


# Out and about with SASRI

 Kalisha Naicker (Publications Officer)



Given the dramatic increases in fertiliser prices, SASRI Senior Soil Scientist, Dr Louis Titshall addressed growers at several grower days and study groups in Pongola, Felixton, Eston, Eshowe, Amatikulu and Table Mountain over the past couple of months. He said that the high prices (and often lack of availability) have had many growers asking what could be cut without compromising yields and profit. Principles and strategies for optimal use of fertilisers were discussed, while consideration was given to conditions where growers could lower fertiliser rates in the short-term.



At an Umfolozi grower day, SASRI's Sugarcane Physiologist Dr Riekert Van Heerden presented ripening results from the variety trial hosted at UVS, as well as results from ongoing ripener trials in Pongola. He also discussed various ripener treatments, and how the different varieties respond to each of the treatments. Thobile Nxumalo, SASRI's Variety Evaluation Scientist, presented the performances of the various varieties in the Umfolozi trials, as well as some of the Pongola variety trials.



These presentations aimed to assist growers in making informed decisions when it comes to choosing which variety to plant that will best suit their conditions, and to ensure that growers get maximum returns from their varieties by using the most effective chemical ripening strategy.

**For more information on grower days, contact your local Extension Specialist.**



Information provided by the  
South African Sugarcane Research Institute

Tel: +27 (31) 508 7474/75 | Web: [www.sasri.org.za](http://www.sasri.org.za)  
Address: 170 Flanders Drive, Mount Edgecombe, Durban, 4300