

PRESS RELEASE ON THE 24th SANSOR ANNUAL CONGRESS

held on 8 and 9 May 2013 at the Hilton Durban,
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

The South African National Seed Organization held its 24th Annual Congress at the Hilton Durban in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa on 8 and 9 May 2013.

Highlights included the following:

Pre-Congress Outreach Program on 7 May 2013 at the Inthenjane Primary School

The School is situated in the Umgababa rural area, one hour from Durban.



The **Inthenjane Primary School** has 360 learners of which most are orphaned due to HIV. As a result, they are being raised by their grandparents. The school provides one meal to each child per day, which is the only meals they receive as the community is very poor.

SANSOR supplied the school with a JoJo water tank; fencing material for a vegetable garden; a fridge; sweets- and hygiene packs for the children; stationery packs for the teachers and bags and blankets for the volunteers.



The children entertained us with several dances and traditional songs. Ms Soko, the Head Mistress had supplied us with much needed information to be of assistance to the school. Our efforts were much appreciated by all the learners and teachers.



SANSOR 24th Annual Congress

The theme of this year's Congress was **The Global Food Challenge**.

Guest speakers included:

- **Professor David Block – Keynote Speaker**

Director of the Cosmic Dust Laboratory at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, where he is professor in the School of Computational and Applied Mathematics.

He holds a Master of Science degree in relativistic astrophysics and a PhD, specializing in the morphology of spiral galaxies.



Professor Block gave an inspiring presentation on the **Power of Visionary Thinking**.

- **Professor André Jooste**

Chief Executive Officer of Potatoes South Africa.

He holds an MSc (Agric)(Cum Laude) in Agricultural Economics.

Professor Jooste gave an excellent presentation on the challenge of food security in South Africa, supplying statistics of the food security situation in South Africa.

- **Mr Mike Allsopp**

Senior Researcher at the Plant Protection Research Institute (part of the Agricultural Research Council) in Stellenbosch, head of the Honeybee Research Section, where he has been for the past 22 years.

He holds an MSc (University of Pretoria, with distinction). PhD to be submitted in 2013 at University of the Witwatersrand.

Mr Allsopp gave a very interesting presentation on the subject - **A healthy honeybee population is critical to the South African seed industry**.

- **Ms Sigrun Ammann**

Professional Scientist in Grassland Science (Pastures) at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development at Cedara.

She holds a BSc Agric Grassland Science and MSc Agric Crop Science on Responses of Eragrostis tef to spatial, temporal and nutritional management.

Ms Ammann presented on the subject - **The Global Food Challenge with special reference to the seed industry**.

- **Mr Garlich von Essen**
Secretary-General of the European Seed Association.

He holds a University degree in Agricultural Economics and a Master in EU political studies, College of Europe.

Mr von Essen gave a presentation on - Revision of the EU regulatory framework for plant reproductive material and implementation of the European Seed Treatment Assurance – seed industry challenges and ESA approach.

Election of Office Bearers

During the Congress the Annual General Meetings of the Agronomy, Horticulture and Forage Divisions were held, as well as the election of a new Board from these divisions.

The new SANSOR Board of Directors (non-executive) for the 2013/14 financial year is:

- Mr Brian Lever (Advance Seed) – Chairman
- Mr Gert Heyns (Monsanto SA) - Vice-Chairman
- Ms Susan Allen (Sakata SA) - Director
- Mr Jan Coetzer (Pannar Seed) - Director
- Mr David Durandt (Seedcor) - Director
- Mr John Odendaal (Pannar Seed) – Director

SANSOR Management Committee – 2013/14



From left to right:

- 1st Row** Lukeshni Chetty (General Manager), Susan Allen (Director)
2nd Row Jan Coetzer (Director), Gert Heyns (Vice-Chairman),
 Brian Lever (Chairman), David Durandt (Director),
 John Odendaal (Director)

End of press release.