

# SASRI wins at the 2018 SASTA Congress



In October this year, the South African Sugarcane Technologists Association (SASTA) held their general meeting (AGM) at the Kingfisher Lodge in Mt Edgecombe. Included in the programme was the awards ceremony for outstanding research presented at the SASTA Conference. Many of the awardees in the Agricultural section of the conference were SASRI researchers who presented their exceptional research on sugarcane-related projects. Here are the SASRI awardees for the 91st SASTA Congress:

**SASTA STUDENT PRIZE:  
AGRICULTURE:  
Ntombokulunga Mbuma**

Miss Ntombi Mbuma won the SASTA Student award for her paper "Evaluating breeding values of genotypes in sugarcane breeding using Best Linear Unbiased Prediction (BLUP)". This prize is for the student who delivered the best paper in the Agriculture section of Congress. Ntombi recently graduated with her Master's degree from the University of Free State. Her co-authors were Prof MM Zhou and Dr R van der Merwe.



Left to right: Sumita Ramgareeb (SASRI Resource Manager and SASTA Committee Chair) and Ntombokulunga Mbuma

**KYNOCH AWARD:  
HIGHLY COMMENDED:  
Louis Titshall**

Dr Louis Titshall received the Highly Commended Kynoch Award for his paper, "Copper, iron, manganese and zinc in soil and leaf samples from southern and eastern African sugarcane-producing regions". This award is given to the runner-up for the best paper in the agricultural section of the conference. Louis is new to SASRI and has recently been appointed as a Senior Soil Scientist. He co-authored this paper with DR NM Miles and Dr SS Mthimkhulu.



Left to right: Sumita Ramgareeb (SASRI Resource Manager and SASTA Committee Chair), Sandile Mthimkhulu, Neil Miles and Louis Titshall.