

11 May 2017

FERTASA'S 57TH ANNUAL CONGRESS FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABILITY

The Fertilizer Association of Southern Africa (Fertasa) held its 57th annual congress in Durban on 4 May 2017. The focus was on sustainability of the fertiliser industry in South Africa, as well as sustainability of water, soil, climate and agriculture.

Presenting his annual report, Fertasa chairperson and Omnia Fertilizer MD, Adriaan de Lange stated that international fertilizer prices remain under pressure due to the continued increase in new capacity coming on line, which outpaces demand currently. Fertilizer prices are generally determined by the production cost of the marginal cost producer, which has also reduced in recent years due to the reduction in prices of energy.

De Lange argued that demand for fertilizer is impacted due to an increase in environmental and health consciousness with concepts such as *nutrient use efficiency* and *water use efficiency* and *nutrition* becoming higher on the agenda, even in developing countries such as India and China.

"It is believed that international fertilizer prices will remain low for the foreseeable future as the demand grows and the industry rationalises," he said.

Presenters at the congress were:

- Paul Makepeace (Senior Fertilizer Specialist, AFAP);
- Dr Sylvester Mpandeli (Chairman, African Regional Working Group);
- Prof Isaiah Wakindiki (Professional Natural Scientist); and
- Prof Roland Schulze (Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa & member of the Academy of Science of South Africa)
- Dr Herman van Schalkwyk (Managing Director of Suidwes)

The following Fertasa awards were presented at the congress gala dinner:

- Training and Mentor Award in Small Scale Farming 2017 - Jane McPherson.
- Silver Medal Extension Award 2017 - Schalk Grobbelaar.
- Gold Medal Award 2017 - WJ Fölscher. *Willem Fölscher and Henk Van Wyk received the on behalf of their Grandfather.*
- Adriaan De Lange and Frik Heymans - All Size Packaging.
- Adam Mostert - Honorary Award 2017.

More information and presentations are available on <http://www.fertasa.co.za/fertasa-events/congress/> or contact Candice Van der Walt on e-mail: candice@fertasa.co.za

*Feedback provided by Jennifer Roets, Communications officer, Agbiz
jennifer@agbiz.co.za*