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3 Julie 2009

Alle Moerkwekers

Die Nasionale Moerekomitee het op 2 Junie 2009 en die Onafhanklike Sertifiseringsraad vir Aartappelmoere (OSRA) en die Direksie van Aartappelsertifiseringsdiens (ASD) op 3 Junie 2009 vergader en ek wil graag die volgende onder die aandag van alle moerkwekers en rolspelers in die moerbedryf bring:

Nasionale Moerekomitee

- Wat die **Moerkwekersforum** betref, is die addisionele borgskap aangebied deur die Moerhandelaarsforum deur Bayer CropScience aanvaar. Die "Moerkweker van die Jaar"-toekenning sal egter steeds as die Bayer CropScience toekenning bekend staan.
- Die volgende **punte vir bespreking** is vir die Forum geïdentifiseer, naamlik; PVY^{NTN}, volhoubare aartappelproduksie met die klem op goeie moerproduksiepraktyke, vrywillige hergradering van moere en vereenvoudiging van die generasiekonsep, die waarde van PCR in die aartappelbedryf, wenslikheid van instelling van 'n beperkte verpligte skema, praatjie deur 'n landbou-ekonoom met spesiale verwysing na die Nasionale Kredietwet en die impak daarvan op die huidige betaalterme, asook terugvoer oor internasionale reise. Daar word na 'n interessante Forum en Kongres uitgesien.
- Die **Reglement** van die Nasionale Moerekomitee is sodanig gewysig dat die voorsitter van die Nasionale Moerekomitee nie ook die voorsitter van 'n Gebiedsbestuur van Aartappels Suid-Afrika (ASA) mag wees nie. Die kwessie of die Sandveld een of twee streke verteenwoordig, is na die Sandveld-Moerekomitee terugverwys.
- Dit bly die kweker se verantwoordelikheid om die **uitslae van na-kontroletoetse** so spoedig moontlik aan die koper bekend te maak.
- Eenhede met **hormoonskade** sal as volg hanteer word: Indien die hele land skade toon, sal die land afgekeur word. Indien net 'n gedeelte van 'n land skade toon, sal die gedeelte onttrek word en die ander deel sal vir sertifisering oorweeg word. Indien daar kolle in 'n land is, sal die kolle verwyder moet word voor sertifisering kan voortgaan. Alle waarnemings van die sertifiseringsbeampte sal op die inspeksieverslae aangeteken word.

3 July 2009

All Seed Potato Growers

The National Seed Potato Committee convened on 2 June 2009 and the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP) and the Board of Directors of Potato Certification Service (PCS) on 3 June 2009 and I wish to bring the following to the notice of all seed potato growers and role players in the seed potato industry:

National Seed Potato Committee

- As far as the **Seed Potato Growers' Forum** is concerned, the additional sponsorship offered by the Seed Potato Traders' Forum has been accepted by Bayer CropScience. The "Seed Potato Grower of the Year" award will, however, still be known as the Bayer CropScience award.
- The following **points for discussion** have been identified for the Forum, namely PVY^{NTN}, sustainable potato production with the emphasis on good seed potato production practices, voluntary regrading of seed potatoes and simplification of the generation concept, the value of PCR in the potato industry, possible institution of a limited compulsory scheme, talk by an agricultural economist with special reference to the National Credit Act and the impact thereof on existing terms of payment as well as feedback in connection with visits abroad. We are looking forward to an interesting Forum and Congress.
- The **Constitution** of the National Seed Potato Committee has been amended to the extent that the chairman of the National Seed Potato Committee may not also be the chairman of a Regional Management of Potatoes South Africa (PSA). The question of whether the Sandveld constitutes one or two regions has been referred back to the Sandveld Seed Potato Committee.
- It remains the responsibility of the grower to inform the buyer of the **results of post-control tests** as soon as possible.
- Units showing signs of **hormonal damage** will be handled as follows: If the whole field shows signs of damage, the whole field will be rejected. If only a portion of the field shows signs of damage, this portion will be withdrawn and the remainder of the field will be considered for certification.

OSRA

- Daar is eenparig besluit om Dr. Keetch vir ’n verdere twee-jaar termyn as **Voorsitter van OSRA** aan te stel.
- Alle ASD-sertifiseringspersoneel sal die nodige opleiding voltooi om die Departement met **fito-sanitêre sertifisering vir uitvoerdoeleindes** behulpsaam te wees**.**
- Alle Raadslede sal tydens die November-vergadering ’n **oopboek-eksamen** aflê.
- Die **Coen Bezuidenhout Saadtoetsentrum** (CBS) het ‘n interne oudit geslaag. Die Departement sal CBS oudit ten opsigte van alle prosesse gevolg, sowel as ’n verwysingstoets uitvoer.
- Die LNR se ***in vitro*-genebank** sal by OSRA geregistreer word en alle prosesse binne die genebank sal geoudit word. Die genebronne moet deur die Departement vir die teenwoordigheid van eksotiese siektes getoets word.
- Die **Direktoraat Plantgesondheid** sal ook voortaan op OSRA verteenwoordig word.
- ’n **Werkgroep** is saamgestel om ondersoek in te stel na ’n geslote kwarantynstelsel en ‘n beperkte verpligte skema.
- **Vrywillige hergradering van moere** in generasie is binne die bestaande Skema moontlik. Die moere moet net aan die standaarde voldoen soos vir elke generasie uiteengesit. Die protokol sal gewysig word om die voorwaardes te vervat, naamlik vrywillige hergradering moet skriftelik versoek word, die houer van die planttelersregte moet ook skriftelik toestemming verleen, die moere mag slegs een generasie afgradeer word en dit mag nie weer vir ’n vroeër generasie aangebied word nie. Sodra die databasis gewysig is om hiervoor voorsiening te maak, sal daar weer ’n skrywe aan alle kwekers gerig word.
- **PVY^{NTN}** raak toenemend ’n probleem. Die Registrateur van die Plantverbeteringswet is versoek om ’n knoltoleransie vir **PVY^{NTN}-ringsimptome** as tydelike maatreël in te stel ten einde voldoende data in te samel sodat ’n sinvolle aanbeveling ten opsigte van die wysiging van die Skema gemaak kan word. Goedkeuring is vir ’n tydperk van drie jaar verleen. Daar sal behoorlik rekord gehou en gereëld in die verband terugvoer gegee word. G0 tot G3 het ’n nul-toleransie, die toleransie vir G4 tot G7 is 0.5% en 5% vir G8. Die persentasie gevind, word op die knolinspeksievorm aangetoon. Vir die eerste keer is daar nou ringsimptome op knolaanbiedings waargeneem. Tot datum was dit nog in geen geval die knoltoleransie wat ’n aanbieding in generasie laat val het nie.

ICCSP

- It was unanimously resolved to appoint Dr Keetch as **Chairman of ICCSP** for a further two-year term.
- All the PCS certification personnel will undergo the necessary training to assist the Department with regard to **phyto-sanitary certification for export purposes**.
- All the Council members will write **an open-book examination** at the November meeting.
- The **Coen Bezuidenhout Seed Testing Centre** (CBS) passed an internal audit. The Department will audit CBS in respect of all processes followed and will perform a reference test.
- The ARC’s ***in vitro* gene bank** will be registered with ICCSP and all processes within the gene bank will be audited. The Department has to test the gene sources for the presence of exotic diseases.
- The **Directorate of Plant Health** will in future also be represented on ICCSP.
- A **working group** has been constituted to investigate the possibility of a closed quarantine system and a limited compulsory scheme.
- The **voluntary regrading of seed potatoes** in generation is possible in terms of the existing Scheme. The seed potatoes only need to comply with the standards set out for each generation. The protocol will be amended to make provision for the conditions, namely voluntary regrading must be applied for in writing, the holder of the plant breeder’s rights must also grant permission in writing, the seed potatoes may only be downgraded by one generation and may not be presented for an earlier generation again. As soon as the database has been amended to make provision for this, a further letter will be sent to all growers.
- **PVY^{NTN}** is increasingly becoming a problem. The Registrar of the Plant Improvement Act has been requested to allow a tuber tolerance in respect of **PVY^{NTN} ring symptoms** as a temporary measure in order to collect sufficient information to be able to make a meaningful recommendation with regard to the amendment of the Scheme. Approval has been granted for a period of three years. Proper records will be kept and regular feedback provided in this regard. G0 to G3 have a zero tolerance, the tolerance for G4 to G7 is 0,5% and 5% for G8. The percentage determined will be reflected on the tuber inspection form. Ring symptoms have been observed at tuber inspections for the first time. To date a presentation has never been downgraded on account of the tuber tolerance. The field sample test result was decisive in all cases.

- Die landmonsteruitslag was in alle gevalle deurslaggewend.
- Daar is ooreegekom dat alle **toetse ten opsigte van dispute** by CBS as kontrolerende laboratrium uitgevoer sal word. Toetse ten opsigte van dispute voortspruitend uit toetse wat by CBS uitgevoer is, sal deur die Sandveld-laboratorium gedoen word aangesien hulle regdeur die jaar toetse uitvoer en ook oor die meeste jare ondervinding beskik.
- Die vergunning ten opsigte van die plant van **soja as rotasiegewas** is tot 31 Maart 2013 verleng.
- Die dispensasieversoek van die Suid-Kaap-Moerekomitee vir die plant van **koolgewasse** as deel van die rotasiestelsel is tot 31 Maart 2013 toegestaan.
- Die Registrateur sal ondersoek instel na die motivering vir die wysiging van **Tabel 1** wat kool en soja insluit.
- Gesien in die lig van die toenemende virusprobleme is dit belangrik om net weer artikel 10.1.d(i) van die skema onder u aandag te bring. Voortplantingsmateriaal wat as moere aangeplant word se totale virusinhoud mag nie 2,5 % oorskry nie.

DIREKSIE

- ASA het ASD ingelig oor die amalgamasie van Aartappels Suid-Afrika (organisasie) en Aartappels Suid-Afrika (Artikel 21 maatskappy) en die gevolglike oordraging van ASA (organisasie) se **aandele in Aartappelhuis (Edms) Bpk** na die artikel 21 maatskappy. Die spesifieke voorwaardes soos in die aandeelhouersooreenkoms uiteengesit, moet eers nagekom word alvorens ASD verder aan die kwessie aandag kan skenk.
- Die **samestelling van die Direksie** is sodanig gewysig dat die voorsitters van die onderskeie Moerekomitees as direkteure sal dien. Dit bring mee dat die NUMPRO-direksielid sal uittree en net as Raadslid sal voortgaan. Sandveld se tweede Direksielid sal ook uittree en Noordwes en Suid-Kaap se voorsitters sal as Direkteure aangestel word. Dit bring mee dat elke streek deur ’n Direkteur verteenwoordig sal word met die HUB van ASD as Uitvoerende Direkteur. Die addisionele Raadslede soos deur die Raad bepaal, sal op die vergaderings gekoöpteer word, maar nie stemreg hê nie.
- Die **vergoedingsvlakke** van ASD se personeel is met inagneming van ’n markvergelyking in lyn gebring met dié wat tans in die bedryf van toepassing is.
- Die sertifiseringspersoneel sal voortaan met die **registrasie van eenhede vir uitvoer** behulpsaam wees. Die kwekers moet dit net onder die sertifiseringsbeamptes se aandag bring en hulle sal die nodige administrasie behartig.

- It has been agreed that **all tests in respect of disputes** will be done at CBS as controlling laboratory. Tests in respect of disputes arising from tests conducted at CBS will be performed at the Sandveld laboratory because they conduct tests throughout the year and also have the most years of experience.
- The concession in respect of the planting of **soybeans as rotation crop** has been extended until 31 March 2013.
- The application for dispensation of the Southern Cape Seed Potato Committee for the planting of ***Cruciferae sp.*** as part of the crop rotation system has also been granted until 31 March 2013.
- The Registrar will launch an investigation into the motivation for the amendment of **Table 1** to include cabbage and soybeans.
- Given the virussituation, it is important to bring article 10.1.d(i) of the scheme to your attention. Propagating material planted as seed should not exceed 2,5 % total virus content according to the result of the field sample.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PSA has informed PCS about the amalgamation of Potatoes South Africa (organisation) and Potatoes South Africa (Section 21 company) and the resultant transfer of the shares of PSA (organisation) in **Aartappelhuis (Edms) Bpk** to the Section 21 company. The specific conditions as set out in the shareholders’ agreement have to first be complied with before PCS can pay further attention to the matter.
- The **composition of the Board of Directors** has been amended to the extent that the chairmen of the respective Seed Potato Committees will serve as the Directors. As a result the NUMPRO representative on the Board will resign and only continue as member of the Council. The second representative of the Sandveld on the Board will also resign and the chairmen of the Seed Potato Committees of Northwest and the Southern Cape will be appointed as Directors. The result will be that each region will be represented by a Director with the CEO of PCS as Managing Director. The additional Council members as determined by the Council will be co-opted to the meetings, but will not have a voting right.
- The **remuneration levels** of the certification personnel has, on the strength of a market comparison, been brought in line with those applicable in the industry at present.
- The certification personnel will in future assist with the **registration of units for export purposes**. The growers only need to bring this need to the attention of the certification officers and they will handle the necessary administration.

- Daar word goed gevorder met die **opleiding** van die Leerlingsertifiseringsbeamptes. Sodra 'n beampte opgelei is en in staat is om na behoorlike evaluasie sekere pligte onafhanklik uit te voer, word hy deur OSRA daartoe gemagtig. Alle Leerlingsertifiseringsbeamptes is reeds ten opsigte van monsterneming gemagtig en is in proses om ten opsigte van knolinspeksies opgelei, geëvalueer en gemagtig te word. ASD het weer 'n Sertifiseringsbeampte aan die bedryf afgestaan. Ons wens egter vir Chris Prinsloo baie sterkte en sukses in sy nuwe loopbaan toe. Alles moontlik sal gedoen word om die leemte in Christiana gelaat, te vul.

- Good progress is being made with regard to the **training** of the Learner Certification Officials. As soon as an officer has been trained and is able, after proper evaluation, to perform certain duties independently, he is authorised thereto by ICCSP. All the Learner Certification Officials have already been authorised in respect of the drawing of samples and are in the process of being trained, evaluated and authorised in respect of tuber inspections. PCS has once again surrendered a Certification Official to the industry. We nevertheless wish Chris Prinsloo everything of the best and success in his new career. Everything possible will be done to fill the gap in Christiana.

Nogmaals dankie vir u begrip en ondersteuning in die afgelope seisoen. U word 'n goeie seisoen met goeie pryse toegewens.

Thank you once again for your understanding and support during the past season. We wish you a good season with good prices.

Vriendelike groete

Kind regards

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SANETTE THIART
HOOF UITVOERENDE BEAMPTE: ASD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: PCS

Save as: Tikwerk/Sanette/Amelia/ST0190