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19 November 2009

Alle Moerkwekers

Die Nasionale Moerekomitee het op 3 November 2009 en die Onafhanklike Sertifiseringsraad vir Aartappelmoere (OSRA) en Direksie van Aartappelsertifiseringsdiens (ASD) op 4 November 2009 vergader. Dit is belangrik dat alle moerkwekers en rolspelers in die aartappelmoerbedryf kennis van die volgende neem:

Nasionale Moerekomitee

- Die konstitusie van die Nasionale Moerekomitee stel duidelik die **kriteria vir streeks-verteenwoordiging** op die komitee. Die kwessie of die Sandveld een of twee streke is, is weer tydens die Forum na die Nasionale Moerekomitee terugverwys. Die kriteria vir streeks-verteenwoordiging soos by die Forum in 2007 uiteengesit, is herbevestig en daar is besluit dat die **Sandveld een streek** is wat tans steeds vir twee verteenwoordigers op die Nasionale Moerekomitee kwalifiseer. Die Sandveld kwalifiseer dus ook steeds vir twee OSRA-verteenwoordigers.
- **PCR-tegnologie** as ’n meganisme om virusresultate vinniger te verkry, word deur die komitee ondersteun. Daar is egter besef dat ‘n groot hoeveelheid navorsing gedoen sal moet word om die ELISA-resultate met die resultate van die PCR te kan vergelyk. Die komitee het voorgestel dat Anel Espach en Sanette Thiart op ’n feitesending na Nederland en ander Europese lande wat reeds van die tegnologie gebruik maak, gestuur word in ‘n poging om die navorsingsperiode ten opsigte van die ontwikkeling van die metode- en verifiëringsprosesse in terme van PCR vergeleke met die huidige ELISA-sisteem te verkort.
- ASD het versoeke vanaf Afrika-lande ten opsigte van **sertifiseringsopleiding** ontvang**.** Die komitee ondersteun die verskaffing van opleiding aan sertifiseringsinstansies in Afrika mits ’n goeie opleidingsprogram aangebied word wat waarde tot die Suid-Afrikaanse moerbedryf voeg en dit kosteverhalend is.
- Die Sandveld-streek versoek dat daar in die toekoms meer klem op **grondgedraagde siektes** geplaas word.

19 November 2009

All Seed Potato Growers

The National Seed Potato Committee convened on 3 November 2009 and the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP) and the Board of Directors of Potato Certification Service (PCS) on 4 November 2009. It is important that all seed potato growers and role players in the seed potato industry take cognisance of the following:

National Seed Potato Committee

- The constitution of the National Seed Potato Committee states the **criteria for regional representation** on the Committee. The issue whether the Sandveld is regarded as one or two regions was referred back to the National Seed Potato Committee. The criteria determined at the Forum in 2007 were reconfirmed and it was resolved that the **Sandveld** is **one region** currently still qualifying for two National Seed Potato Committee members. The Sandveld therefore also still qualifies for two ICCSP members.
- **PCR technology** as a tool to obtain virus results earlier is supported by the Committee. It is, however, realized that a great deal of research has to be done in order to be able to compare ELISA-results with results obtained by means of PCR. The Committee proposed that Anel Espach and Sanette Thiart be sent on a fact finding mission to the Netherlands and other European countries in which this technology is already applied in an attempt to shorten the research period involved in the method development and validation processes in respect of PCR-technology compared with the current ELISA-system.
- PCS received requests from African countries with regard to **certification training**. The Committee supported the training of officials from African countries as long as a good training program is provided and that all costs are covered.
- The Sandveld-region requested that more emphasis be placed on **soil-borne diseases** in future**.**

OSRA

- Die algehele vrystelling van die **geneties gemodifiseerde SpuntaG2** is nie goedgekeur nie. Die LNR het appèl aangeteken. Alle bekommernisse deur ASD gelig, sal egter aangespreek word.
- Die **termyn op planttelersregte** vir aartappels is nog nie gewysig nie. Die tydperk is in die geval van aartappels tans steeds 20 jaar.
- Die **Coen Bezuidenhout-saadtoetssentrum** (CBS) sal deur die Departement van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye (DLBV) geoudit word sodra 'n geskikte datum bepaal is. 'n Verwysingsmonster van bekende siektestatus sal aan die laboratorium verskaf word ten einde te bepaal of CBS weer dieselfde organisme kan opspoor.
- **Mpumalanga se na-kontrolemonsters** sal steeds deur CBS as die kontrolerende laboratorium getoets word.
- Die **LNR *In Vitro* Genebank** is in proses om deur OSRA geakkrediteer te word. Andre Lezar het as bestuurder van die genebank bedank en Nokhutula Myesa sal vanaf 1 Desember 2009 as Bestuurder van die *In Vitro* Genebank waarneem tot tyd en wyl 'n nuwe bestuurder aangestel is.
- Tans bestaan daar **geen invoerregulasies** vir aartappelvoortplantingsmateriaal vanaf Afrika-lande nie. Die DLBV sal om amptelike marktoegang tot SADEC-lande aansoek doen.
- Raadslede en ander rolspelers in die aartappelbedryf word genooi om teen einde November 2009 voorstelle rakende die **verbetering van die Aartappelmoersertifiseringskema** per e-pos aan sthiart@agric.co.za te stuur. 'n Komitee sal dan saamgestel word en voorstelle ter verbetering van die Skema by die Junie 2010-vergadering voorlê.
- Die Raad het goedgekeur dat daar met die **50m isolasie van G0-aanplantings** vanaf ander aanplantings weggedoen word. Die Registrateur van die Plantverbeteringswet sal versoek word om Artikel 6 (3) (iv) van die Skema te wysig.
- 'n Versoek om Tabel 2 van die Skema te wysig, sal ook by die Registrateur ingedien word. Die Raad het goedgekeur dat die **toleransie vir afwykende plante** tydens die tweede landinspeksie van G1 tot G3 van 0% na 0.01% verander word. Sodra die wysigings in die staatskoerant gepubliseer is, sal dit geïmplementeer word.
- Die **dispensasie vir PVY^{NTN}-ringsimptome op moere** sal sodanig gewysig word dat die toleransie vir G8, 0.5% in plaas van die goedgekeurde 5% is. Dit is verblydend om te noem dat in slegs 11 van 1365 aanbiedings die afgelope tyd knolle met ringsimptome gevind is en in geen geval het dit tot die afgradering van moere gelei nie. Die landmonsteruitslag was deurslaggewend.

ICCSP

- The general release of the **genetically modified SpuntaG2** was not approved. The ARC has lodged an appeal. All the concerns raised by PCS will, however, be addressed.
- The **term for plant breeder's rights** on potatoes has not been amended yet. In the case of potatoes the term is currently still 20 years.
- The Coen Bezuidenhout Seed Testing Centre (CBS) will be **audited** by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) as soon as a suitable date has been determined. A reference sample of known status will be supplied in order to determine whether the same organisms can be detected by CBS.
- The **post-control samples** of **Mpumalanga** will still be tested at CBS as the controlling laboratory.
- The **ARC *In Vitro* Gene Bank** is in the process of being accredited by the ICCSP. Andre Lezar has resigned as the manager and Nokhuthula Myesa will be acting as the Manager of the *In Vitro* Gene Bank from 1 December 2009 until a new manager has been appointed.
- Currently **no import regulations** for potato planting material **from African countries** exist. The DAFF will apply for official market access to SADEC-countries.
- Council members and role players in the seed potato industry are requested to send suggestions via e-mail to sthiart@agric.co.za on how the current Scheme for the Certification of Seed Potatoes can be improved. A committee will be appointed to propose **improvements to the Scheme** at the June 2010 meeting.
- The Council approved that the **50m isolation of G0-material** from other plantings be changed to make provision for G0-material to be planted with other plantings. The Registrar of the Plant Improvement Act will be requested to amend Section 6 (3) (iv) of the Scheme to do away with the 50 meter isolation area.
- A request to amend Table 2 of the Scheme will also be submitted to the Registrar. The tolerance in respect of **deviating plants** during the second field inspection on G1 to G3 will be changed from 0% to 0.01%. Once the above amendments have been published in the Government Gazette, they will be implemented.
- The **dispensation for PVY^{NTN}-necrotic ring symptoms on seed potatoes** will be changed to allow for only 0.5% tubers with symptoms on generation 8 seed in stead of the previously approved 5%. It is gladdening to note that in only 11 of 1365 presentations, tubers with necrotic ring symptoms were found. Not in a single instance did the tolerance on the tubers lead to downgrading or rejections. The field sample result was the determining result.

- Die **afsonderlike toepassing van die toleransies ten opsigte van PVY en Rolbladvirus** is **nie** goedgekeur nie.
- **Na-kontrole toetsing** is ’n baie belangrike aspek van sertifisering aangesien dit die virusstatus en variëteitsegtheid van die moere bevestig. Die Raad het besluit dat na-kontrole-uitslae as ’n belangrike bestuursmeganisme aanvaar word maar dat sertifisering nie op grond daarvan ingetrek sal word nie. Artikel 20 (2) van die Skema stel dit duidelik dat die gesag sertifisering **kan** intrek indien die resultate van die na-kontroletoets die maksimum persentasies in Tabel 4 gespesifiseer, oorskry. Daar staan nie dat sertifisering ingetrek **moet** word nie. Volgens die Registrateur moet die gesag die besluit kan motiveer indien sertifisering nie ingetrek is nie.
- Kennis moet geneem word dat alle persele wat voorheen positief vir die teenwoordigheid van bakteriese verwelk getoets het, voortaan as **verdagte persele** beskou sal word. Monsters afkomstig van hierdie persele sal dus vir 14 dae by 30°C warm gemaak word alvorens dit getoets word. Alle ander eenhede waarvan die bakteriese verwelkstatus onbekend is, sal ook as verdag beskou word en op dieselfde manier hanteer word.

DIREKSIE

- Wanneer die registrasie van eenhede direk na aanplanting onttrek word weens die feit dat daar nie voor plant toestemming verkry is om ’n variëteit met planttelersregte te vermeerder nie, sal versoeke vir die gedeeltelike terugbetaling van registrasiegelde **nie toegestaan word nie**.
- Goeie vordering is met die **aanstelling** en **opleiding van Leerlingsertifiseringsbeamptes** gemaak. Dit neem ongeveer twee jaar vir ’n leerling om ten volle te kwalifiseer. Sodra ’n Leerlingsertifiseringsbeampte egter op ’n sekere aspek van sertifisering, soos byvoorbeeld monsterneming, kwalifiseer, word hy deur OSRA daartoe gemagtig. Die Wes-Vrystaat- en KwaZulu-Natal-streke is egter ten spyte van nuwe aanstellings steeds nie op volle sertifiserings-kapasiteit nie. Sertifiseringsbeamptes vanuit ander streke sal dus met landinspeksies in hierdie streke uithelp tot tyd en wyl die leerlinge ten volle gekwalifiseer is.
- Die ASD-Werkswinkel wat in Oktober vanjaar gehou is, het op die **standaardisering van die toepassing van die Skema** in alle streke gefokus. Spesiale klem is op die tegniese aspekte van die Skema gelê.
- Desmond Hyman en Gavin Hill is onderskeidelik herverkies as die **Voorsitter en Onder-Voorsitter van ASD se Direksie**. Baie geluk met julle herverkiesing en ’n groot dankie vir julle bydraes tot die maatskappy!

- The **separate application of the tolerances in respect of PVY and PLRV** has **not** been approved.
- **Post-control testing** is a very important aspect of certification as it confirms the virus status as well as the variety purity of the seed potatoes. The Council resolved that post-control results be accepted as a very important management tool but that certification will not be withdrawn on the strength thereof. Section 20 (2) of the Scheme clearly states that the authority **may** withdraw the certification of seed potatoes if the results of the post-control sample exceed the maximum percentages specified in Table 4. It does not state that the authority **must** withdraw certification. According to the Registrar, if certification is not withdrawn, the authority must be able to motivate why not.
- Please note that all **units** which previously tested positive for the presence of bacterial wilt, will in future be treated as **suspect** and samples from these units will be warmed at 30°C for 14 days before being tested. All other units, of which the bacterial wilt status is unknown, will also be treated as suspect and samples from these units will also be warmed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: PCS

- When the registration of units is withdrawn directly after planting owing to the fact that permission to plant a variety with Plant Breeder’s Rights has not been obtained prior to planting, requests for a partial refund of registration fees **will not be granted**.
- Good progress has been made with the **appointment** and **training of Trainee Certification Officials.** It takes roughly two years for a trainee to be fully qualified. However, as soon as a trainee qualifies to perform a certain aspect of the certification process, such as sampling, he is authorized to do so by the ICCSP. The Western Free State and KwaZulu-Natal regions are still not running to full certification capacity in spite of new appointments. Certification officials from other regions will assist with field inspections in these areas until the trainees are fully qualified.
- The **PCS workshop** held in October this year was dedicated to standardizing the application of the Scheme in all the regions. Special emphasis was placed on the technical aspects of the Scheme.
- Desmond Hyman and Gavin Hill were re-elected as the **Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of PCS** respectively. Congratulations and a big thank you for your contributions to the company!

- Neem asseblief kennis dat die sertifiserings-kantore vanaf **28 Desember 2009 tot 1 Januarie 2010 gesluit** sal wees. Die kantore **heropen op 4 Januarie 2010**. Roetine dienste sal egter soos vooraf gereël, uitgevoer word.

ALGEMEEN

Sedert Joan Sadie se aanstelling as Registrateur van die Plantverbeteringswet, het ek besef dat die Plantverbeteringswet hom ten doel het om die minimum standaarde in terme van voortplantingsmateriaal daar te stel. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Aartappelmoersertifisering-skema wat onder dié wet gepromulgeer is, neem moerproduksie na 'n baie hoër vlak. Deelname aan die Skema is vrywillig en stel baie streng riglyne wat die regte omgewing skep vir die produksie van goeie aartappelmoere wat as saad gesertifiseer kan word. Kwekers wat dus aan die Skema deelneem, verbind hulle tot die reëls en vereistes van die Skema en onderskei hulle en hulle produk derhalwe van ander kwekers en ongesertifiseerde saad. As aartappel-moerbedryf strewe ons om ons standaarde en ons produk te onderskei aangesien ons die basis is vanwaar goeie plantmateriaal aan die aartappelbedryf voorsien word.

Ek wil graag van die geleentheid gebruik maak om die moerkwekers van Suid-Afrika met hulle prestasie die afgelope jaar geluk te wens. Tobie van Zyl van Sebulon Boerdery is as die Bayer CropScience Moerkweker van 2009 bekroon en Jacques Swart van Malemba Boerdery is as die Syngenta Nasionale Aartappelboer van 2009 aangewys! Drie ander moerkwekers, naamlik JJ van de Velde, Geldenhuys Visser en Johan van den Heever was finaliste van die Aartappelboer van die Jaar. Nogmaals baie geluk ook aan Werner Weideman en Frank Lawrence wat Moerkwekerfinaliste was. Bernhardt du Toit is as die Landbouskrywers SA se Boer van die Jaar 2009 aangewys. Baie geluk aan elkeen van hierdie moerkwekers, die spanne wat saam met hulle werk, asook aan die sertifiseringsbeamptes wat hulle ondersteun. Knapgedaan!

Ons vertrou 2010 gaan 'n opwindende jaar met goeie moerpryse wees!

Vriendelike groete

- Please note that the certification offices will be **closed from 28 December 2009 to 1 January 2010 and will re-open on 4 January 2010**. The necessary services will, however, be rendered in the various regions as per prior arrangement.

GENERAL

Since the appointment of Joan Sadie as the Registrar of the Plant Improvement Act, I have come to realize that the Plant Improvement Act sets the minimum requirements with regard to propagating material. The South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme promulgated under this Act, however, takes seed production to a much higher level. It is a voluntary scheme with very strict regulations to provide the right environment in which to produce good potato seed which can be certified. Growers forming part of the Scheme commit themselves to the rules and requirements of the Scheme and therefore distinguish themselves and their product from other growers and uncertified seed. As seed potato industry, we strive to set our standards and our product apart as we form the platform from which good planting material is supplied to the potato industry.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate the seed growers of South Africa on their performance in the past year. Tobie van Zyl of Sebulon Boerdery was crowned as the Bayer CropScience Seed Grower of 2009 and Jacques Swart of Malemba Boerdery was appointed as the Syngenta National Potato Farmer of 2009! Three other seed growers, JJ van de Velde, Geldenhuys Visser and Johan van den Heever, were finalists for the Potato Farmer of the Year. Once again congratulations to Werner Weideman and Frank Lawrence who were finalists of the Seed Grower of the Year-competition. Bernhardt du Toit was also announced as the Agricultural Writers SA's Farmer of the Year 2009. Congratulations to each of these growers, the teams working for them, as well as the certification officials supporting them in their business. Well done!

May 2010 be an exciting year with good seed potato prices!

Kind regards

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