nutritional animal feed solutions to the agricultural sector in Southern Africa.

Contact one of our Depot Feed Suppliers:

Airport Pets

Charl: 083 441 2933 Bapsfontein, Gauteng

Vita Feeds

Ronel: 076 696 6266 Onderstepoort, Pretoria North

Edzi Farms

Steve: 076 992 0508 Thohoyandou, Venda

WM Foods Mokopane

Hannes: 082 800 1873 Mokopane, Limpopo

Chicken Ranch Animal Feeds

Shaun: 072 445 4179 Onderstepoort, Pretoria North

Wildfire Feeds Pyramid

Pippa: 078 400 7474 Pyramid, Pretoria North

Nova Feeds Depot D/C

Nkyasi: 073 120 5883 Polokwane, Limpopo

WM Foods Polokwane

Hannes; 082 800 1873 Polokwane, Limpopo

Kooperasie Winkel

Luzaan: 061 321 5050 Donkerhoek, Pretoria East

Wildfire Feeds Bela-Bela

Gerty: 079 504 2588 Bele-Bela, Limpopo

Radium Traders

Jaco: 082 650 6522 Radium, Limpopo

WM Foods Lebowakgomo

Hannes: 082 800 1873 Lebowakgomo, Limpopo