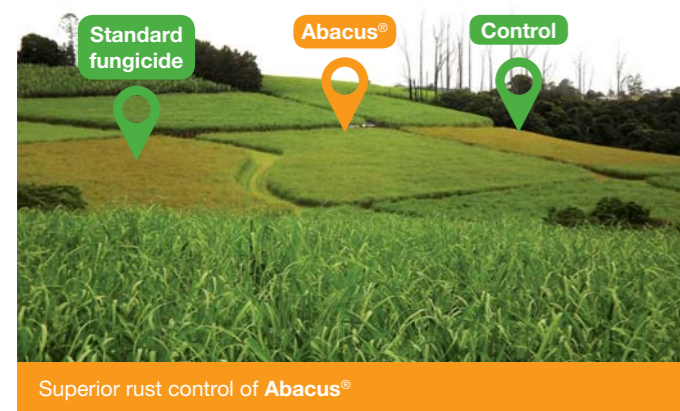


Abacus[®], the AgCelence[®] solution for Sugarcane.

Innovation, the heart of **BASF**, provides benefits to farmers beyond crop protection. Our scientists are continuously developing new technologies that further enhance the effectiveness of our crop protection solutions to improve management of your farm.

We understand farmers as our partners, hence providing them with reliable and sustainable solutions in order to meet their expectations and needs. Recently, our goal of excellence was yet again achieved during the current growing season, when our **AgCelence**[®] product, **Abacus**[®], produced results as proven many times before. Pat Kennedy, a renowned farmer in Eshowe had applied **Abacus**[®] for the first time on his sugarcane crop (cultivar: N42, 4th ratoon). He has thus far used a commercial standard and compared his fields sprayed with **Abacus**[®] to this standard by applying adjacent plots of either product. He had only applied one application of each of the products, when distinct differences between the plots sprayed with the commercial standard and **Abacus**[®] were observed.

"Seeing is believing!" He called upon our local regional sales manager, Patrique Le-Vieux, to witness these impressive results. Patrique accentuates **BASF**'s 'farmer-focus' strategy with 'on-farm' support to take the photograph (below) of the actual fields that clearly exhibit the excellent and superior rust control of **Abacus**[®]. **Abacus**[®] is currently the only product registered against both brown rust and tawny rust in sugarcane.



Even beyond this key attribute, **Abacus**[®] further proved to increase the cane height and physiological characteristics substantially (below). This effect we are proud to call **AgCelence**[®]. **Abacus**[®] is an **AgCelence**[®] solution, which enables your sugarcane crop to thrive through excellent rust control, increased stress tolerance and higher yields. All of these benefits ultimately leading to the best return on your investment.



Abacus[®] is the proven, industry-leading combination of **F500**[®] providing the **AgCelence**[®] effect and epoxiconazole, the most efficient triazole. Furthermore, the superior formulation technology of **Abacus**[®] enables the solution to reach the highest performance and consistency in the field. This feature enables the product to be evenly distributed, improves rainfastness on plant surfaces and facilitates quick adsorption on the plant.

In addition, a key component of the **BASF** offer is the 'on-farm' support and expertise of our regional sales managers. **BASF**'s team is readily available to support farmers in every region with advice and the right recommendation based on your needs and expectations. Our team is highly professional and experienced in crop protection solutions and farm management.

Delay no further, contact the sales manager in your region to receive the full benefit of **Abacus**[®] and other **BASF** crop protection solutions for your sugarcane crop.

Pat Kennedy, has reaped the rewards of Abacus[®] ... Have you?

BASF
We create chemistry

For more details: www.agro.basf.co.za

Abacus[®] Reg. No. L8048 Act No. 36 of 1947.
Active ingredients: **F500**[®] 62.5g/l, Epoxiconazole 62.5g/l. Caution. **F500**[®] – Pyraclostrobin.
Please refer to the product label for complete directions for use.
Abacus[®], **AgCelence**[®] and **F500**[®] are registered trademarks of **BASF**.

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Growing Growers

Grower days are events co-ordinated by both SASRI Extension and SASRI specialists. The aim is to communicate the outcomes of research projects, promote SASRI services or tackle widespread issues in each extension area. These are usually themed events which are tailored to the specific needs of the area. In this way, growers are able to assimilate the information and apply it according to their requirements.

To start off 2015, a grower day was organised for the Umzimkulu region at the Paddock Farmer's Club in late January. The theme of the day was "Practical Tools for Better Management and Ripening" which focused on management and timing of ripening in Umzimkulu, as well as adhering to legislation and best management practice via the implementation of **SUSFARMS**[®]. The SASRI specialists presenting were Michelle Binedell, SASRI Knowledge Manager, and Riekert van Heerden, SASRI Sugarcane Physiologist.

THE **SUSFARMS**[®] MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Growers were encouraged to adopt **SUSFARMS**[®] and to become familiar with the Progress Tracker – an excel spreadsheet that has been designed to assist growers in monitoring progress towards the adoption of legislative requirements and best practice. As part of a continual improvement process, **SUSFARMS**[®] assists growers in improving performance environmentally, socially and economically – a true sustainability tool.

SUSFARMS[®] has been developed for South African sugarcane growers, by the growers themselves through a partnership with a number of other stakeholders such as environmental bodies, technology providers and sugar customers. The system is a collation of best management practices that are either legal requirements set in South African law or sustainable practices that have been shown to improve yields. It also assists the grower to become more socially responsible and to ensure protection of natural resources.

RIPENERS

A presentation on ripening focused on ripening in rainfed areas. The available ripeners as well as the timing and application rates were discussed. The differences in the mode of action and effects of the two registered chemical classes of ripeners were also covered, and growers were shown the outcomes of a 2014 trial using two ripener treatments on variety N39. In addition, tools for decision making on ripeners were shown along with a well-received practical demonstration on how to use a refractometer as a harvesting and ripening management tool.

Approximately 60 attendees were catered for at the event and the presentations were received with great interest resulting in many hailing the day a success.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:
Brendon Small, the newest member of SASRI's Extension team, introducing the programme for the day.
Brendon Small chats to attendees at the grower day.
Riekert van Heerden demonstrating the benefits of correctly ripening cane on the South Coast.



Brendon Small
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(Lower South Coast)
South African
Sugarcane
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