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Artificial Intelligence

Reshaping South African Farming



Climate-resilient food production

Harmonizing South Africa's Seed System

Hemp vs dagga: zoning of cannabis regions

Law on Sustainable Soil Management

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Editorial

Agriculture has always been about change, about finding new ways to grow, adapt, and thrive. Today, that change is being accelerated by artificial intelligence. What once felt futuristic is now firmly rooted in our fields, offering farmers tools to make smarter decisions, conserve resources, and unlock new opportunities.

In our lead article, *How AI is Reshaping South African Farming*, we look at how predictive analytics, precision technologies, and data-driven insights are transforming everyday practices. AI is not replacing the farmer's wisdom, it is enhancing it, helping balance heritage with innovation.

But farming's future is about more than technology. This edition also highlights the harmonization of South Africa's seed systems, a vital step toward inclusive growth and resilience. We examine low flow-rate

irrigation as a practical response to looming water crises, reminding us that efficiency and stewardship must go hand in hand.

We also tackle pressing debates: the need to expedite zoning for cannabis regions, distinguishing hemp from dagga, and the opportunities this sector could unlock.

Together, these stories reflect the richness of South African agriculture: a sector where innovation meets tradition, and every choice shapes our shared future.

As we approach year's end, may this edition spark conversation, inspire reflection, and remind us of the resilience and creativity that define our farming communities. The revolution is here—and it is being led by farmers who embrace both wisdom and innovation.

Chris



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How AI is Reshaping South African Farming

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant concept in agriculture — it is already reshaping how South African farmers grow crops, raise livestock, manage water, and connect to markets. By combining traditional knowledge with cutting-edge technology, AI is helping farmers become more efficient, resilient, and sustainable.

Instead of replacing farmers, AI is becoming their silent partner — analysing data, spotting patterns, and offering insights that make everyday decisions easier and more effective.

Precision Farming and Crop Management

AI analyses drone imagery, satellite data, and soil sensors to detect crop stress, identify pests, and optimize irrigation and fertilization.

Farmers can act early to prevent losses and improve yields.

Case Study: In the Western Cape, fruit growers using AI-powered drone imagery reported a 15% reduction in pest-related losses after early detection alerts allowed them to intervene before infestations spread.

Examples: [Aerobotics](#), [Donkerhoek Data](#)

Livestock Management: Smarter Herds, Healthier Farms

AI improves breeding outcomes, monitors herd health, and forecasts productivity.

Algorithms detect oestrus cycles, predict milk yields, and flag early signs of illness.

Case Study: A dairy farmer in KwaZulu-Natal integrated AI monitoring into her herd. “Last



year, I lost three cows to mastitis because I didn't catch it in time," she explains. "Now, with AI alerts, I act immediately, and my losses have dropped dramatically."

Examples: [PIC Africa](#), [RLTS Africa](#)

Fisheries and Aquaculture

AI monitors water-quality, optimizes feed use, and tracks fish health. In aquaponics, AI balances nutrient cycles between fish tanks and crops, ensuring both thrive.

Case Study: An aquaponics cooperative in Gauteng reported that AI-driven nutrient monitoring improved fish survival rates by 20% and boosted vegetable yields.

Examples: [Aquamet](#), [INMED Aquaponics Social Enterprise](#)

Hydroponics and Aquaponics

AI supports controlled environment farming by monitoring nutrient levels, water quality, and plant growth conditions. It ensures consistent production in urban or climate-challenged regions.

Case Study: In Cape Town, hydroponic farmers using AI monitoring tools achieved year-round lettuce production, even during heatwaves, by automatically adjusting nutrient mixes and water cycles.

Examples: [Green Arch Innovations](#), [Aquaponics Innovations](#), [Hydrobiz](#)

Irrigation and Water Management

AI-driven irrigation systems use soil moisture sensors, weather forecasts, and crop models to automate watering schedules. This conserves water while ensuring crops receive exactly what they need.

Case Study: A maize farmer in Limpopo reduced water use by 30% after adopting AI-powered irrigation scheduling, while maintaining the same yield levels.

Examples: [Greenato](#), [Techsolutions Smart Irrigation](#)

Farm Finance and Risk Management

AI models assess creditworthiness, predict yields, and help insurers manage agricultural risk. This opens access to finance for smallholders.

Case Study: Through [Khula!](#), a young farmer in Mpumalanga accessed financing for inputs after AI-based credit scoring recognized his consistent yield history, despite limited collateral.

Supply Chain and Logistics

AI forecasts demand, monitors cold-chain logistics, and reduces spoilage. Farmers can plan harvests better and negotiate contracts with confidence.

Case Study: A fresh produce exporter in Gauteng used AI demand forecasting to align shipments with European buyers, cutting spoilage by 12% and improving profitability.

Examples: Fresh Solutions, [University of the Witwatersrand research projects](#)

Climate Adaptation and Sustainability

AI analyses climate data and weather patterns to guide crop choices, planting schedules, and resource use. It helps farmers adapt to droughts and shifting rainfall.

Case Study: A vineyard in Stellenbosch used AI climate forecasting to adjust planting schedules, avoiding frost damage and securing a stable harvest despite unpredictable weather.

Examples: [ClimateAi](#), [Swift Geospatial](#)

Conclusion

AI in farming is not about replacing farmers — it is about empowering them. It gives them sharper tools to breed healthier herds, detect problems earlier, plan with confidence, and adapt to climate challenges. For South Africa's next generation of farmers, AI is becoming part of the legacy they'll pass on — a farming future that is both sustainable and profitable.

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Where profit meets planet:

The business of climate-resilient food production

Daneel Rossouw,
Head of Sales: Agriculture, Nedbank Commercial Banking

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) will highlight the role of agriculture in combating climate change, as it becomes increasingly clear that agriculture is not only vulnerable to climate change, but is also one of the most powerful levers we have to address it. The sector sits at the heart of key COP30 themes: driving climate resilience through agroecology practices like regenerative farming, improving soil health, harnessing technology and innovation, and mobilising finance to enable a sustainable transition.

Agriculture depends entirely on natural ecosystems for its productivity and profitability. Fertile soils, pollination, water supply, and biodiversity underpin the long-term viability of farming – yet these systems are under immense strain. Because agriculture both impacts and depends on nature – it holds the key to achieving nature-positive outcomes. Farmers manage the world's soils, which store more than twice the carbon found in the atmosphere. By adopting agroecological and regenerative practices, producers can enhance soil carbon storage,



improve yields and biodiversity, and help stabilise the climate, turning farms into part of the climate solution rather than part of the problem.

Why sustainability matters more in South Africa

South Africa faces a harsher reality than many of its peers: Only 12% of our land is arable, with most remaining land supporting only livestock production and, as a water-scarce country, we receive about half of the global average rainfall. This reality is sharpened by several factors:

- **Weather volatility:** Droughts, floods, and heatwaves are becoming more frequent and severe.
- **Tight margins:** Farmers are price-takers with limited economies of scale, making cost management essential.
- **Global competition:** South Africa competes internationally with little state support, so sustainable, high-quality production is vital to remain competitive.

With limited natural resources, the sector must pursue climate-smart, resource-efficient, and technology-driven solutions. Encouragingly, many of these practices are already commonplace:

- **Precision agriculture:** Drones, sensors, and AI enable data-driven decisions, early disease detection, and optimised irrigation, increasing efficiency while conserving water and energy.
- **Agroecology and regenerative practices:** Managing grazing, planting cover crops, and improving animal nutrition help restore soil health, increase biodiversity, and boost resilience.
- **Diversification of crops and livestock:** This includes optimal livestock breed selection to correspond with the natural environment of a farm.

Environmental sustainability = financial sustainability and managed business risk. Importantly, these climate mitigation strategies also reduce business risk. Producers should not view sustainability as a compliance issue, but rather as a tool to mitigate climate and business risk while gaining a competitive advantage. The bottom line of financial sustainability is margin management, so whatever is done on the farm to mitigate

climate risk must also have a positive impact on profitability without jeopardising cash flow.

Key strategies

- **Ensuring economies of scale:** By increasing production, the cost per unit decreases because fixed costs are spread over a larger output. But, be warned: scale on its own is not a silver bullet. If your core business is not efficient, growing for the sake of it merely turns a small problem into a bigger one.
- **Maximising output quality:** Higher yields, better product quality, higher nutritional value, and sought-after produce translate into stronger margins, not only boosted volumes.
- **Reducing inputs:** Lowering energy, fertiliser and antibiotic use improves profitability and reduces environmental impact.

A financier's view on total risk

At Nedbank, we assess agricultural finance applications through a holistic lens of 'total risk' that considers both financial and business risk. We evaluate not only assets and liabilities, but also how clients manage external factors such as climate risks, market conditions, and operational challenges, as this determines both repayment capacity and long-term resilience.

Risk management strategies

- **Production risk:** Diversification, the use of optimised farming techniques, modern technology, and effective pest control all help to reduce production risk.
- **Price and market risk:** This involves reducing volatility in input and output prices, managing market shocks, and improving access to markets.
- **Financial and credit risk:** There must be sufficient cash flow, and the financing model should align with the specific needs of the farming operation. It's also important to plan for fluctuations in production and income. These factors are essential to support sustainable growth and ensure payment capacity.
- **Business risk:** Farming practices must be adapted to changing climate conditions, and preventative measures should be in place to protect against theft of equipment and other assets. This type of risk management helps maintain operational stability and minimise losses.



It's also important to distinguish between good and bad debt. Good debt contributes to greater efficiency, encourages innovation, and strengthens and resilience. Bad debt, on the other hand, limits growth and increases the risk of financial vulnerability. Excessive debt can undermine both financial stability and environmental sustainability.

Mobilising finance through ESG reporting and investment

Delivering on COP30's goals will require mobilising finance towards sustainable, climate-aligned agriculture. This is where ESG reporting and investing play a crucial role.

ESG reporting has become a cornerstone of modern business disclosure and represents a key area for improvement within South African agriculture. For Nedbank and other financial institutions, robust ESG reporting provides transparency and helps identify clients who are not only financially viable but also

effectively managing environmental and social risks. Similarly, ESG investing channels capital towards enterprises that reduce emissions, restore ecosystems and support rural livelihoods – priorities that mirror COP30's call to action.

From climate risk to competitive advantage

For South African agribusiness, the message is clear: sustainable agriculture is more than environmental stewardship – it is central to business strategy. Through regenerative farming, technology-driven insights, and ESG-aligned finance, South African agribusinesses can manage risk, improve margins, and position themselves as global leaders in a climate-conscious food system.

As COP30 will highlight, the path to a sustainable, climate-resilient future runs through the farm gate. Yes, agriculture is exposed to climate risk, but it's central to solving it.



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The concept of Low Flow-rate irrigation

Fanie Vorster

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Also known as Continuous irrigation, this form of drip irrigation could push the limits in irrigation precision and water use efficiency.

As cost of agricultural resources continue to rise, efficiency in every aspect of modern farming, is becoming increasingly important. Therefore, in specific circumstances

implementation of low-flow irrigation technology could help irrigation farmers increase their system's water use efficiency.

The main aim with low-flow irrigation technology, is to supply the water in the active root zone, and at the same rate as that the plants are using it.



Figure 1: Low-flow drip irrigation is an option for orchards

The benefits of Low-flow irrigation technology are:

- Reduced water, energy and fertilizer use on a given area.
- Greater efficiency in the placement of water and nutrients in the crop rootzone.
- Better control of irrigation depth and lateral water movement in the soil, resulting in better utilization of especially soil with lower potential, for example sandy or rocky soil.
- The water and nutrients are distributed very efficiently beneath each dripper. This has the effect of increasing the wetted area from where it is available for use by the plant.
- Leaching of nutrients below the root zone is limited.
- The system is designed in such a way that the whole farm or a group of blocks is irrigated at the same time.
- Increased water use efficiency could enable the farmer to increase the total area irrigated with the available water, provided additional irrigable land is available.
- Automation of the irrigation system is relatively simple.
- The longer duration per irrigation session on a specific area has the effect that the hydraulic performance of the irrigation system is better than that of a conventional drip irrigation system where standing time is much shorter.
- It can be used to do deficit irrigation.
- Provides the possibility of managing specific nutrient applications in critical growth stages of the crop better.
- Less fertilizer is used with fertigation through a low flow drip irrigation system than compared with fertigation by means of a conventional drip irrigation system with a high dripper delivery rate.
- The main benefit lies therein that low-flow drip irrigation provides the possibility to sustain crop production while less resources are used. Increased crop quality or yield is a bonus.
- It requires less labour for management and operation per hectare than conventional systems.

The main differences between Low-flow or Continuous irrigation and Conventional drip irrigation:

	Conventional drip	Low – flow drip
Dripper flow rate	1.6 – 4 litre/hour	0.4 – 0.7 litre/hour
Number of shifts per day	Several	One
Standing time to deliver water demand	Less than 1 hour to 12 hours	12 hours to 14 hours adapted to cater for climatic, soil type and soil moisture conditions and crop growth stage
Cycle length	3 – 7 days	Daily
Configuration	Total area divided into different blocks; each block irrigated separately	Whole area or groups of blocks irrigated simultaneously

Factors to take into consideration when considering changing to a Low-flow irrigation system:

- It requires more precision in the design-, management and operation than conventional drip irrigation systems.
- Soil and water analysis are required before the system is designed.
- More advanced filtration and backflush management is required. For example, the primary filtration could be done with a high-capacity self-cleaning type disc or mesh filter that requires minimal maintenance, with a 100-micron filtration grade or else a sand media filter with a check filter. The secondary filtration could be done with a disc or screen filter, also with a 100-micron filtration grade.
- Precision control in dosing of fertilizer is necessary.
- The maximum dripper pipeline length should be restricted to ensure that the flushing velocity at the downstream end of the pipe is not less than 0.5m/second.
- Most important is to monitor what the water is doing below the soil surface on a

regular basis, for example weekly, to make timely adjustments regarding the irrigation application time.

- It will be necessary to dose Hydrogen Peroxide into the system while in operation at predetermined concentrations.
- More applicable to higher value crops due to higher initial infrastructure costs.

What happens to the water below the soil surface

There are mainly three movements that water can make in the soil – vertical movement under influence of gravity, horizontal movement, which is mainly capillary, and surface wetness which lead to run-off. With conventional drip irrigation where delivery rates are typically from 1.6 - 4 litre/hr, it is difficult to control the infiltration depth of the water, because the water delivery could be at a greater rate than what the soil can handle. Typically, run-off or wetness on the soil surface occurs and/or some of the water can infiltrate deeper than the active root-zone.

More frequent and shorter irrigation cycles could be used to mitigate the problem. In practice this could in some cases boil down to using a pulsed standing time of less than one

hour at a time. However, the danger exists that the subsoil could become oversaturated with water and anaerobic. Management of such short irrigation events is not practical and hydraulic performance of irrigation systems is decreased due to losses during the time pipelines fill and drain.

Crops experience stress from oversaturated and poor aeration in the subsoil. Water draining past the crop rootzone into the subsoil, carry nutrients out of reach the crop roots as well as contaminates the groundwater.

With low-flow irrigation, better control of the depth that irrigation water infiltrates into the soil is possible. It is also possible to have better control of the air-water ratio in the soil. As management tool, weekly measurements of the soil moisture status in various locations in the irrigated area should be done. This should be done at least at 3 different depths beneath the soil surface and can give a good indication of how irrigation should be adapted to more optimal conditions for the crop in the next week. In addition, profile holes can be dug to observe how the water spreads horizontally and vertically beneath the drippers.

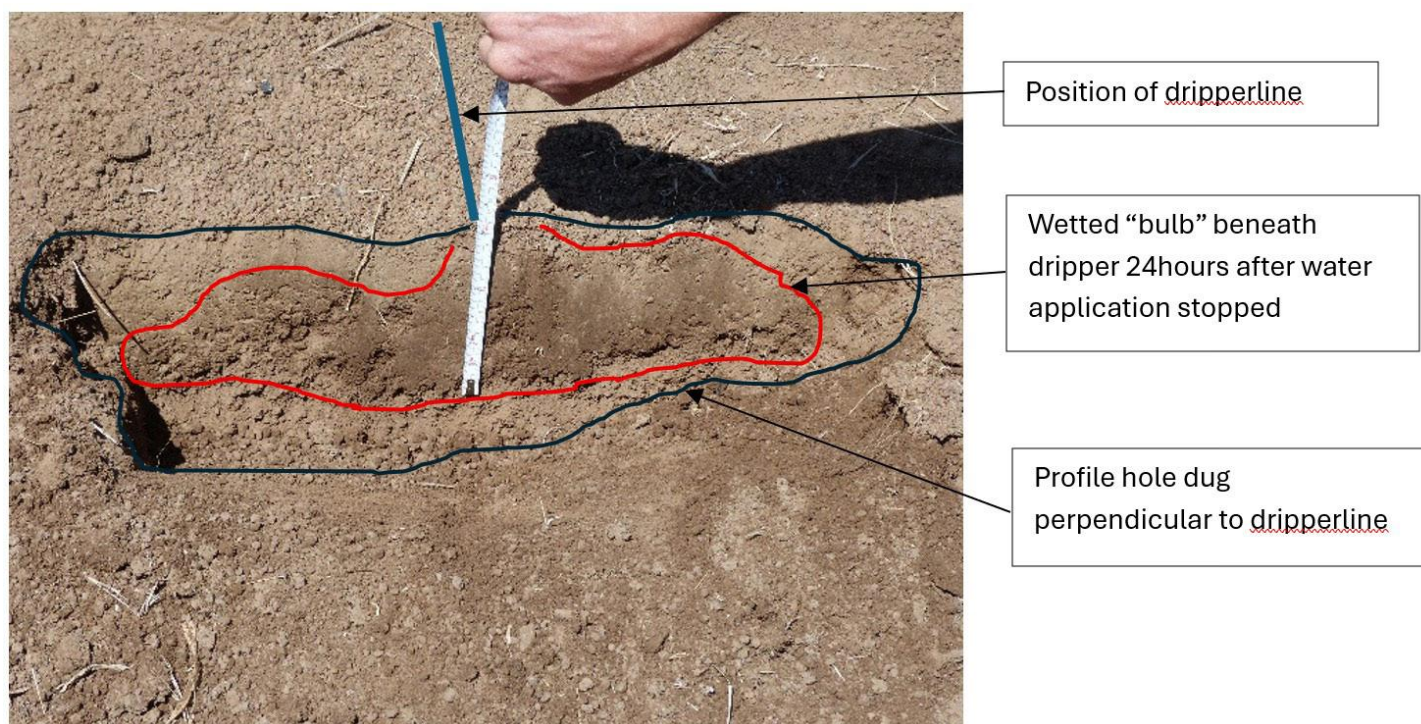


Figure 2: Profile hole dug 24 hours after water application stopped, reveals movement of water beneath a dripper

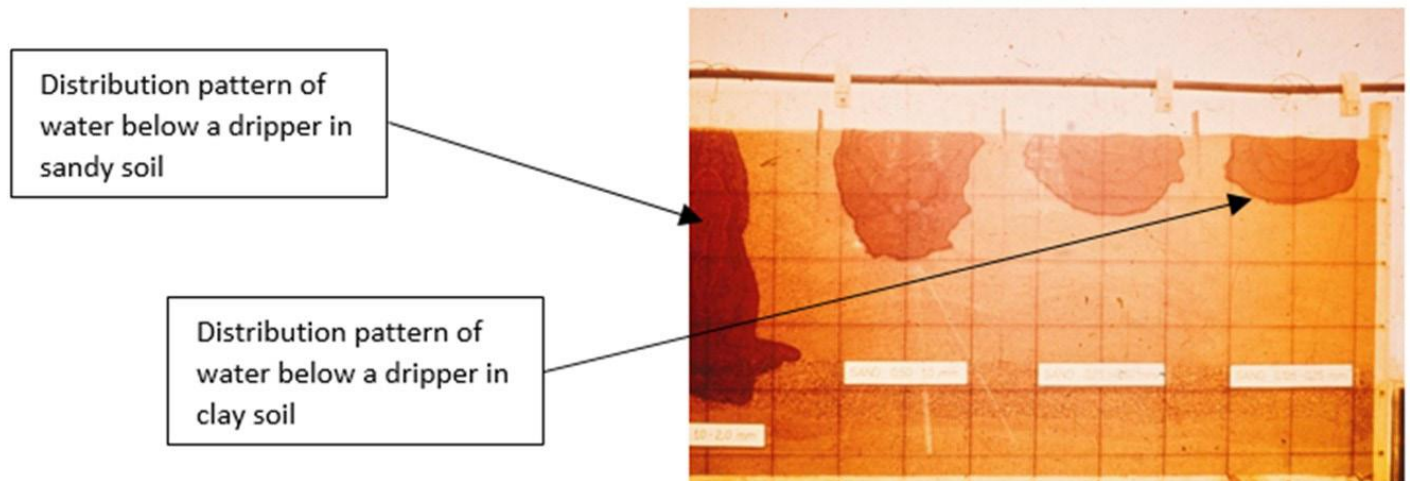


Figure 3: Visual representation of the water distribution in different soil types

Typically, the wetted pattern beneath a dripper could be in the form of an onion bulb (in an ideal soil). The characteristics of the soil, and the flowrate of the dripper is what determines the form and dimensions of this “bulb”. The soil in Figure 2 could have a layer that restricts infiltration. A general rule is that sandy soil has a deep, narrow wetted area, while in clay soil the wetted area is wider and shallow.

However, dripper flowrate plays a significant role in the way water moves in the soil. When the flowrate is relatively high (>1 litre/hr), as in conventional drippers, vertical movement of the water beneath the dripper is dominant. With low-flowrate drippers, which deliver water at extremely low rates (<1 litre/hr), horizontal movement of water in the soil beneath the dripper is more dominant.

Water can be lost for use by the crops through different mechanisms. These mechanisms are evaporation, deep infiltration out of the crop root zone into the subsurface water table and surface run-off. However, this does not imply that this water is totally lost. It is just being used to sustain other functions in the water cycle, but it is not available for use by the irrigated plants.

To increase crop water use efficiency, losses due to evaporation and deep infiltration should be addressed. It is essential that the application rate of the irrigation water should not exceed the infiltration rate of the soil. The duration of irrigation sessions should

be such that the crop root zone be wetted to field capacity. The soil characteristics determines the water holding capacity of the soil. Irrigation must be done without the soil being saturated to the point that water holding capacity is exceeded and run-off or infiltration deeper than the root zone occur.

Irrigation scheduling is management of irrigation timing and duration to optimize crop water use efficiency. The optimal depletion of the water that is readily available to the plant for each growth stage, is determined beforehand during system design. The “in-time” soil water content is the difference between the field capacity and the allowable soil water depletion. During each irrigation cycle, enough water is applied to return the soil water status to field capacity again.

Importantly, with use of low flow drip irrigation and the precision irrigation technology that is associated with it, regular measurement of soil moisture status and the water requirement of the plants must be taken into consideration for weekly irrigation planning purposes. The depth that irrigation water infiltrates, can be controlled more accurately with Low-flow irrigation. Therefore, it has the effect that water is used more efficiently, and the soil is better aerated.

However, success with innovative technologies depends on their correct application.

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Hemp vs dagga:

the importance of expediting the zoning of cannabis regions for hemp and dagga

Pertunia Mailula
ARC

Industrial hemp has emerged as one of South Africa's most promising new crops, a plant with potential to drive rural development, create green jobs and diversify the agricultural economy. From textiles and paper to construction materials, biofuels and cosmetics, hemp offers hundreds of industrial uses. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) began issuing cultivation permits in 2021, marking the formal reintroduction of hemp into South African agriculture. The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) led national hemp trials across nine provinces, testing different varieties under local conditions. Through these trials, ARC developed two locally adapted seed varieties, ARC CAN1 and ARC CAN2, which have performed well and are now key to the country's emerging hemp sector.

However, in parts of the Eastern Cape, including Lusikisiki, some smallholder farmers have raised concerns. They allege that hemp will "kill" their dagga and other plants through cross-pollination. While hemp does not literally kill other plants, scientific evidence confirms that pollen from hemp can affect the THC levels of nearby dagga, potentially reducing its potency. Some farmers who are interested in planting hemp are hesitant to do so, fearing conflict with neighbours who grow dagga and believe that hemp will negatively

affect their crops. This social tension highlights how biological realities connect with local perceptions, informal norms, and the risks of introducing a new legal crop into communities with existing informal cannabis practices.

Farmers' fears in Lusikisiki

In Lusikisiki, cannabis has long been a source of livelihood. Although the private use of dagga is legal, commercial cultivation and trade remain illegal without the necessary permits. Many rural households continue to rely on traditional dagga farming as part of the informal economy. Some farmers say they do not want hemp to be planted in their area because they believe it will affect the potency of their dagga. They worry that pollen from hemp will mix with their dagga plants and reduce their strength. Without proper information or technical guidance, many have concluded that hemp will "contaminate" their fields and, in their words, "kill" their dagga.

The science behind cross-pollination

To separate myth from fact, I spoke to Dr. Quenten a senior researcher from the Agricultural Research Council – Onderstepoort Veterinary Research (ARC-OVR), who confirmed that hemp can indeed affect the THC levels of dagga through cross-pollination. "Hemp and dagga are both *Cannabis sativa* L., but they are bred for different purposes," he



explained. "Because they can inter-pollinate, pollen from male hemp plants can travel long distances and fertilize female dagga plants. This reduces the dagga's THC content, the compound responsible for its psychoactive effect and at the same time can push hemp above its legal THC limit."

In simple terms, hemp does not kill other plants, but it can alter the chemical and genetic makeup of nearby cannabis crops. That means both hemp and dagga farmers can suffer losses: the hemp may no longer comply with regulations, and the dagga becomes weaker and less valuable even in the informal market.

A policy gap with real consequences

South Africa's Cannabis Master Plan aims to support a thriving cannabis industry that benefits smallholder farmers. However, the plan has not been fully implemented and there are no official zones separating hemp from dagga cultivation. As a result, hemp and dagga are often grown close to each other, which can affect dagga crops. For many farmers, hemp feels like a threat to their livelihoods, even though the main problem is the lack of clear rules and planning.

The importance of zoning

Setting up clear cannabis zones is necessary to protect farmers and their crops.

- Protect product integrity by ensuring hemp remains within legal THC limits while dagga retains its potency.
- Build market confidence by reducing

contamination risks for processors and exporters.

- Promote farmer coexistence by preventing conflict and misunderstanding between hemp permit holders and traditional growers.
- Support scientific monitoring by allowing institutions like ARC to study crop performance and maintain genetic purity.

Countries such as Canada and parts of Europe already implement strict cannabis zoning or buffer distance requirements between hemp and high-THC cannabis. South Africa can learn from these models to protect both emerging and traditional growers.

The way forward

The experiences in Lusikisiki are a clear signal that South Africa's cannabis sector is growing faster than its regulations. The science confirms that hemp and dagga can coexist, but only if guided by strong policy, proper spacing and community education. As Dr. Quenten emphasized, "We cannot overlook the biology of cannabis. If hemp and dagga are planted too close, cross-pollination is inevitable. That's why planning and zoning are essential."

If the government acts swiftly to establish cannabis zones, it can safeguard livelihoods, protect crop integrity, and unlock the economic potential of both hemp and cannabis. But if zoning continues to lag, mistrust and misinformation may undermine one of South Africa's most promising agricultural frontiers.

Pan-African Parliament adopts Africa's first Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management

Africa has taken a historic step forward for sustainable development, food security, and environmental protection when the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) overwhelmingly adopted the continent's first Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management during the Sixth Ordinary Session of its Sixth Legislature on 6 November 2025.

Officially titled Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management in Africa, it provides countries with a model legal framework to safeguard their soils and strengthen resilience to climate change. This is a significant milestone considering that Africa holds about 65% of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land.

A team of African experts — among them Prof Oliver Ruppel of the Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP), which is affiliated to both the Faculty of Law and the School for Climate Studies at Stellenbosch University (SU) — developed the Model Law with support from the PAP Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources and several international partners. These included the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the UN Environment Programme, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Soil Partnership, the Research Centre for Climate Law at the University of Graz in Austria, the German Environment Agency, and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.





Grounded in eleven country studies from across the continent, which examined existing soil legislation and governance systems, the Model Law guides African Union Member States in developing or strengthening national legislation and policies to ensure the sustainable use, protection, and restoration of soils across the continent.

It encompasses all dimensions of soil governance, including sustainable agriculture and food security, climate mitigation and adaptation, soil use regulation and planning, data management, digitalisation, and innovation, as well as public participation, Indigenous knowledge, and gender equity. Additionally, it addresses rehabilitation, enforcement, and dispute settlement mechanisms.

Commenting on the adoption of the Model Law, Ruppel notes that it marks a significant step forward for sustainable agricultural governance on the continent.

He describes it as “a modern, forward-looking framework that helps decolonise Africa’s soils” by empowering countries to govern their natural resources through African-led, science-based approaches.

“This is a law written by Africans, for Africa, rooted in science and guided by justice. It will strengthen resilience against climate change, improve livelihoods, and promote

the responsible use of one of our most vital natural assets.”

“With this law, Africa takes a decisive step toward ensuring that the continent’s soils, its most fundamental natural resource, remain alive, productive, and protected for generations to come.”

Ruppel notes that it offers a comprehensive framework for African nations to adapt and apply in their local contexts, and serves as a platform for cooperation, research, and innovation across the continent. As such, the Model Law can also serve as a guide for other regions, offering principles, definitions, institutional designs, and implementation pathways that are adaptable to diverse legal systems. Synergies are particularly promising with Europe’s evolving soil framework (including the EU Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive), where knowledge exchange on monitoring, data governance, and science-policy interfaces could accelerate progress on both continents through shared research, interoperable datasets, and coordinated capacity-building.

The Model Law is among others inspired by the Soil Initiative for Africa (2020), the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan (2023–2033), and the Nairobi Declaration on Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health (2024) — key policy frameworks for soil health, food systems resilience, and environmental sustainability.

Five tips for choosing the right equipment for your small farm

To run a successful farm, equipment is a necessity. Choosing the right tools for your small farm will help you get more done on your property; make daily tasks easier on yourself and your farmhands, whilst also increasing yield and thereby profit.

According to Johan Kruger, Husqvarna's National Sales Manager, efficient equipment manage-

ment means having the right size and type of equipment for the correct application to do the job in the least amount of time, with the least effort and for the lowest operating cost. He says that all too often, small farmers buy more equipment than they need or equipment that's too big or too small for the tasks required.

"Farming in Africa is tough, so you want tools



that are up to the job. As most production uses manual labour, this will impact your efficiencies and productivity, so you need to have the best tools to optimise performance,” Johan explains. “To maximise productivity, small farmers in particular need rugged, durable and reliable equipment that’s user-friendly and will stand up to rough handling, that is manoeuvrable and easy to transport between working areas.”

Whether you’re farming crops or specialised produce, here are some of Johan’s top tips for small farmers when it comes to choosing essential equipment:

1. Identify your needs

Firstly, take the size of your farm into consideration and be clear about the tasks that need to be done and the equipment this requires. Determine whether you need tools for irrigation, harvesting, distribution, soil preparation or weed control. Will you be clearing brush or forest? Are you mowing one hectare or five? Will you be cultivating soil and spraying? What about water pumps and generators? Once you know what you need, you can look for the equipment that will suit your specific requirements.

2. Set your budget

You need to work with a budget. Then do your homework. Determine the price to quality ratio of your equipment and research the parts, performance and power of each piece. Your equipment is an investment and if you go for quality, you may pay more up front, but you’ll get a premium product backed by a premium brand with genuine spare parts, expert knowledge and service. This means longer service life with less maintenance and down time, which will save costs in the long term. In addition, be smart with your spending – for example, Husqvarna has a self-drive [tiller](#) that is a cost effective solution for breaking up soil, manoeuvrable and easy to store. Do you need a boom sprayer or will a hand-held [sprayer](#) do the job just as well?

3. Look for Multi-Purpose Equipment

Certain equipment may only be used occasionally and having it on hand means it takes up space and requires maintenance. For a smaller farm, it’s wise to look for multi-purpose equipment that is versatile and portable, equipment that has been designed for the small farmer with their specific needs in mind.

4. Talk to an expert

The equipment you buy is going to be used for a long time so before you make the investment, do your research and check with an expert before you make the purchase. Generally, this type of equipment is stocked by an authorised dealer who will provide a range of services such as technical support, spares and servicing. So, visit the dealer in your area and while you’re there, make sure you check the warranty too – the duration and exactly what it covers. Husqvarna products for example come with a one-year limited warranty and within the warranty period Husqvarna will repair or replace any part that has a factory defect free of charge at an authorised Husqvarna workshop.

5. Think about maintenance

You reap what you sow. This is also true for maintenance and regular services mean fewer repairs down the line. So, your purchasing decision should be based on the product support network. If you need spares or a quick repair, you don’t want to travel too far. Ask whether the dealer offers general maintenance servicing and if their products are backed by expert advice and training. It’s value-added services such as these, which come standard with any Husqvarna product, that will save you time and money for years to come.

Johan says that while these tips will help you choose the best equipment for your small farm, you should also make use of the expert knowledge and expertise that’s available to you. “Talk to the various distributors in your area as well as your fellow farmers before buying equipment. With the right knowledge, you can ensure you invest in the specific tools you need to run your farm efficiently and make your life a lot easier.” For more information on equipment that is suitable for your small farm, visit www.husqvarna.co.za



South Africa's Fruit Growers Leading the Way

South Africa plays a vital role in supplying the world with top-quality fruit – especially when Europe's season comes to an end. Local growers operate under rigorous export regulations and constant scrutiny. Yet, they continue to show the world how it should be done: with discipline, technical expertise and a growing trust in biological crop protection.

"South African producers are ahead when it comes to compliance – a benchmark for how export products for demanding markets should be managed globally," says Wian Smith, a forerunner in biological solutions and a long-

standing advocate of biological approaches for South Africa's essential fruit export industry.

As InteliGro's Senior Crop Advisor in the EGVV region (Elgin, Grabouw, Villiersdorp and Vyeboom), Smith has worked closely with apple, pear and stone fruit growers for more than 13 years. He also supports growers in the Bossieveld area of Worcester and the Hemelen-Aarde Valley.

80% of EGVV Growers Use Biological Crop Management

According to Smith, around 80% of growers in the EGVV region already use biological crop management programmes.



Global markets set the standard and South African fruit growers rise to meet it.

“Market access remains one of the biggest drivers behind biological solutions, particularly because of the strict minimum residue level (MRL) requirements for fruit destined for markets such as Europe,” Smith explains. “Our growers are already meeting these standards thanks to the effective use of biological products within integrated pest management programmes.”

Another major compliance challenge is the management of phytosanitary pests such as codling moth and fruit fly, which threaten apples and pears.

“A single larva can lead to an entire shipment being rejected overseas – effectively closing the market for that product, as we’ve already seen in key Eastern markets,” says Smith. “That’s why intelligent pest management is critical.”

Growers Harness Viruses, Fungi and Predatory Mites for Natural Control

Local growers are already using viruses to control codling moth as part of integrated programmes that combine biological and chemical approaches. Fruit flies are being suppressed through area-wide aerial applications of biological products.

Another success story lies in the use of soil fungi to manage woolly apple aphid. A Grabouw apple producer who has been following a fungal soil programme with Smith for two years has seen remarkable results.

“This season’s pressure was high, but thanks to early intervention, our losses were only a fraction of what the rest of the industry experienced,” says Smith. “An added bonus is that the same fungus also suppresses mealybug and scale.”

In the Bossieveld area of Worcester, Smith and a grower at Jonkersrivier farm, have achieved a breakthrough in the biological control of red spider mite in apples. This pest had developed resistance to chemical products. Smith released predatory mites, and within two years achieved almost complete control. After fine-tuning timing and packaging to ensure that the mites could hatch inside the apple trees, the programme became a success – opening the door for further applications such as scale



In the EGVV region, around 80% of growers use biological crop management, control.

Long-Term Biological Approaches Require Expert Guidance and Trust

Smith cautions that biological programmes are not quick fixes, but rather long-term strategies that rely on expert guidance.

“Fungi, for example, take two to three years to establish in the soil so that they can be applied at the right time and stage of the pest’s life cycle,” he explains. “It’s therefore vital to understand the pest and its development, and to apply the biological strategy at the optimal moment.”

He stresses that producers must be willing to place full trust in their Crop Advisor’s biological approach.

“Biological crop protection requires ongoing trust, adaptation and close monitoring. It’s not a passing trend – it’s the future. And it takes advisors who know when it will work, and when it won’t.

Producers must allow themselves to be guided by experts who understand timing. There may still be some losses in the first year while the programme is being fine-tuned for best results.”

“Producers are sometimes sceptical at first, but we’ve already proven that these approaches work. Our role as Crop Advisors is to help growers align with the right solutions and guide them through the learning process. South African producers have already shown that they have the discipline and technical skill to implement biological programmes successfully.”

Knowledge: The Foundation of Integrated Chemical and Biological Management

Smith emphasises that biological and chemical solutions complement one another within integrated crop protection programmes – but that maintaining effectiveness takes years of experience and strong technical support.

He predicts that the biological sector will continue to grow rapidly, especially as chemical products are phased out at an increasing pace due to stricter regulations.

His advice to producers is clear: “Make the shift. Start incorporating biological solutions into your programme, but align yourself with the right world-class partners and high-quality biological products. Effective products may be more expensive, but the industry is heading for a shake-out. Only reliable companies – those that have invested in proper research and developed registered, tested products – will remain. Producers need to be sure of their choices.”



Wian Smith, Inteligro Senior Crop Advisor in the EGVV region.

Harmonizing South Africa's Seed Systems:

A path to inclusive growth

Dr Walter Shiba, Ayabonga Toko, and Portia Mdwebi:
Agricultural Research Council

“Seed embodies life, power, and culture” Rachel Wynberg

Seeds are the foundation of agricultural productivity and food security, particularly in South Africa. The South African, performance of the agricultural sector, specifically among smallholder and emerging farmers, is deeply influenced by the availability, quality, and accessibility of seeds. However, the country's seed systems remain fragmented split between formal, informal, and intermediary channels creating inefficiencies and deepening inequalities. Therefore, harmonizing these systems is essential not only to boost productivity but also to promote inclusive growth across rural and peri-urban communities.

The current landscape

South Africa has a robust **formal seed sector**, dominated by commercial companies that produce, certify, and market improved and genetically uniform seed varieties. This sector ensures seed quality through strict regulatory

frameworks, but often excludes smallholder farmers due to cost, limited distribution networks, and lack of access to appropriate varieties for marginal environments.

In contrast, the **informal seed system**, which includes farmer-saved seed, community exchanges, and local markets, plays a vital role in preserving agro-biodiversity and meeting localized needs. Despite its importance, it remains largely unsupported and unrecognized by policy and regulatory institutions.

A third, growing segment is the **intermediary or semi-formal system**, such as community seed banks and NGO-led seed multiplication programs. These hybrid models offer promising bridges between the commercial and community-based systems but face institutional and capacity constraints.



Table 1: Comparison of formal and informal seed systems in South Africa

Features	Formal	Informal
Accessibility	Limited for smallholders	High for rural communities
Adaptability	Climate-resilient but less locally adapted	Locally adapted diverse
Challenges	Prohibitive cost, IPR restriction, exclusion of smallholders	Lack of recognition, policy support, quality control
Cost	High	Low
Regulation	Strictly regulated by Plant Improvement Act and Breeders' rights	Unregulated and community driven
Seed type	Hybrid and GM seeds	Open pollinated, indigenous varieties
Seed source	Multinational corporations	Farmer-saved and community exchange
Stakeholders	Commercial farmers and seed companies	Smallholder farmers and community seed banks

Why harmonization matters

The fragmentation of these systems creates barriers to agricultural innovation and resilience. For smallholder farmers, the lack of integration means reduced access to high-quality, diverse, and affordable seeds. At the national level, it limits the potential of seed sector development as a driver of rural transformation and economic growth.

Harmonizing the seed system means creating enabling conditions for all three components to function in a complementary and coordinated way. This involves legal recognition of informal practices, improved support for local seed enterprises, and a more inclusive regulatory environment that ensures quality without excluding small actors.

Strategic priorities for reform

- **Policy integration and legal reform**
Existing seed laws in South Africa primarily focus on the formal sector. Harmonization requires legal recognition of farmer-managed seed systems and alignment of seed laws with the Plant Improvement Act and broader agricultural development strategies.
- **Support for local seed enterprises**
Community-based seed producers and small-scale multipliers need targeted support, including technical training, access to starter seed, and linkages with research institutions to ensure quality and adaptability of local varieties.

- **Participatory breeding and variety registration**

Farmers, especially women and Indigenous communities, should be engaged in participatory breeding to ensure that new varieties meet local needs. Simplifying variety registration protocols for non-commercial crops could also increase diversity in the seed market.

- **Seed security and climate resilience**

Harmonization can strengthen seed security by ensuring that both improved and traditional varieties are available in times of stress. Integrating climate-resilient traits into breeding programs and disseminating them through local systems is crucial for adaptation.

- **Inclusive seed governance**

Multi-stakeholder platforms involving farmers, researchers, seed companies, and government bodies are essential to build trust, exchange knowledge, and co-create a vision for a more equitable seed system. This will increase Legitimacy, relevance, and update.

Case for inclusive growth

Seed system harmonization will directly contribute to inclusive growth by unlocking productivity among smallholder farmers, reducing input costs, and increasing resilience to climate shocks. Moreover, it can promote agroecological transitions by supporting seed diversity and reducing reliance on imported, chemically intensive seed inputs.



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In the long term, a harmonized system can empower rural communities through job creation in seed production, especially for women and youth, and improve food sovereignty by reinforcing local control over agricultural inputs.

Varieties of seeds cultivated by farmers frequently perform better than commercial varieties because of local adaptation, with women playing a crucial role in seed selection, conservation, and quality control. These informal systems serve as foundational pillars of local economies and cultural heritage.

In regions such as Limpopo, participatory policy dialogues helped reinforce commitments to invest in local seed production and institutional reforms that better support smallholder inclusion and climate resilient seed varieties.

Conclusion

As South Africa strives to transform its food system and address structural inequalities, harmonizing the seed sector is a critical step. It is not only a technical or regulatory issue, but also a social justice and development imperative. Therefore, the integration of formal and informal seed systems through policy reform, investment in local seed enterprises, and supportive institutional frameworks is essential to empower farmers, especially women and smallholders. By embracing a pluralistic and inclusive approach to seed systems, South Africa can build a resilient agricultural foundation that supports productivity, innovation, and shared prosperity.

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BEK- EN KLOUSEER: WES-KAAP

Drie plase in die Wes-Kaap toets negatief

Agri Wes-Kaap (AWK) en die Rooivleis Produsente-organisasie, Wes-Kaap (RPOWK) verwelkom die bevestiging van die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Landbou dat drie plase binne die kwarantyngebied wat verdagte kliniese tekens getoon het, negatief getoets het vir Bek- en Klouseer. Hierdie belangrike uitslae volg na intensiewe veldwerk, monsterneming, koördinering en biosekerheid pogings in die gebied wat sedert 6 November 2025 onder verhoogde waaksaamheid geplaas is.

Hierdie negatiewe resultate bevestig dat die uitbreking steeds beperk bly tot die enkele geïndekseerde voerkraal in Gouda, en dat die gesamentlike ingryping om die siekte stuit wel werk.

Samewerking beperk verspreiding

Sedert die eerste positiewe geval bevestig is, was AWK en RPOWK in samewerking met die Departement Landbou se Veeartseny-

afdeling direk betrokke by die operasionele reaksie en implementering van 'n Beheerplan om die siekte te keer en verdere blootstelling te voorkom. Ons fokus was duidelik: Vroeë identifikasie, streng bewegingsbeheer en onmiddellike ondersteuning aan die Departement Landbou se Veeartseny-afdeling asook produsente op grondvlak.

Die werk het ingesluit:

- Koördinering van aksies tussen produsente, veeartse, SAPD, Provinsiale Verkeer en plaaslike owerhede.
- Onmiddellike identifisering en toetsing van plase in die kwarantyn-gebied.
- Ondersteuning aan monsterneming op geïdentifiseerde plase.
- Bevestiging van biosekerheidprotokolle by vervoermaatskappye, toegangsroetes en op produsente se plase.
- Stigting en aktiewe deelname van die JOC om daaglikse situasie-opdaterings, veldverslae en moniteringsdata te deel.



- Reaksie op verdagte gevalle, insluitend die drie plase waar letsels waargeneem is – almal het negatief getoets.
- Hulp aan kleinveeboere in die omgewing kan hul vee steeds onder toesig laat beweeg vir weiding, en waterpunte is beskikbaar gestel.

Hierdie samewerking met die SAPD, Provinsiale Verkeer en munisipale wetstoepassingsagentskappe word veevervoerders intensief gemonitor.

Kontrolepunte is op strategiese plekke opgerig en die publiek word deur middel van verskeie kanale oor die situasie ingelig. Vervoerders word daaraan herinner om alle vereiste dokumentasie byderhand te hê, insluitend:

- Eienaarsverklaring;
- Ontvangerverklaring vir vee; en
- Sertifikate ingevolge Afdeling 6 & 8 van die Veediefstalwet

Daar word 'n beroep gedoen op produsente om hul eie biosekuriteitsmaatreëls te hersien en te versterk, en om alle beweging van diere in of uit die kwarantyngebied aan te meld via die departement se vraelys - <https://tinyurl.com/AnimalMovementApp>

Drie plase binne die kwarantyngebied toets negatief – 'n kritiese mylpaal

Die drie plase binne die kwarantyngebied waar vee verdagte letsels gehad het, is deeglik getoets. Al drie het negatief teruggekom. Verder;

- Velddrift se toetse het negatief teruggekom,
- Bredasdorp se monsterneming is voltooi en resultate word afgewag, maar geen kliniese

tekens is aangeteken nie.

- Geen nuwe gevalle of letsels is sedert 14 November op die indeksplaas gevind wat onder kwarantyn is nie.

Bewegingbeheer en Wetstoepassing: Sterk & doeltreffend

Patrollies deur SAPD en Provinsiale verkeer het geen onwettige bewegings gevind nie. Alle beheer- en ontsmettingspunte word deeglik bestuur, met bevestiging dat voertuie gereeld en korrek skoongemaak word.

Volgende Stappe: Voorkoming en voorbereiding

AWK, die RPO, die Departement, Rooivleis Abattoirvereniging en rolspelers werk almal saam om:

- Finalisering van abattoir-registrasie vir beheerde slagting te bespoedig,
- Veevervoerders en abattoirs almal op hoogte te bring 'n gesamentlike vergadering op 18 November om is gefasiliteer vir hierdie doel.
- Produsente voortdurend in te lig oor biosekerheid, bewegingsbeheer en risiko-identifikasie.

AWK en RPOWK bly ten volle verbind tot die beskerming van die provinsie se rooivleisbedryf. Die negatiewe toetsuitslae, die afwesigheid van verdere verspreiding en die sterk gesamentlike reaksie is duidelike tekens dat ons gesamentlike pogings werk.

Die saamewerking met die Departement en alle rolspelers duur voort, totdat die situasie heeltemal onder beheer en afgehandel is.



Reflecting on a Landmark Gathering: The 2025 NSSA Symposium in Mpumalanga

In 2025, the Nematological Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) hosted a landmark four-day symposium in Mpumalanga, drawing together researchers, academics, and practitioners from across Southern Africa.

The NSSA is a professional non-profit organisation that brings together researchers, academics, and practitioners who study nematodes, microscopic roundworms that have both beneficial and harmful roles in agriculture, ecosystems, and human health.

The event celebrated the study of nematodes and provided a unique platform for sharing the latest research, innovations, and practical solutions in the field.

The symposium featured a rich programme of presentations, workshops, and panel discussions, covering topics such as

sustainable crop protection, soil health, pest management, and the ecological significance of nematodes.

Delegates also engaged in in-depth discussions on how nematology research can be applied to address pressing challenges in agriculture, food security, and environmental management.

Dr Daneel President of the NSSA and senior researcher at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), reflected on the significance of the gathering:

“This symposium has been an invaluable platform to showcase cutting-edge research, foster collaboration across disciplines, and celebrate the coming together of scientists under one roof. It allows us to share knowledge, spark new ideas, and strengthen





partnerships that will drive the field of nematology forward.”

Over the course of the week, delegates had opportunities to network, form collaborations, and exchange knowledge that will have long-lasting impacts on research and practice in the region.

The event also highlighted the importance of mentorship and capacity building, with early-career researchers gaining exposure to leading experts and the latest scientific methodologies.

The symposium concluded with a gala dinner, celebrating the achievements of researchers and the connections forged during the event.

While the event itself has passed, the outcomes continue to resonate within the scientific community, influencing projects and collaborations that extend well beyond the symposium.

For the Agricultural Research Council, participation in events like the NSSA Symposium is particularly significant.

As South Africa’s leading applied agricultural research institution, the ARC relies on

platforms like this to highlight 889UY”; its research strengths, foster collaborations, and contribute to solving critical challenges in agriculture.

By engaging with nematology experts, policymakers, and practitioners, the ARC ensures its research translates into practical solutions that support sustainable farming, crop protection, and food security.

Being part of the NSSA Symposium enables the ARC to not only present its latest research, but also to learn from other experts, exchange ideas, and explore collaborative opportunities that can lead to real-world solutions. Events like these reinforce our role as a leader in agricultural research and innovation.

The 2025 NSSA Symposium shows just how powerful collaboration in science can be, bringing together people from universities, research institutions, and industry leads to real progress in nematology and agriculture.

For the ARC, and the broader scientific community in Southern Africa, such gatherings are more than just events; they are catalysts for innovation, partnerships, and sustainable impact.

WWF Living Planet Award recipients for 2025

World-renowned actor and playwright, Dr John Kani, and the environmental organisation, the Overberg Renosterveld Trust, were named the winners of WWF's Living Planet Award 2025 at a ceremony in Sandton, Johannesburg, today.

Individual Winner

Dr John Kani received the Living Planet Award in the individual category for his work as the longest-serving trustee of the WWF Nedbank Green Trust, and for his donation of time and famous voice (whom many will remember as

the voice of Rafiki in the remake of the Lion King) in support of WWF's work.

This is the first time that Dr Kani's contribution to the environmental cause has been acknowledged. Over the course of a long and prestigious career, Dr Kani has received many awards, more recently an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2023 for his services to drama and theatre.

Alongside his service with the WWF Nedbank Green Trust, he generously contributed audio and visual material to several WWF cam-



paigns. These include Earth Hour, a global movement that connects people with nature, a WWF “Nature Matters” campaign, as well as the narration for a documentary titled Wild Zambezi, spotlighting the environmental risks facing the Lower Zambezi River.

The pioneering partnership between Nedbank and WWF South Africa began in 1990 when very few companies were talking “green” or sustainability. At that time, Nedbank recognised the centrality of the natural environment; that it underpins all human needs from food to energy, water, and livelihoods.

Over its 35 years of existence, the WWF Nedbank Green Trust has disbursed more than R300 million to some 200 community-based conservation projects. Dr Kani served as a trustee for 32 of those 35 years, stepping down from this role in 2022.

WWF CEO Dr Morné du Plessis commented: “Through the Living Planet Award, we recognise exceptional individuals and organisations in South Africa who make significant contributions to environmental conservation and inspire people to live in harmony with nature. During Dr Kani’s decades of service, the WWF Nedbank Green Trust funded catalytic projects that have brought real change to the lives of South Africans and to the natural environment on which we all depend. With this award we say, ‘thank you, Tata John Kani, for your service’.”

Organisational Winner

The winner of the Living Planet Award in the organisational category is the Overberg Renosterveld Trust (ORT), which has worked tirelessly to secure the last remnants of one of the world’s most threatened veld types in the neglected lowland habitats of the Overberg in the Western Cape.

It is here that intensive farming has seen 95% of the original veld converted to croplands. In spite of this wholesale loss of what was once a unique jewel in South Africa’s biodiversity crown, the remaining 5% of renosterveld (most of which is in private hands) supports a large range of endemic and threatened animals and plants, in particular bulb species, making it one of the most threatened habitats on Earth.

With support from among others the WWF Nedbank Green Trust and WWF South Africa, the ORT has been working in partnership with landowners and farmers to promote the conservation and restoration of Overberg renosterveld.

This approach includes helping landowners to manage grazing and fire regimes, the eradication of invasive alien plants, the restoration of degraded watercourses and establishing corridors to connect remnants of vegetation to facilitate the movement of wildlife and ecological integrity. The ORT also pioneered the use of ‘easements’ – a mechanism that enables landowners to protect renosterveld in perpetuity by registering a conservation servitude in favour of the ORT on their title deeds.

The driving force behind the ORT is Dr Odette Curtis-Scott, a tireless champion of the renosterveld cause including the many birds, plants, pollinators, and mammals it supports. In the course of her work, she has discovered several plant species new to science, two of which are named after her (*Otholobium curtisiae* and *Polhillia curtisiae*).

Other milestones include partnering with organisations such as WWF South Africa, World Land Trust, WildLandscapes International, IUCN NL and Mapula Trust to secure critical land for conservation.

The first major acquisition was the Haarwegskloof Renosterveld Reserve in 2012. More recently, the Plaatjieskraal and Goereesoe renosterveld landscapes were added. Together, these acquisitions mean that the ORT now owns / co-owns and manages the largest remaining stretch of renosterveld on Earth. Earlier this year, Haarwegskloof was also officially declared a provincial nature reserve.

Dr Du Plessis commented: “Under the leadership of Odette Curtis-Scott, the Overberg Renosterveld Trust is a shining example of what can be achieved when conservationists work in partnership with landowners with a common objective in mind. Through the ORT’s tireless efforts, creativity and collaboration, ORT has raised awareness and saved remnants of a community of plants and animals that would otherwise be lost to the world.”

Cajun Fish Burgers with Coleslaw

Ina Paarman

A real treat! The coleslaw with the cajun mayo makes the magic. You can use chicken breasts instead of fish.

Makes 4 burgers

You Will Need:

Coleslaw

- 100 g Hellman's mayonnaise
- 1 x sachet Ina Paarman's Spicy Cajun Flavour Bomb
- ½ cup (125 ml) carrot, grated
- 1 cup (250 ml) red cabbage, finely shredded
- 2 T (30 ml) coriander or parsley, chopped
- 2 T (30 ml) spring onions, finely sliced

Fish Fillets

- 4 x fish fillets
- ¼ cup (60 ml) cake flour
- 2 t (10 ml) Ina Paarman's Cajun Spice
- 3 x sachets Ina Paarman's Spicy Cajun Flavour Bomb
- 3 T (45 ml) oil
- 4 x sesame burger buns
- oil for frying
- 2 tomatoes, sliced

Method:

Coleslaw

Mix the mayo and Spicy Cajun Flavour Bomb together.

Combine all the coleslaw vegetables with the prepared mayo.

Refrigerate.

Fish Fillets

Dip and shake the fish fillets in a mixture of flour and Cajun Spice.

Fry the fish fillets in the oil until nearly done.

Coat the fillets all round with the Flavour Bomb and 1 T (15 ml) oil mixture.

Complete cooking.

Toast the buns.

Assemble as follows: bottom of bun, coleslaw, fish with remaining pan sauce, and tomato slice.

Top with sesame half of bun.



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Boerewors Sausage Rolls

Ina Paarman

Need a ready-made snack for grumpy kids, or the men popping in for a beer? Have these rolls in the freezer, bake from frozen, and then cut to the size you need.

Serves: 4-6

You Will Need:

Cheese Pastry

2 cups (240 g) flour

1 t (5 ml) Ina Paarman's Meat Spice or Chilli & Garlic Seasoning

½ cup (125 g) cold butter, cut into cubes

1 cup (250 ml) finely grated Cheddar Cheese

1 egg yolk (reserve white)

4 T (60 ml) ice water

Boerewors

1 x sachet Ina Paarman's Spanish Tomato Flavour Bomb

1 T (15 ml) olive oil

500 g thick boerewors

Ina's Tip

No need to re-roll the pastry off-cuts. Simply cut it into funky bits. Bake at 180 °C and serve as nibbles. This cheese pastry is truly delicious. Use it for savoury biscuits or cheese straws. No need to waste any of it.



Method:

Pastry

Place all the ingredients in a food processor, except for the egg yolk and water.

Buzz until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Add the egg yolk and water, and process until the pastry starts coming together.

Turn out onto a floured surface and work lightly by hand until it forms a ball.

Flatten the ball into a disk and wrap it in cling film. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Filling

Mix the Spanish Tomato Flavour Bomb with oil and keep on one side.

Remove the skin of the boerewors and cut into 2 equal lengths.

Roll out half the pastry to ± 2 mm thickness.

Place a length of sausage on the pastry, off centre to allow for fold-over.

Brush the sausage with the Flavour Bomb mixture.

Brush the egg whites all around the outer edges of pastry.

Fold over and finish as demonstrated.

Repeat with the remaining sausage and pastry.

Brush the tops with egg white. Bake straight away and cut into 5 cm lengths when room temperature or freeze.

Bake straight from the freezer at 180 °C for $\pm 30 - 35$ minutes, cut to size when cooled to room temperature and serve.



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