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25 November 2008

Alle Moerkwekers

Die Nasionale Moerekomitee, OSRA en ASD Direksie het op 4 en 5 November 2008 vergader en wil graag die volgende onder die aandag van alle moerkwekers en rolspelers in die moerbedryf bring:

Nasionale Moerekomitee

- 'n **Konsepreglement** is vir die Nasionale Moerekomitee opgestel. Die reglement sal aan al die Moerekomitees vir kommentaar voorgehou word en die finale reglement sal tydens die Moerkwekersforum van 2009 vir aanvaarding voorgelê word.
- Daar is goedkeuring verleen aan die publisering van die **"Top tien"-moerkwekers van die Jaar** in die Mei/Junie 2009-uitgawe van CHIPS.
- Die Moerekomitees word versoek om **punte vir bespreking** vir die 2009 Forum te identifiseer. Ons wil graag die Forum van 2009 nog meer interessant en relevant tot die moerbedryf maak.
- Die **tydperk van bestaande Planttelersregte** kan nie verleng word nie. Die verlengde periode van beskerming sal slegs geld vir planttelersregte wat toegestaan is nadat die wet aangepas is.

OSRA

- Die **Vise-Voorsitter van OSRA** sal voortaan *ex-officio* die Voorsitter van ASD se Direksie wees.
- Die **vrywillige afgradering van moere** in generasie is nie goedgekeur nie. Die *status quo* word dus gehandhaaf. Hierdie besluit word deur die tafelkwekers verwelkom.
- Daar sal wel ondersoek ingestel word na welke mate die **Skema** aangepas moet word.
- 'n Versoek is aan die LNR gerig om die algehele vrystelling van die **geneties gemodifiseerde SpuntaG2** tot na die Sokker Wêreldbeker in 2010 uit te stel.

25 November 2008

All Seed Potato Growers

The National Seed Potato Committee and the Board of Directors of PCS convened on 4 and 5 November 2008 respectively and I wish to bring the following under the attention of all seed potato growers and role players in the seed potato industry:

National Seed Potato Committee

- A **constitution** was drafted for the National Seed Potato Committee. The constitution will be submitted to all the Seed Potato Committees for comment and the final constitution will be presented to the 2009 Seed Potato Growers' Forum for approval.
- It was approved that the names of the **"Top Ten" Seed Potato Growers of the Year** be published in the May/June 2009 edition of CHIPS.
- The Seed Potato Committees are requested to identify **discussion points** for the 2009 Forum. We wish to make the 2009 Forum even more interesting and relevant to the seed potato industry.
- The **period of existing plant breeder's rights** cannot be extended. The extended period of protection will only apply to plant breeder's rights which are granted after the Act has been amended.

ICCSP

- The Vice-Chairman of ICCSP will be the Chairman of the Board of Directors of PCS *ex officio* in future.
- The **voluntary downgrading of seed potatoes** in generation has not been approved. The *status quo* will therefore be maintained. This resolution has been welcomed by the table producers.
- An investigation into the extent to which the **Scheme** should be amended will be launched.
- A request has been submitted to the ARC to postpone the general release of the **genetically modified SpuntaG2** until the Soccer World Cup in 2010.

- Daar is met kommer waargeneem dat die aantal land- en na-kontrole monsters wat **virus** in het aan die toeneem is, alhoewel die gemiddelde persentasie besmetting in monsters afneem. Moerkwekers moet asseblief dringend aandag skenk aan goeie moerproduksiepraktyke ten einde volhoubare moerproduksie te verseker.
- **PVY^{NTN}** is ook landwyd 'n groter probleem as wat ons dink. Dit kan nie deur die ELISA-toetspakket van ander PVY-rasse onderskei word nie, maar die ELISA-toetspakket bevestig wel dat die monster met PVY besmet is. Kwekers word versoek om enige knolle met skilringsimptome aan ASD te stuur ten einde die ras te laat identifiseer. Die basiese bestuurspraktyke ten opsigte van PVY moet gevolg word om die probleem aan te spreek.
- Die **afsonderlike toepassing van die toleransies van PVY en Rolbladvirus** is ondersoek en daar sou geen verskil in generasie wees indien die toleransies vir die twee virusse afsonderlik gedurende die afgelope seisoen toegepas gewees het nie. 'n Verdere jaar se data sal bygehou word en op 'n later stadium weer oor terugvoering gegee word.

ALGEMEEN

- Dit is verder met kommer waargeneem dat **hormoonversteurings** toenemend in aartappelaanplantings voorkom. Die gebruik van chemiese middels waarvan die formulasie (chemiese samestelling), hormoon-versteurings by aartappels veroorsaak het tot gevolg dat "varingblaar" tipe skade op plante voorkom. Alhoewel daar op hierdie stadium geen keuringsvereistes met betrekking tot onkruiddoderskade in die Skema vervat is nie, moet geaffekteerde plante uit moeraanplantings verwyder word. Waar daar van vooropkoms onkruiddoders gebruik gemaak word, word kwekers versoek om slegs plaaslik geregistreerde middels te gebruik, nie aanbevole dosisse te oorskry nie en ook om seker te maak dat die betrokke middel nie hormoonversteurings van die aartappelplante tot gevolg sal hê nie.

- It has been observed with concern that the number of field and post-control samples containing **viruses** has increased, although the average percentage of infection in samples is decreasing. Seed potato growers must please pay urgent attention to good seed potato production practices in order to ensure sustainable seed potato production.
- **PVY^{NTN}** is also a bigger problem countrywide than suspected. It cannot be distinguished from the other PVY races by means of the ELISA test kit, but the ELISA test kit does confirm when the sample is infested with PVY. The growers are requested to send any tubers with skin ring symptoms to PCS in order to have the race identified. The basic management practices in respect of PVY must be followed to address the problem.
- The **separate application of the tolerances in respect of PVY and PLRV** has been investigated and there would have been no difference if the tolerances in respect of the two viruses had been applied separately during the past season. The data in respect of a further year will be collected and feedback in this regard will be given at a later stage.

GENERAL

- It has also been observed with concern that **hormonal disturbances** are occurring increasingly in potato plantings. The use of chemicals of which the formulation (chemical composition) causes hormonal disturbances in potatoes has resulted in the occurrence of a type of fern leave damage on plants. Although no selection requirements with regard to herbicide damage are contained in the Scheme at this stage, affected plants have to be removed from seed potato plantings. Where use is made of pre-emergence herbicides the seed growers are requested to only use locally registered herbicides, not to exceed recommended dosages and to ensure that the herbicides concerned will not cause hormonal disturbances.

DIREKSIE

- Die moontlike vervreemding van Aartappelsertifiseringsdiens se **aandele in Aartappelhuis** aan 'n nuwe maatskappy, bestaande uit die moerkwekers wat tot die leningsheffing bygedra het, is nie goedgekeur nie. Die *status quo* word behou. Aartappels Suid-Afrika sal van die besluit in kennis gestel word.
- Die **moerproduksiegebied Suid-Oos van Douglas** (Modderrivier en Hopetown) sal weer soos voorheen deur die Douglas-kantoor bedien word.
- Die **sertifiseringspersoneel** werk tans onder redelike druk weens die bedanking en aftrede van personeel. Daar word egter dringend aandag aan die personeeltekort geskenk. Die twee jaar indiensopleidingsperiode voor kwalifisering as volwaardige sertifiseringsbeampte dra by tot die "skaarste" van hierdie manne. Ons besef ons sertifiseringspersoneel is goed opgelei en daarom hoog in aanvraag. Daar moet daarom juis te meer na hulle omgesien word. Ons doen 'n beroep op u begrip vir die situasie en sal poog om steeds die gehalte diens te lewer soos voorheen.
- ASD hoofkantoor asook al die ASD streekskantore sal vanaf 29 Desember tot 2 Januarie gesluit wees. Roetine dienste sal egter soos vooraf gereël, uitgevoer word. Personeel sal nog steeds op hulle selfone beskikbaar wees.

U word 'n rustige feesseisoen en 'n uiters voorspoedige 2009 toegewens.

Vriendelike groete

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- The possible transfer of the shares of Potato Certification Service in the company **Aartappelhuis (Edms) Bpk** to a new company consisting of the seed potato growers who contributed loan levies, has not been approved. The *status quo* will be maintained. Potatoes South Africa will be notified of the decision.
- The **seed potato production area South-East of Douglas** (Modderriver and Hopetown) will again be serviced by the Douglas office as previously.
- The **certification personnel** work under pressure at present on account of the resignation and retirement of staff. Urgent attention is, however, being paid to the staff shortage. The two-year in-service training period prior to qualifying as a fully-fledged certification officer contributes to the "scarcity" of these guys. We realise that our certification personnel are well trained and therefore in high demand. For this reason we have to take care of them. We appeal to your understanding of the situation and would do everything possible to supply the same quality of service as delivered in the past.
- The head office and regional offices of PCS will be closed from 29 December 2008 to 2 January 2009. Routine services arranged in advance will, however, be rendered. The personnel will be available on their cell phones.

I wish everyone a restful festive season and an extremely prosperous 2009.

With kind regards

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SANETTE THIART
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