



Just a Spoonful

Congratulations SASRI Staff excel at SASTA Congress

AT THE RECENT SASTA CONGRESS HELD IN AUGUST 2011, RECOGNITION AND AWARDS WERE GIVEN TO SASRI RESEARCHERS AND EXTENSION SPECIALISTS FOR THEIR PAPERS AND POSTERS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S CONGRESS. THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE PRESENTED:

Robin Renton Memorial Award



Ashiel Jumman seen receiving his award from Dr Peter Rein, a representative from PGBI.

Ashiel Jumman, Agricultural Engineer at SASRI was judged the overall winner of the Robin Renton Award. The prestigious award, donated by PGBI Engineers and Constructors International, is given annually to the best young engineer who shows leadership and management potential, and who has authored an exceptional SASTA technical paper. Ashiel has been working on how best to address the challenges of maintaining crop productivity by appropriate irrigation in the face of increasing

electricity tariffs and potential water shortages, both of which impact on grower profitability. His paper was entitled "Deficit irrigation: A strategy to counteract escalating electricity tariffs and water shortages". The paper was co-authored by Neil Lecler.



Kynoch Prize (First Prize)



Sanesh Ramburan (Varieties Agronomist), Dirk McElligott and Otto de Haas (Extension Specialists) were awarded the Kynoch Prize for



Above: Sanesh Ramburan seen receiving his prize from Dr Deborah Sweby, Congress Organising Chairperson from SASTA. Insets from top: Dirk McElligott and Otto de Haas.

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their paper “Integrating agronomic and economic principles through applications of variety trial data: the Illovo case study”. This case study evaluated the variety disposition of four miller-cum-planter estates belonging to Illovo Sugar Limited, and explored the economic implications of switching between existing and recommended varieties.



Neil Miles seen at the SASTA Congress.

Kynoch Prize (Highly Commended)

Highly commended in this category was Neil Miles (Senior Soil Scientist) for his paper “Challenges and opportunities in leaf nutrient data interpretation”. This paper drew attention to the impacts of variety, crop age and moisture stress on leaf nutrient concentrations, and the potential for incorrect interpretations where these factors are not taken into account.

Poster Award (First Prize)

The award for the best poster in the agricultural section went to Ashiel Jumman and Neil Lecler for their poster “Electricity tariff increases: the impact on irrigators”. The judges had this to say about his poster: “The poster represented a carefully planned and visually effective effort to deal with a very topical issue facing the irrigated regions”. 🌱

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