



# SASTA NEWS

Newsletter of the SA Sugar Technologists' Association

APRIL 2012

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## SASTA Congress

15 -17 August 2012

ICC Durban, South Africa

### The Highlight of the SASTA Calendar

The annual SASTA Congress is the highlight of the SASTA calendar and is acknowledged as one of the premier Sugar Technologists' events worldwide. SASTA Congress regularly attracts over 500 delegates from South Africa, its neighbouring countries and beyond. The Congress meets several of the Associations objectives (as described in the SASTA Constitution) and serves its members through:

- promoting the **interchange of scientific knowledge** of, and the discussion and investigation of **technical problems** related to, the **production and processing of sugarcane products**;
- **encouraging and assisting** in the improvement of the **technical knowledge of persons** engaged in the South African Sugar Industry;
- **encouraging research** into all aspects of **sugarcane agriculture** and **sugar milling** practice and in such ancillary fields as the SASTA Council may consider fit.

### A Full and Exciting Technical Programme

The 2012 Congress is set for a full technical programme, both in the Agriculture and Factory sessions. Over 80 Abstracts have been received with approximately equal numbers of

both Agriculture and Factory session submissions. There is a substantial increase in Factory submissions compared with previous years which is very encouraging. The Congress Organising committee is working hard to ensure that technical papers received are of a high standard and that the 2012 Programme is exciting and of interest to all delegates.

### Trade Exhibition

The Trade Exhibition continues to be an integral part of Congress with 55 stands available for purchase this year. These are already selling fast so book your stand before it's too late! There are also numerous sponsorship opportunities available, details of which are available from Ms Jacki De Beer ([jacki@confco.co.za](mailto:jacki@confco.co.za)), Tel: +27 (0)31 3039852.

### Registration and Delegate Fees

Registration for Congress is now open. Please go to the SASTA website to register on-line ([www.sasta.co.za](http://www.sasta.co.za)) or contact Ms Sizile Dimba ([sizile@confco.co.za](mailto:sizile@confco.co.za)), Tel: +27 (0)31 3039852.

### Important Contact Details

Exhibition and Sponsorship: Jacki De Beer ([jacki@confco.co.za](mailto:jacki@confco.co.za)), Tel: +27 (0)31 3039852.

General Congress related queries: Deidre Hancke-Haysom ([deidre@confco.co.za](mailto:deidre@confco.co.za)), Tel: +27 (0)31 3039852.

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Proceedings, Papers, any other SASTA-related queries: Danile Macdonald ([sasta@sugar.org.za](mailto:sasta@sugar.org.za)), Tel: +27 (0)31 5087543.

### SASTA Roadshow 2012 to Mpumalanga cancelled

Unfortunately SASTA had to cancel the SASTA Roadshow due to be held on the 23rd Feb 2012 in Mpumalanga due to a very poor response from the region. However, as has been the practice over the last few years, the next SASTA Roadshow will be held at a different location in the industry after the 2012 SASTA Congress. The proposed venue and date will be communicated to everyone after Congress 2012. We would like to encourage our members, especially those who are unable to attend SASTA Congress in August 2012 due to financial constraints or for operational reasons to take advantage of this amazing offer. SASTA selects specific papers and presentations from the Congress that are directly relevant to stakeholders within the particular region where the Roadshow is going to be held.

	Early Bird Registration (and payment): 27 March 2012 – 18 May 2012	Standard Registration (and payment): 19 May 2012 – 31 July 2012	Late/ on-site registration (and payment): 1 August 2012 – 17 August 2012	Day Registrations
SASTA Members	R 1725.00	R 2125.00	R 2540.00	R 1430.00
Non-members	R 2085.00	R 2525.00	R 2940.00	R 1830.00



## Distinguished Soil Scientist to visit the South African Sugar Industry

In August Malcolm E. Sumner, Regents' Professor of Environmental Soil Science Emeritus, University of Georgia in the USA, will visit the South African sugar industry through an international visitor's grant made available by SASTA. Professor Sumner has 55 years' experience in soil science and has worked in many countries, including South Africa, United Kingdom, Swaziland, central America, Brazil, Peru, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, the USA, Australia and Greece. He has written more than 250 peer reviewed articles and has been involved in the publication of eight books, the latest of which, the second edition of the Handbook of Soil Sciences (2 Volumes), was published in November 2011. His visit will coincide with the annual SASTA congress where he will present a review paper dealing the management of subsoil acidity in Brazil. Over the years, Professor Sumner has contributed to numerous SASRI research initiatives, and he is currently involved in research aimed at identifying more suitable phosphorus soil testing procedures for the southern African sugar industry. During his visit, Professor Sumner will work closely with SASRI scientists on issues pertaining to soil



**Professor Sumner (second from left) studying soil and root properties in coffee plantations in Latin America.**

fertility management and soil health. He will also give a talk at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg on his experiences in optimizing yields in Latin America

The SASTA international visitors grant was made possible out of the revenue generated from the 2007 ISSCT congress that was hosted in Durban. A call for the grant is open at all times and SASTA members who are interested to host international guests are welcome to contact the SASTA secretary for more details.

## Innovation Awards 2012

### Call for nominations

Nominations are invited from SASTA members for candidates to be considered for the 2012 Innovation Awards, in either the Factory or the Agricultural sectors. Please send your nomination with a detailed motivation to [sasta@sugar.org.za](mailto:sasta@sugar.org.za). Closing date for 2012 nominations: 30 June 2012

### The criteria

The criteria which are considered by Council are: The design, development and implementation of an idea, machine, process or technique which has shown definite value in improving technology, cost-effectiveness or sustainability or safety of factory and agricultural operations. Corporate innovations will not be considered.



### The award

The award consists of a trophy (mounted steel sugar cube for Factory and mounted steel plough for Agriculture) and a SASTA certificate.



## New SASTA members

(since November 2011)

Botha, Ryan Daniel (Bosch Projects)  
 Breetzke, Craig Donovan (Canegrowers)  
 Eksteen, Alana (SASRI)  
 Gibbs, Kelvin (Illovo – Noodsberg)  
 Govender, Shain (Illovo - Eston)  
 Howes, Richard Eric (Canegrowers)  
 Lichakane, Moipei (SASRI)  
 Makhoba, Amos Msizi (Illovo – Noodsberg)  
 Ndinisa, Vincent Nkosinathi (THS – TEG)  
 Ndlovu, Ngcebo Welcome (Rheochem)  
 Nene, Sinqobile Wiseman (Illovo)  
 Nyalungu, Musa Lucky (Canegrowers)  
 Parak, Mohammed (THS – TEG)  
 Phakathi, Nkosinathi (Canegrowers)  
 Ramkissor, Manoj (THS – TEG)  
 Reid, Duncan John (THS – TEG)  
 Searle, Alexander (SASRI Extension)  
 Sikhakhane, Xolani Paul (THS – TEG)  
 Solomons, Don Cyril (THS – Maidstone)  
 ZEST WEG Group

