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Spring is officially in full swing, and whilst we're still experiencing periodic bouts of cold spells and intrusive natural anomalies throughout the country, we are enjoying the change of season. We've been working extra hard at

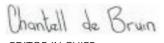
the October | November 2023 edition of the AGRIFOODSA Magazine, and to keep ourselves and our businesses thriving in an unpredictable world, but we've also taken some time to enjoy the distinct sights, sounds, and smells of spring in our small corner of the earth. I've never seen such determination and creativity to persevere in the face of adversity, to extend a helping hand where it's needed, and to find simple pleasures in everyday life.

Our cover featured advertiser for this edition is World Focus Agri. World Focus Agri will help you enhance plant vitality, while protecting the environment and restore your land. They provide support for the agricultural community, maximizing harvests of all crops through the process of introducing a natural product into the biological lifecycle. They concentrate on developing and producing organic, as well as biologic growth stimulants and enhancers via root and leaf applicants. World Focus changes the conventional view of plant protection to plant health via the biology. To find out more about their products and services, go to www.worldfocusagri.co.za

Visit the AGRIFOODSA.INFO website (www.agrifoodsa.info) for more information on the agricultural and food industries, and keep an eye out on all of our socials for news, competitions, Advertiser Showcases, and helpful articles. Our AGRIFOODSA Newsletter also features our digital magazine, broadcasts and more.

Wishing you a refreshingly happy spring and all the best for the time ahead.

Best wishes,



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WORLD FOCUS AGRI : Go to pages 44-45



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Visit our website for the full list

Read online : www.agrifoodsa.info/magazine









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- The system can be placed at the head of the water supply or the foot of the pivot.

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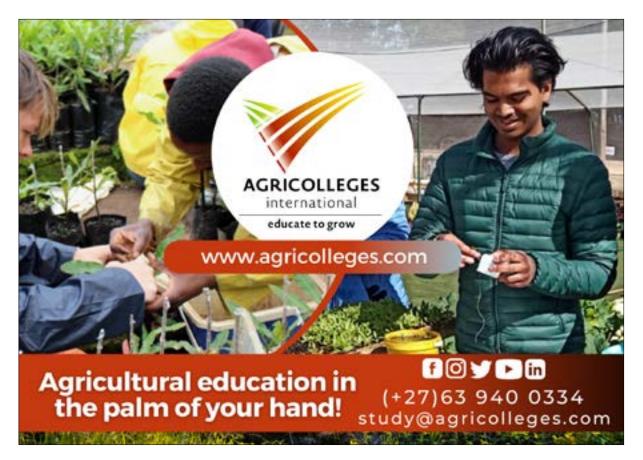
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Sustaining existing trade partnerships and finding new markets are imperative for South African agriculture.

John Hudson, Head of Agriculture at Nedbank Commercial Banking.

South Africa (SA) is in the enviable position of being a net exporter of agricultural products. Aside from the obvious contribution this makes to SA's GDP and job creation, this, combined with excellent local production and 2 prior years of record exports, are the main reasons why SA has been able to ensure food security and curb food price inflation compared to the rest of the world.

As SA's agriculture is export-orientated, the focus must be on safeguarding its seamless continuation. Attention should be centred on improving logistics efficiency, intensifying the promotion of South African products in export markets, and sustaining solid relations with existing critical export markets while securing expansion into new markets. This is particularly important in the context of growing tensions between the East and the West – as highlighted by the potential loss of SA's benefits through the United States (US) African Growth and Opportunity Act (also known as AGOA) – and more onerous regulations being imposed by the European Union (EU).

One of these potential issues is the objective of the European Green Deal to reduce the environmental and carbon footprint in the way food is produced and consumed in the bloc. An obvious challenge here is South Africa's dependence on fossil fuels, which is unlikely to meet the criteria required for EU targets. However, equally problematic is the EU's ever more stringent regulations, with the high cost of compliance likely to negate the benefits of our existing preferential trade arrangements with the region.

A case in point is the EU's decision to institute cold treatment requirements for orange imports originating from Southern Africa in June last year – a ruling that was allegedly made to protect against false codling moth that feeds on many crops, including citrus. The impact of this decision would be dire for South Africa's citrus farmers, who send up to 800 000 tons of produce per year to the EU. Additional costs and potential loss of income may amount to more than R500 million in 2023, while investment in cold storage technology and capacity of nearly R1,4 billion will be required to enable full compliance.

The citrus sector currently sustains 140 000 jobs and brings in R30 billion in export revenue annually. However, projected growth will potentially enable the industry to sustain a further 100 000 jobs and generate an additional R20 billion in annual revenue – but it is clear that additional markets need to be sought for these exports to mitigate against potential loss in the EU market.

These threats highlight the importance of nurturing existing partner relationships while aggressively developing new markets in both the East and West. Currently, South Africa only has free trade agreements (FTAs) in two of South Africa's biggest markets - Africa and Europe - which collectively account for 62% of total agricultural exports. The Middle East, Asia, the Americas and the UK currently account for 36% and are perhaps where attention is critical. Some of South Africa's fiercest competition is from other 'Global South' producers, which have various trade agreements in place with third markets in Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas. The fact that these countries have either preferential or bilateral trade agreements, means that SA is effectively facing higher tariffs against our key competition in these markets. In turn, this means that local producers must overcome tariffs primarily through farm-level efficiency.

Nedbank does not shy away from working on challenges that hinder the potential of the agricultural sector, such as these, and we embrace the opportunities they present. We collaborate with key organisations and stakeholders to enhance depth of understanding, and, by combining this with a long-term and client-centred approach, we gain a 360-degree view of the unique risk drivers, as well as mitigation and growth strategies of our clients' agribusinesses and the entire sector.

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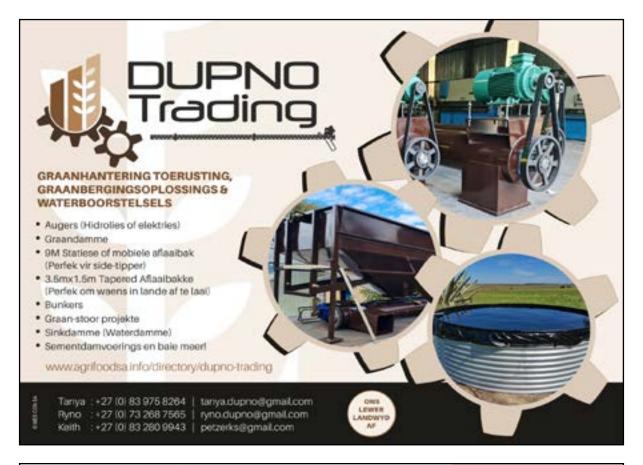
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PRESS RELEASE

By Dr. Pleter Traumann, CEO, Pertusa

SYNOPSIS OF THE 2023 FERTASA SOIL FERTILITY AND PLANT NUTRITION SYMPOSIUM

THE TOPIC OF THE SYMPOSIUM WAS "PLANT NUTRITION: NEW DIMENSIONS IN TECHNOLOGICAL AND AGRONOMICAL ADVANCES."

Professor Patrick Brown gave an in-depth presentation dealing with the role of microbial and non-microbial biostimulants in the growth of crops. He stressed that these products are there to enhance natural processes in plants to adapt to different conditions.

Do these products work?

- Many of them don't, but some are extremely valuable.
- Biostimulants are designed to solve a particular stress condition or to enhance the uptake of nutrients
 - What stress are you concerned about What nutrients are you attempting to enhance
- · Biostimulants have many different functions and many different origins. There are no common rules to explain them all
- Aspinn might help your headache, but it won't help your diabetes
- Knowledge of the agronomy of your crop and some plant biology and soil science will help you make sound decisions.

Testing biostimulants is very difficult and many 'results' cannot be trusted and may not be relevant to your crop. (Use rules 1-

Some biostimulants are remarkable and this is a field of great promiself

Two prominent theories exist:

Stress Mitigation: Agricultural Crops frequently do not achieve full yield potential due to environmental stress events. Biostimulants can help overcome prepare the plant for Trese stresses.

Biostimulants improve stress tolerance and minimize crop yield loss

Nutrient Uptake: The efficiency of nutrient use in most agricultural systems is low-and deficiencies are common - Biostimulants act to increase the availability of soil

nutrients Biostimulants increase plant nutrient use efficiency

Stress Hypothesis (includes nutrient stress/nutrient efficiency)

Abiotic 'stress' occurs in all environments and as a consequence yield rarely reaches full potential (abiotic stress nutrients, drought, temperature, frost, deficiency, salinity;

Biostimulants influence cropping system resilience by.

Enable plants to more effectively tolerate stress.

- Utilize nutrients and water efficiently

Favorably after the plant microbiome

There are now hundreds of papers demonstrating positive responses of biostimulants on plant stress and yield. Only a

few have a clear biological explanation, most do not. Plant Perception and Response to Stress occurs through Signaling and Plant Growth Regulation. Many biostimulants have been shown to affect plant stress signaling and regulatory pathways. Professor Brown discussed many different effects and actions which should be read on the Fertasa website http://www.fertasa.co.za/fertasaevents/symposium/

Doctor Koos Bornman gave a comprehensive overview of the importance of Boron in Agriculture.

The influence of boron deficiency on various crops are outlined in detail from scientific trials.

Visit the Fertasa to gain full insight in this excellent treatise http://www.fertasa.co.za/fertasa-events/symposium/

Professor Michael Maclaughlin discussed novel fertilizers with common key objectives:

Improve nutrient acquisition by plants

- Reduce non-productive losses of nutrients to the atmosphere or waters
- Reduce long-term storage of nublents in soil
- Improve human and/or animal nutrition
- Reduce nutrient cost
- Simplify fertilizer manufacturing
- Reduce energy use or waste emissions during fertilizer manufacturing
- Some nutrients are easily lost to the atmosphere e.g. nitrogen (Ni
- Some nutrients can be "lied up" or stored in soils phosphorus (P), copper (Cu), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn)
- Some nutrients are easily leached from soils
- Acidic solls N, sulfur (S), boron (B) and sometimes colcium (Ca)/magnesium (Mg)
- Alkaline soils N. S. molybdenum (Mo) and selenium (Se)

Professor MacLaughlin discussed various methods to improve PSB and Znavallability and uptake Visit the Fertasa website for the detail. http://www.fertasa.co.za/fertasaevents/symposium/

Professor Maarten Everaert discussed Layered Double Hydroxides (LDH) for Circular Phosphorus use in Agriculture = Inorganic anion exchange materials: divalent (Mg2+) and trivalent (Al3+) metal hydroxide layers and a negatively charged anion interlayer

- Structurally relates to brucite Mg(OH)2
- Introduction of trivalent cations (AI3+)
 - -- positively charged layers -- anion exchange capacity
 - eschangeable anions in interlayer
- LDH have a high affinity for PO4 arrions
 - -- adsorbent for Po4
 - P desorption and reuse of LDHs questionable

LDHs for circular Puse in agriculture

The following were discussed

- Release mechanisms of P from LDH, the effectiveness of powdered LDH as fertilizer
- LDH application form determines the slow-release character of P-LDH
- P-LDHs and limiting Pilosses to the environment

The following conclusions were arrived at:

- P release from LDH by anion exchange ipH neutral, alkaline) or LDH dissolution (acid)
- Powdered LDH is a relatively fast-working fertilizer, with good effectiveness in calcareous soils and less strengly Pfixing soils
- Granulation of LDH : slow-release fertilizer
- Slow release of P from LDH does not increase P uptake in strongly P-fixing soils
 - in acid-weathered soils, a local P saturation is required: granular soluble P
- Slow-release P tertitions are a tool to limit losses of P to the environment

Visit the Fertana website for the full detail on this intriguing technology, http://www.fertasa.co.za/fertasaevents/symposium/

Doctor Pauline Welikhe discussed the application principles of Artificial Intelligence in the modelling of P input-output relationships in complex Agricultural systems to minimize P loss from the soil and eutrophication of water sources. Visit the Fertasa Website for all the insights in this project http://www.fertasa.co.za/fertasa-events/symposium/

Appemarie van der Merwe discussed findings regarding nitrogen use efficiency in the Western Cape. The locus was on regenerative agriculture involving four systems: Canolia Wheat, Lupine Wheat, Medics Wheat and Luceme Wheat.

VISIT THE FERTASA WEBSITE FOR THE INFLUENCE OF THESE PRACTICES TO OPTIMIZE THE 4R PRINCIPLES.

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A dynamic company founded in 1984 by Chris Botho, a third-generation farmer on Graspan that prides itself with the engineering and manufacturing of robust agricultural equipment designed to accommodate the farmer's soil conditions and requirements.

Ripper Titage Equipment was established in 2014 by Christine Bouwer second generation of manufacturers. Together with Christoff Botha we proud ourselves as a brother and sister team, delivering quality agricultural products for the past Byreans.

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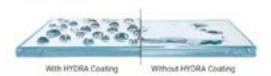


FEATURES:

- Provides a hydrophophic layer which repels water away from the surface and keeping it dry.
- · With a ceramic hardness of 9H+, it provides increased protection against hail.
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- · It is ecologically beneficial and biologically safe.
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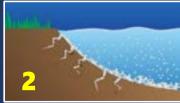
- An easy to clean surface less dirt and is far easier to clean.
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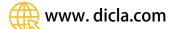
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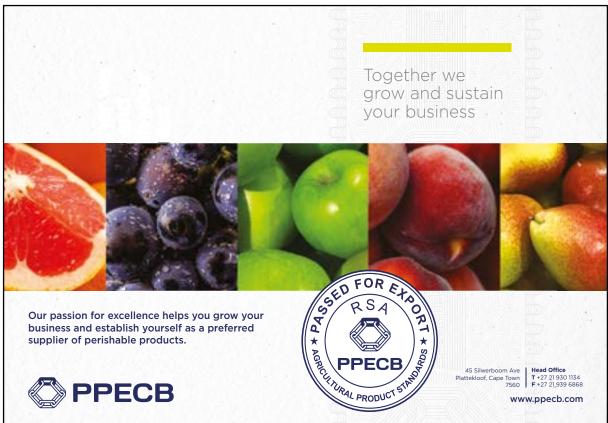


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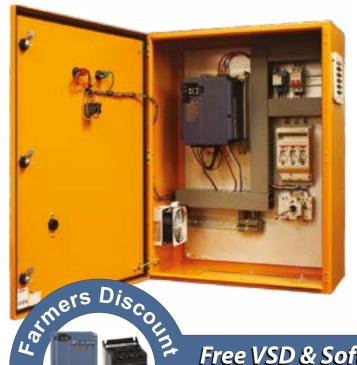
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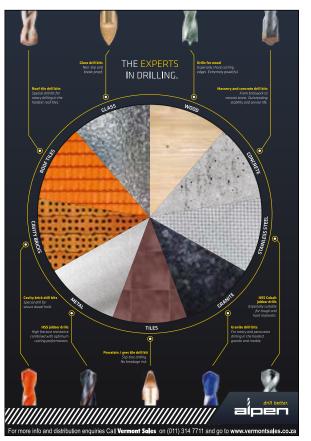
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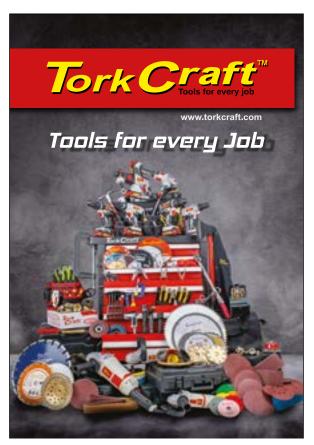


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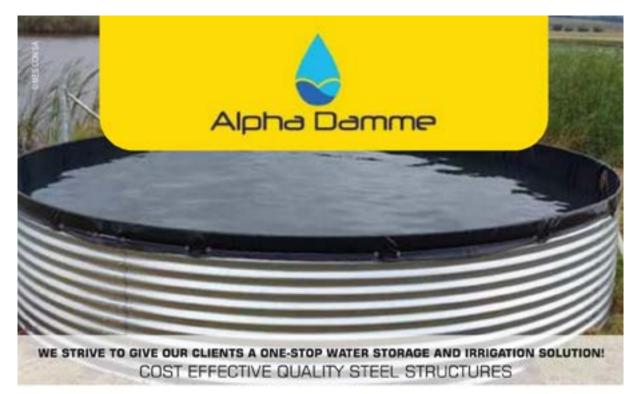
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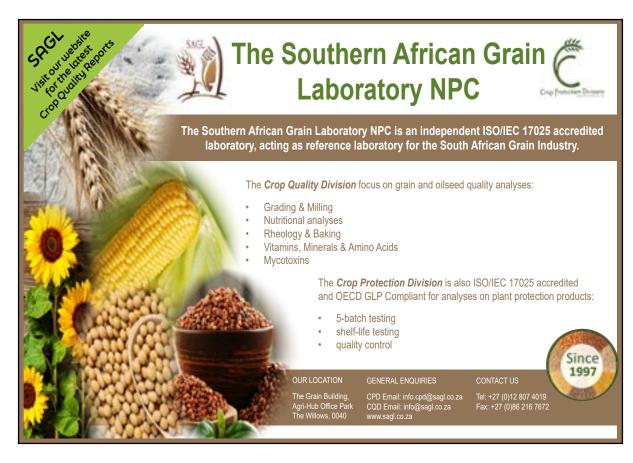
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Ca...190g/kg, Mg...110g/kg, Organies...30g/kg

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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 simblotiese 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 aktiwitielt (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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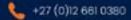
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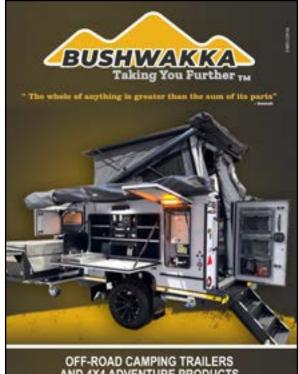
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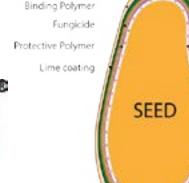


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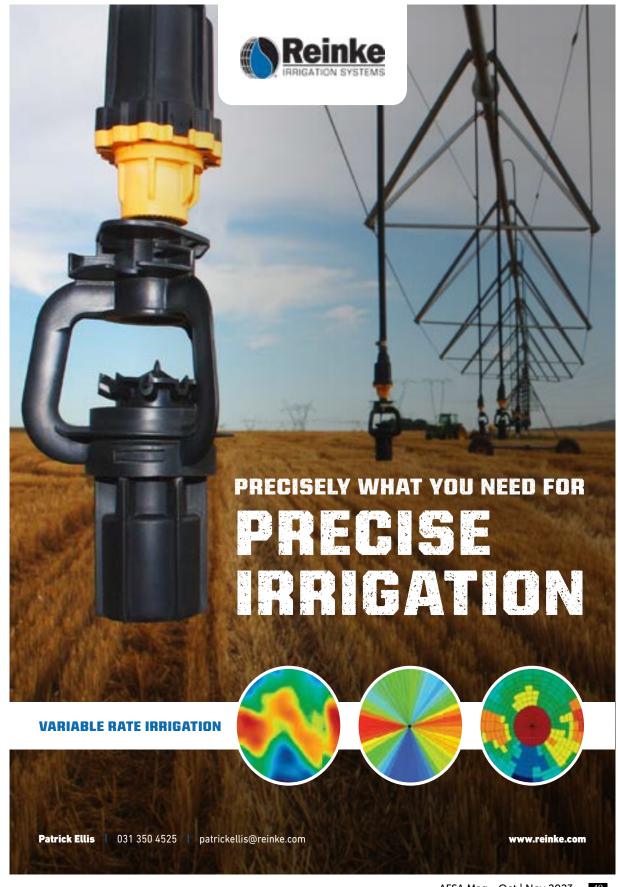
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AGE COMME

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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?

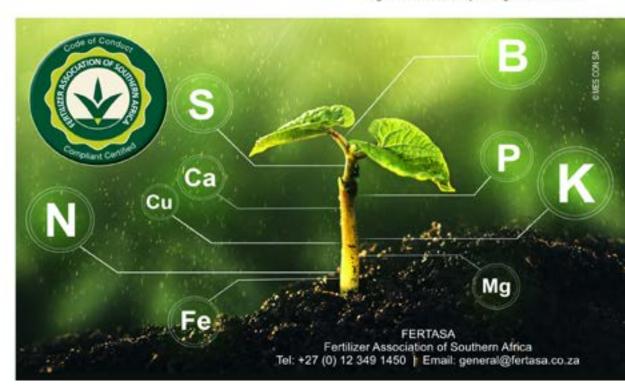
- A code of conduct.
- A set of standards audited by an independent compliance management body.
- Quality products.
- Relevant scientifically-based recommendations.
- Continual learning and improvement.
- Complying with all legal requirements.

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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