

Winners at the 90th SASTA Symposium



SASTA STUDENT PRIZE: AGRICULTURE

Miss Ntombi Mbuma won the SASTA Student award for her paper "Identifying elite families for the Midlands sugarcane breeding programmes in South Africa". Her co-authors were *Prof MM Zhou* and *Dr R van der Merwe*. This prize is for the student who delivered the best paper in the Agriculture section of Congress. Ntombi has recently graduated with her Master's degree from the University of Free State.

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



KYNOCH PRIZE

Dr Neil Miles was awarded with the prestigious Kynoch prize for his paper "Predictions of soil nitrogen mineralization to crop fertiliser nitrogen requirements". He co-authored this paper with *Mrs R Rhodes* and *Dr A Weigel*. This is a highly respected award in the agricultural section of the conference and is awarded to the best paper. Neil is no stranger to receiving this accolade, having received it last year for a paper he co-authored with Dimpho Elephant.

Left to right: Dr Neil Miles and Dr Sumita Ramgareeb (SASRI Resource Manager and SASTA Committee Chair)



POSTER AWARD: AGRICULTURE

This year's best poster award was given to two posters from SASRI. The judges of the posters split the prize due to both posters fulfilling all criteria for the award.

Dr Alana Patton won the SASTA Best Agriculture Poster prize for her poster "Nitrogen use efficiency of South African sugarcane varieties". Her co-authors were *Mr ITR Makhubedu* and *Dr A Weigel*. Alana is a Crop Physiologist at SASRI.

Left to right: Dr Sumita Ramgareeb (SASRI Resource Manager and SASTA Committee Chair) and Dr Alana Patton

KYNOCH PRIZE: HIGHLY COMMENDED

Mr Dimpho Elephant was awarded with the highly commended Kynoch Prize. This award is given to the runner up for the best paper in the agricultural section of the conference. He co-authored this paper with *Dr N Miles* and *Mr SS Mthimkhulu*. Dimpho Elephant is an Assistant Research Officer in the Soil Science department at SASRI and is currently embarking on his PhD.



Left to right: Dr Neil Miles, Mr Dimpho Elephant, Mr Sandile Mthimkhulu and Dr Sumita Ramgareeb (SASRI Resource Manager and SASTA Committee Chair)



Mr Keith McFarlane won the SASTA Best Agriculture Poster prize for his poster "An investigation into stored seed viability". His co-author was *Mr A Walton*. Keith is a Crossing Officer at SASRI. This was his first time presenting at SASTA.

Left to right: Mr Keith McFarlane, Dr Sumita Ramgareeb (SASRI Resource Manager and SASTA Committee Chair) and Mr Albert Walton

 **Kerisha Raghunandan**
(SASRI Publications Officer)

