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KynoPlus™:

- Is powered by **AGROTAIN®**, a volatilization inhibitor which enhances nitrogen efficiency, therefore, increasing the available nitrogen in the soil.
- Allows for flexibility in application.
- Full range of **KynoPlus™** based sugar blends available.

The power of **blue** will put **green** back into your crops.



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Highlights of the 2014 SASTA Congress Programme



The SASTA Council is honoured to present the 87th Annual Congress, which for the first time will be held at the Royal Agricultural Showgrounds, Pietermaritzburg. We are all excited to bring the Congress to a venue that is much more suited to an agricultural and factory event. SASTA Congress is widely regarded as the premier Sugar Technologists' Congress worldwide. This is due to the consistently high standard of research and technical papers presented as well as the valuable networking opportunities that delegates enjoy. This year's programme has 40 Agriculture and 19 Factory papers and with about 500 delegates attending Congress. This will certainly provide an excellent forum for a productive and lively event that will add value, and is of benefit, to the sugar industry.



CONGRESS OPENS WITH TWO GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

The official Congress programme commences at 9h15 on Wednesday 20 August with the keynote address by Ms Unati Speirs, Chief Director of the Agro-Processing Business Unit at the Department of Trade and Industry. Ms Speirs has requested the opportunity to address the Sugar industry on recent developments in the Agro-Processing Business Unit as well as to provide commentary on the Government thinking around the current sugar import tariff rate. Her presentation "The South African Development of Traditional Industries for Economic Growth and Competitiveness" will be of keen interest to Congress delegates. The keynote address will be followed by a special presentation by the SASA Executive Director, Mr Trix Trikam. Mr Trikam will discuss the strategy for a sustainable future in the SA Sugar Industry.

The annual reviews of the 2013/2014 season from both a factory and agricultural perspective will follow the Guest speaker presentations. Two Plenary sessions containing research papers of interest to all delegates make up the rest of programme on the first day of Congress. Of particular interest in these plenary sessions on Day 1 are presentations on the first record of the sugarcane yellow aphid in the South African sugarcane industry; how research can deliver value to the SA sugarcane processing industry and an invited

talk on the future of genetically modified sugarcane in South Africa.

A formal Poster session takes place during the Cocktail Meet and Greet session on the first Day of Congress. Presenters of the Posters will be available for discussion at this time. Delegates are invited to view the posters on display in the Exhibition Hall (booths 5 and 6). We hope that you will enjoy a glass of wine and peruse the posters on display. The liquid refreshment on offer should serve as an excellent stimulant for discussion and debate.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FACTORY SESSION PAPERS

The factory section of SASTA starts on Tuesday morning with a session on extraction, which is one of the key performance areas in a sugar factory. The session begins with papers focusing on bagasse diffusion and on cost reduction through the direct production of clear juice in a cane diffuser. This is followed by factory experiences with improved extraction at the Felixton mill and a paper on an alternative approach to mill setting.

The second and third factory sessions contain four papers on boiler design. This is a topic that will be of particular interest to many engineers in the industry, given the increasing focus on the efficient use of fuel and energy and the move towards large scale

electricity generation in our factories. The use of advanced computational fluid dynamics techniques for boiler design is a key topic in two of these papers.

After lunch on the second day, the optimisation of the juice heating station at Noodsberg is discussed, along with the operational challenges that this presented. The focus then moves to biological issues, with a paper on the rehabilitation of the effluent plant at Pongola. This is a critical, but often neglected, area of factory operations that will only become more important over time as the sustainability of the industry receives more attention. The final paper of the day introduces microbial diversity profiling, which is a key step in the ongoing attack on gum-producing microbes that can cause serious processing problems in the back ends of factories from time to time.

On the final day of the factory section there is a mix of commercial presentations and factory operations papers. The successful design, installation and operation of partial flash tanks at Hippo Valley will be presented, highlighting the substantial benefits that were achieved by the introduction of this new technology into the evaporator station. Also in the spotlight will be the effect of fine liquor colour on the energy cost, capacity and sugar losses of a sugar refinery.

As usual, the proceedings of SASTA close with a series of commercial presentations. These provide a useful

opportunity to hear about the latest developments from our suppliers and to learn about the early findings in developing technologies. This year, the focus is on centrifugals and the cleaning of evaporator tubes using chelating agents.

This year's factory sessions promise to be interesting and informative, and will naturally lead on to the proceedings of the two parallel ISSCT workshops (in the areas of Processing and Engineering) to be held in Hluhluwe in the week following the 2014 SASTA Congress.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AGRICULTURE SESSION PAPERS

This year sees a very full Agriculture programme with a diverse range of papers being presented. For the first year due to this very full programme we will be running parallel sessions. The programme starts at 9h00 on Thursday 21st August with a Workshop on Modelling Climate Change Impacts. The 2014 SASTA Congress has attracted a number of International presenters for this workshop which will span over the first two agricultural sessions and end in a panel discussion. Peter Thorburn and Abraham Singels will be chairing Sessions A1 and A2 respectively and moderating the panel discussion. Dr Peter Thorburn, a soil scientist and crop modeller, is the Research Group Leader for the Northern Farming Systems division of CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences in Australia.

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Dr Thorburn is a member of the AgMIP crop modelling leadership team and has extensive experience in the development of APSIM models for modelling nutrient dynamics in sugarcane. Other presenters at this Modelling Workshop include Dr Kelly Morgan a sugarcane agronomist at the University of Florida; and Richard Kunz a hydrological and crop model specialist from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The remaining sessions on Day 2 will include presentations under the banners of Monitoring Pest Control; Soil and Water and Agricultural Engineering. The first of the parallel sessions will have Delegates choosing between session two of the Modelling Climate Change Impacts Workshop and Monitoring Pest Control. Of note in the session on Monitoring Pest Control is a presentation on the assessment of new insecticides for the control of Eldana. After lunch Delegates will have to decide on presentations from Soils and Water and Agricultural Engineering. Presentations to watch out for will be the impact of CMS on soil acidity and aluminium toxicity in the sugarcane industry and an interesting development of an energy calculator for the production of sugarcane.

Day 3 of Congress, Friday 22nd August, will see the Agricultural enthusiasts playing musical chairs between the two parallel morning sessions; Extension and Agronomy. Papers that are sure to peak your interest will be presentations on the use of a gross revenue

database to guide recommendations and Grower profitability and an investigation in to the high sucrose yield at Nakambala. The last session of Congress will see the presentation of four exciting papers on performance, genetic gains and environmental influence of Varieties in the SA and Mauritian industries.

TRADE EXHIBITION AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Many SASTA delegates are probably unaware that the first Sugar Trade Exhibition took place in 1923! At that time, the Sugar Congress formed part of what was known as "Sugar Week" which comprised of AGMs of the various miller and planter associations, as well as a large Trade exhibition. To quote the words of Mr David Fowler, President of the Sugar Association as he opened the first Sugar Congress in Durban in 1923, "Altogether there were over eighty exhibitors, and at intervals special exhibits were made of a petrol-driven locomotive and a demonstration of fire extinguishing by means of a chemical outfit. Tractors and steam wagons were present, and a large variety of agricultural implements suitable for the needs of planters. Messrs. Jackson Bros. arranged a very fine musical programme for Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and at various periods during the exhibition gave selections on their fine gramophones. They also gave gramophone recitals on the Friday afternoon".

Well, the gramophones have been replaced by electronic 'boom boxes' and there are no longer steam

wagons on display, but the Trade Exhibition remains a very popular feature of the SASTA Congress. This is a valuable opportunity for suppliers to showcase the latest technological developments to delegates attending Congress. The Exhibition is consistently well supported by the Industry and refreshments, lunches and social events are held in the Exhibition Hall, enabling maximum interaction between delegates and exhibitors during the three days of Congress. As in previous years the Trade Exhibition also hosts an 'open afternoon' on Thursday 21 August from 15h30 –18h00. Exhibitors have the opportunity to invite clients to network and discuss business at their stands during this time.

The authors' dinner on Thursday evening is a fitting commendation to all the contributors to SASTA Congress 2014; it is thanks to their dedication, expertise and willingness to share their knowledge and experience with the sugar industry which ensures the success of the SASTA Congress.



Dr Deborah Sweby
Molecular Biologist
South African Sugarcane
Research Institute
South African Sugar Association



SALES MANAGER | SUGAR DIVISION

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