



# ANOTHER PHD GRADUATE FOR SASRI

**S**andile Mthimkhulu, SASRI Assistant Research Officer (Soil Science), recently received his PhD from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (PMB Campus). His PhD project was titled “Long-term fertiliser and sugarcane residue management effects on structural stability of two soil types in South Africa” and was conducted on the BT1 field at SASRI, Mt Edgecombe. BT1 was established in 1939 and has been heralded as the world’s longest running soil management field experiment under sugarcane. His study combined various approaches to investigate the effect of continuous fertiliser application and cane harvesting methods (burning vs greencane harvesting) on a range of soil properties that may influence soil structure. Sandile’s project supervisors were Prof Jeffrey Hughes (UKZN), Dr Louis Titshall (SASRI, UKZN), Prof Rianto van Antwerpen (SASRI, UFS) and Dr Pascal Podwojewski (UKZN).

Sandile’s role at SASRI includes conducting research into soil fertility and crop nutrition through sugarcane trials (laboratory, glasshouse and field). He is also required to keep up to date with trends and useful research as well as current literature in soil science. In addition, he assists in the development and improvement of all aspects of the Fertiliser Advisory Service (FAS Analytical Laboratory). All research outcomes are communicated to peer scientists and growers in the sugar industry.

 **Kerisha Raghunandan**  
(SASRI Publications Officer)



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