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20 November 2013

Aan Alle Moerkwekers en Rolspelers in die Moerbedryf

Die Nasionale Moerekomitee het op 12 November 2013 en die Onafhanklike Sertifiseringsraad vir Aartappelmoere (OSRA) en Direksie van Aartappelsertifiseringsdiens (ASD) het op 13 November 2013 onderskeidelik vergader.

Hiermee bring ek graag die volgende aspekte onder u aandag:

Nasionale Moerekomitee

- Baie geluk aan Mnr. Frans Engelbrecht wat by die afgelope **Moerkwekersforum** as die **Moerkweker van die Jaar** aangekondig is. Nogmaals baie dankie aan al ons borge vir julle bydrae om die forum so 'n wonderlike geleentheid op die aartappelkalender te maak. Hiermee word u sommer nou al hartlik uitgenooi na die 16de Moerkwekersforum gehou te word op **9 September 2014** in **Bloemfontein.**
- Tydens die Forum het twee tafelprodusente volle lidmaatskap van die Nasionale Moerekomitee ontvang en sal vanuit daardie hoedanigheid die jaarlikse Moerkwekersforum bywoon, maar nie stemreg hê nie. Nogmaals baie geluk en welkom aan Mnre. Gert Bester en Rudi Heinlein as volwaardige **Nasionale Moerekomiteelede verteenwoordigend van die tafelprodusente**. Julle insette en perspektief word baie waardeer.
- Volgens die kriteria vir **streeksverteenwoordiging op die Nasionale Moerekomitee** kwalifiseer die Suid-Kaap nie meer as 'n lid nie, maar die Oos-Vrystaat-streek wel. Die Oos-Vrystaat moerkwekers sal eersdaags gekontak word om 'n vergadering te reël waartydens hulle 'n voorsitter vir die streek se moerekomitee moet aanwys wat die streek op die Nasionale Moerekomitee, OSRA en ASD se Direksie sal verteenwoordig.
- Die PKR-tegnologie is by Plantovita gevestig en daar word flink vordering gemaak met die **validasie van die toetse vir sertifisering**. Me. Anel Espach, Tegniese Bestuurder by Plantovita, word sterkte toegewens met dié opwindende uitdaging!

20 November 2013

To All Seed Potato Growers and Stakeholders in the seed potato industry

The National Seed Potato Committee convened on 12 November 2013 and the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP) and Board of Directors of Potato Certification Service (PCS) on 13 November 2013 respectively.

Herewith I would like to bring the following to your attention:

National Seed Potato Committee

- Congratulations to Mr. Frans Engelbrecht, who was announced the **Seed Potato Grower of the Year** at the recent **Seed Potato Growers' Forum**. Thanks again to all our sponsors for your contribution to make the forum the great event that it is on the potato calendar. Herewith you are already cordially invited to the 16th Moerkwekersforum to be held on **9 September 2014** in **Bloemfontein**.
- During the Forum, two table producers received full membership of the National Seed Potato Committee and they will attend the annual Seed Potato Growers' Forum in that capacity, but they do not have voting rights at the Forum. Once again, congratulations and a warm word of welcome to Messrs. Gert Bester and Rudi Heinlein as **National Seed Potato Committee members, representing the table producers.** Your input and perspective is greatly appreciated.
- According to the criteria for **regional representation on the National Seed Potato Committee**, the Southern Cape no longer qualifies as a member, but the Eastern Free State region does. Eastern Free State seed potato growers will be contacted shortly in order to arrange a meeting during which they have to elect a chairman for the region, who will represent the region at the National Seed Potato Committee, the ICCSP and the PCS Board of Directors.
- PCR technology is established at Plantovita and good progress is made in the **validation of the tests for certification**. I wish Ms. Anel Espach, Technical Manager at Plantovita, all the best with this exciting challenge!

- Moerkwekers het weer eens 'n **uitnodiging aan alle voornemende kopers van moere** gerig om gerus in die groeiseisoen na die aanplantings te kom kyk ten einde hulle te vergewis van die omstandighede waarin die moere gekweek is. Hierdie besoeke is waardevol vir die bou van goeie verhoudings tussen koper en verskaffer.

OSRA

- Die moerkwekers het die **verlenging van die planttelersregtetermyn** vir aartappels van 20 tot 30 jaar ondersteun, sowel as die verlenging van die alleenregperiode van 5 tot 8 jaar.
- Die **vrywillige afgradering van aartappelmoere vir meer as een generasie** wat tydens die Moerkwekersforum met 'n meerderheid van stemme na OSRA verwys is, is **nie goedgekeur nie**. Die *status quo* word behou, m.a.w. moere kan steeds net met een generasie hergradeer word.
- Baie geluk aan 6 Raadslede wat die **oopboek-eksamen vir Raadslede** geskryf en geslaag het. Daar word van alle nuwe Raadslede verwag om die eksamen suksesvol af te lê. Die slaagsyfer is 75%. Almal het baie geleer uit die oefening en met vlieënde vaandels geslaag. U word baie sterkte toegewens met u groot verantwoordelikheid as Raadslid.
- Dit is nou wetenskaplik bevestig dat **Spleetskurf** deur 'n siektekompleks bestaande uit *Streptomyces* en *Rhizoctonia* spp. veroorsaak kan word. Vir sertifiseringsdoeleindes sal die voorkoms as spleetskurf aangedui word en **die toleransie vir bruinskurf, *Streptomyces* spp. sal toegepas word.**
- Dit is verder baie verblydend dat daar vanjaar **geen gevalle van bakteriese verwelk of goue sist-aalwurm**, beide verbode organismes, in aartappelmoeraanplantings opgespoor is nie. Alle moontlike maatreëls moet gevolg word ten einde hierdie organismes se verspreiding te beperk en hulle uit te roei.

ASD-Direksie

- Wat **finansies** betref verkeer ASD steeds onder druk weens die minder as begrote hektare wat realiseer. Wees egter verseker dat die personeel alle moontlike besparingsmaatreëls aan die dag lê ten einde uitgawes te beperk, maar steeds professionele diens te lewer soos benodig.
- Mnre. Wessel Stapelberg in Piketberg, Werner Loots in Christiana en Murray Sanders in Pietermaritzburg het die afgelope 3 maande bedank en geen nuwe **personeel** is aangestel nie. Die vermindering in personeel en hektare het tot gevolg dat die personeelvoorsiening in die streke heroorweeg sal word en dat dit moontlike verskuiwing van personeel sowel as toedeling van streke gaan teweegbring.

- Seed growers again extended an **invitation to all prospective buyers of seed potatoes** to visit the plantings during the growing season in order to ascertain the circumstances under which the seed potatoes are grown. These visits are valuable for building good relationships between buyer and supplier.

ICCSP

- The seed growers supported the **extension of the term for plant breeders' rights** for potatoes from 20 to 30 years, as well as the extension of the sole right period from 5 to 8 years.
- The **voluntary downgrading of seed potatoes for more than generation,** which was with a majority of votes referred to the ICCSP during the Seed Potato Growers' Forum, is **not approved**. The *status quo* remains, in other words, seed potatoes can still only be regraded by one generation.
- Congratulations to six Council members who wrote the **open book exam for council members** and passed. All new Council members are expected to pass the exam successfully. The pass mark is 75%. Everyone learned a lot from the experience and passed with flying colors. We wish you all the best with your responsibility as a council member.
- It is now scientifically confirmed that **fissure scab** can be caused by a disease complex consisting of *Streptomyces* and *Rhizoctonia* spp. For certification purposes fissure scab will be recorded and the **tolerance for common scab, *Streptomyces* spp. will be applied.**
- It is also very pleasing to note that **no cases of bacterial wilt or golden cyst nematode**, both prohibited organisms, were detected in seed potato plantings during this year. All possible measures should be followed in order to minimize the spread of these organisms and to eradicate them.

PCS Board of Directors

- With regards to **finance,** PCS is still under pressure due to the less than budgeted hectares realizing. Be assured that the staff applies all possible savings measures in order to limit expenses but still provide professional service as required.
- Messrs. Wessel Stapelberg in Piketberg, Werner Loots in Christiana and Murray Sanders in Pietermaritzburg resigned over the past three months and no new **staff** has been appointed. The resignations and reduced hectares have resulted in reconsidering the staff in the regions and it is possible that staff has to be relocated and the allocation of regions will also be reviewed.

- Hartlike gelukwense aan Mnr. Gerhard Posthumus wat as **Voorsitter van ASD se Direksie** aangewys is en Mnr. Llewellyn de Kock wat as Onder-Voorsitter aangewys is. Ek sien uit daarna om saam met u op die Dagbestuur te werk. Alle voorspoed en seën word u toegewens in u nuwe ampte.
- Baie dankie aan Mnr. Johan van Greunen wat na 4 jaar op die Direksie uit die tuig tree. Baie dankie vir u waardevolle insette die afgelope paar jaar.
- Wat **Aartappelhuis se Direksie** betref, vervang Me. Sanette Thiart vir Mnr. Desmond Hyman as Direkteur en Mnr. Gerhard Posthumus is aangewys as alternatiewe Direkteur.
- Die Direksie het goedkeuring verleen dat ASD se kantore tussen Kersfees en Nuwe Jaar kan sluit. Die kantore sluit dus op 24 Desember 2013 en heropen weer op 2 Januarie 2014. **Alle moerkwekers wat gedurende die kersreses sertifiseringsdienste benodig moet dit asseblief op skrif op die laatste teen die 23 Desember versoek, sodat die nodige personeel beskikbaar kan wees.**

Algemeen

Baie dankie aan al die moerkwekers wat te midde van toenemende druk op finansies en kwaliteit steeds aanhou om aartappelmoere te produseer. Dankie ook aan al ASD se personeel wat te midde van geweldige druk van alle kante af, steeds trots is op julle werk en dit goed doen. In ASD se wêreld is daar nooit een vervelige oomblik nie en met die druk op die finansies is dit lekker om elke keer die uitkoms te sien. Dankie aan al die kwekers wat so flink geregistreer het, toe ons kontantvloei onder druk was. Julle is voorwaar staatmakers.

U en u gesinne word 'n baie geseënde feestyd toegewens, asook baie nuwe energie vir die uitdagings wat die nuwe jaar gaan bring.

Vriendelike groete

- Congratulations to Mr. Gerhard Posthumus, who was appointed **as Chairman of the PCS Board of Directors** and Mr. Llewellyn de Kock, who was appointed as Vice - Chairman. I look forward to working with you on the Executive Committee. We wish you best of luck and blessings in your new position.
- Thank you to Mr. Johan van Greunen, who after four years' service on the Board resigned as Director. Thank you for your valuable input over the past few years.
- Regarding **Potato House**, Ms. Sanette Thiart replaces Mr. Desmond Hyman as Director and Mr. Gerhard Posthumus was appointed alternate Director.
- The Board approved that PCS's offices close between Christmas and New Year. The offices close on 24 December 2013 and reopen on 2 January 2014. **All seed growers who need certification services during the Christmas recess must please request the services needed in writing by no later than 23 December in order for us to have the necessary personnel available .**

General

Thank you to all the seed growers, who amid mounting pressure on finances and quality, still continue to produce seed potatoes. Thank you to all PCS's staff who is still proud of your work and do it well amid intense pressure from all sides. In PCS's world there is never a dull moment and in spite of the pressure on the finances it is nice to see the outcome every time. Thank you to all the growers who registered their plantings so quickly in our cash strapped time. You are truly stalwarts.

I wish you and your families a blessed festive season and a lot of new energy for the challenges that the new year will bring.

Kind regards

Thiart

SANETTE THIART
BESTURENDE DIREKTEUR: ASD
MANAGING DIRECTOR: PCS
Save as: Tikwerk/Sanette/Amelia/ST784