



Out and about with SASRI

SASRI continues to play a vital role in advancing the sugarcane industry by conducting research, developing new varieties, and disseminating knowledge to growers. Recent events organised by SASRI showcased the institute's commitment to collaboration and innovation in the pursuit of improved yields and cane quality.



At recent grower days in the Irrigated Region, SASRI scientists gathered at both the Pongola and Mpumalanga Research Stations as Senior Plant Breeder, Dr Marvellous Zhou, presented the meticulously analysed data collected over several years during the breeding process of two promising new sugarcane varieties bred specifically for the Irrigated Region. These meetings served as platforms for scientific discussion and collaboration among the attendees. Local growers were invited to visit the farms to observe the varieties themselves and engage in discussions regarding their performance and traits. These varieties will undergo evaluation and approval by industry committees before being released to the Local Pest, Disease, and Variety Control Committees.

Continuing the spirit of knowledge exchange, SASRI Extension Specialists organised a well-attended event at the Umhlali Country Club, aimed at North Coast growers. The event, held on June 13, focused on sugarcane variety options, their agronomic characteristics, and yield performance under local growing conditions. Additionally, experts delved into the critical aspect of managing cane quality within these varieties. Thobile Nxumalo, SASRI's Variety Evaluation Specialist, and Riekert van Heerden, SASRI's Cane Quality Management Specialist, shared their valuable insights and expertise with the growers, empowering them to make informed decisions and optimise their farming practices.



Empowering growers with knowledge about fertiliser spreaders and their specifications, a field day exhibition took place on June 20 at Mattison Farm in Empangeni.

The exhibition showcased a range of fertilising equipment and focused on the spreading abilities of each model. Growers had the opportunity to witness live demonstrations and engage in fruitful discussions and networking with industry professionals.

To find out more about grower days in your area, contact your local Extension Specialist.

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