



# SANSOR NEWS



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## GAUTENG—VALLEY LODGE & SPA



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The venue for the 2015 SANSOR AGM has been decided and Valley Lodge & Spa, Magaliesburg should be the perfect venue for an improved and new agenda for the AGM. Imagine a haven of luxury accommodations nestled within lush grounds crossed by pristine river and streams, which provide a home to indigenous vegetation and prolific bird life. This is what you get when you stay here at Valley Lodge & Spa, a Gold Award recipient for providing the Best Overall Accommodation, Best Spa Experience, and Best Tourism Establishment at the West Rand Tourism Awards. Expect nothing less than excellent accommodations, welcoming staff, and world-class service during your stay.

This four-star retreat, houses elegant rooms that bring the best in country comfort. The hotel's sumptuous cuisine and terrific hospitality perfectly complements the property's top-notch accommodations. Valley Lodge & Spa in Magaliesburg is located at the private banks of the Magalies River, which is less than an hour's drive from Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Diarize these dates:

- 03 May 2016 — Registration and cocktail evening
- 04 May 2016 — Full Day conference followed by Gala Dinner
- 05 May 2016 — Half day conference

Details will follow early in 2016 for all registrations and bookings.

## OPERATING TIMES

SANSOR will be closed from the 24 December 2015 and re-opens on the 4 January 2016.



## SANSOR - BAYER, “SCIENCE FOR A BETTER LIFE” AWARD

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The race is on to find the 2016, nominees for the “ SANSOR–Bayer, Science for a Better Life Award”. If you think or know of anybody who has gone the extra mile, pushed the boundaries, or just has it all to be nominated for this prestigious award, then send us the nomination. Nominees will be screened and then shortlisted, they will then be required to write a short motivation of what they have achieved and what they would spend their R20 000.00 prize money on. Remember, the prize is to be used to further their career or studies in their current field.

## PHYTOSANITARY NEWS

### New market access issues

USA – export of South Africa’s maize seed

We are happy to report that the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has confirmed that on the 29 July 2015, the outstanding Maize seed supporting information was communicated to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This information will now be used to finalise the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA).

Thereafter a draft PRA will be communicated to DAFF for inputs, comments and proposals on mitigation measures with regard to the US identified quarantine pests.

### Pest Alert

Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND)

On 21 August 2015, a WTO-SPS notification (G/SPS/N/ZAF/39) from South Africa was issued to all trading partners, notifying the Emergency Phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction and spread within South Africa of MLND, on the importation of Maize seed and grain.

SANSOR provided a combined industry document to DAFF on 15 October 2015, highlighting the concerns raised by the industry with regard to the technical justification of the emergency measures proposed.

### Trade concerns

ISPM on seed

A new draft to be released in May 2016 by the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) Standard Committee for a second country consultation.

### Announcements

- The 2015 theoretical evaluation for phytosanitary authorisation for SANSOR inspectors took place on 7 September 2015 at SANSOR’s office by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).
- All 9 inspectors registered for the examination passed
- 7 SANSOR inspectors have been authorised to conduct phytosanitary field inspection on behalf of DAFF in 2015.

SANSOR and DAFF is in the process to update the course material.





## WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO.....

- SANSOR hosted Nigeria and Uganda regarding seed certification, the structure of SANSOR, included in the visit a seed laboratory in Roodepoort and various seed companies
- Lukeshi Chetty presented a paper at the Seed Trade Association of Kenya on self regulation
- SANSOR made visits to ISF meetings in May and October. Isabel Bezuidenhouts' nomination was accepted for the ISF Phytosanitary Committee representing South Africa
- SANSOR hosted representatives from around the world for the annual ISTA conference in November
- SANSOR will be hosting the upcoming OECD conference in January 2016, a report will follow
- SANSOR helped facilitate and support AGBIZ for the WORLD FOOD DAY parliamentary exhibit, once again supporting our industry and government in agriculture
- SANSOR participated in a plant breeding and innovation round table discussion by ISF in London, UK
- Congratulations to our Technical Manager, Eddie Goldschagg on his nomination of Chairman for the ISTA Bulk and Sampling Committee – 2016 – 2019

## FROM OUR TECHNICAL MANAGER

During the last six months the Technical Manager, Eddie Goldschagg has attended the OECD Seed Scheme Meetings in Paris, France where he chaired the Technical Working Group Meetings; lectured at an ISTA Workshop on Seed Sampling and Quality Assurance in Seed Sampling held in Colonia, Uruguay; attended the ISTA Annual Meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay as Chair of the ISTA Bulking and Sampling Committee; attended the AOSCA Annual Meeting held in Vancouver, Canada as Board Member representing the Global region; presented a Seed Sampling Workshop in Vilnius, Lithuania; lectured at an ISTA Workshop on Seed Sampling and Quality Assurance in Seed Sampling in Edinburgh, Scotland and presented a Sampling Seminar held during an International Training Course for Asian Countries held in Suwon, South Korea.



## LAST NOTE

Dear Member,

Yet another year has come swiftly by. As the festive season approaches, I must express a heartfelt thank you to you all for making this year a successful one for SANSOR. Your participation, interaction and positive contribution has built this organisation to be a leader on the continent. From the SANSOR family to yours, our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with good health, happiness and grand success!

Regards

*Lukeshni*

General Manager



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

04 February	Agronomy Div. Comm. Meeting	SANSOR Board Room, Pta
10 February	Horticulture Div. Comm. Meeting	SANSOR Board Room, Pta
11 February	Forage Div. Comm. & Sub-Comm. Meeting	SANSOR Board Room, Pta
12 February	SANSOR Board Meeting	SANSOR Board Room, Pta
17 February	Phytosanitary Standing Comm. Meeting	SANSOR Board Room, Pta
03 – 05 Mar	AFSTA Congress	Nairobi, Kenya
04 – 05 May	SANSOR 27 <sup>th</sup> Annual Congress	Valley Lodge & Spa , Magaliesburg, Gauteng, South Africa
15 – 18 May	ISF World Seed Congress 2015	Uruguay

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