





be applied to alleviate the sub-optimal condition. Some additional concerns noted when undertaking this survey included the following:

- It has been found that sometimes growers will submit non-sugarcane crop samples as sugarcane, which are then reflected in these results. These can potentially lead to biases, depending on the crops, where, for instance, lower acid saturation targets or much higher P applications are required than are used in sugarcane. Such samples are not always easy to identify when screening such survey data.
- It is also apparent that many growers either do not, or very infrequently, take their samples to the FAS laboratories, or they use agricultural laboratories other than those of the FAS. The extent and nature of this type of data are unknown and not accessible for use in this type of survey-review, thus their impact is unknown.
- It is also assumed that sampling procedures are adhered to when the samples are collected by the growers (or their agricultural advisors), although poor data has periodically been linked to poor sampling.

References

- Elephant DE, Titshall LW and Mthimkhulu S (2019). Sulphur status of soils from southern African sugarcane-producing regions. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 92: 69-72
- Meyer JH, Harding R, Rampersad AL and Wood RA (1998). Monitoring long-term soil fertility trends in the South African sugar industry using the FAS analytical database. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 73: 61-72.
- Meyer JH, Wood RA and du Preez P (1971). A nutrient survey of sugarcane in the South African industry with special reference to trace elements. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 45: 196-204.
- Meyer JH, Wood RA and Harding RL (1989). Fertility trends in the South African sugar industry. *Proc. S. Afr. Sugar. Technol. Ass.* 63: 159-163.
- Meyer JH, Wood RA, Nixon DJ, Rampersad AL, Schroeder BL and Schumann AW (2004). The SASEX Fertiliser Advisory Service: a review of 50 years of service to the South African sugar industry. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 78: 359-372.
- Meyer, JH (1985). Sulphur availability in soils of the South African sugar industry. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 59: 190-194.
- Mthimkhulu SS and Miles N (2017). The fertility status of soils of the South African sugar industry – 2012 to 2016: An overview. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 90: 92-103.
- Poswa LZ, Titshall LW and Elephant D (2019). The acid saturation status of soils in rainfed regions of the south African sugar industry with consideration of sampling intensity. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 92: 60-63.
- Titshall LW, Miles N and Mthimkhulu SS (2018). Copper, iron, manganese and zinc in soil and leaf samples from southern and eastern African sugarcane-producing regions. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 91: 139-154.
- Van der Laan, M and Miles, N (2010). Nutrition of the South African sugar crop: Current status and long-term trends. *Proc. S. Afr. Sug. Technol. Ass.* 83: 195-204.