







PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: GROUP: Jaimé Manuel MSc Agricultural Economics Stellenbosch University NWK 3

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel.

I enjoyed presenting our team's solutions to the panel. We struggled with the time pressure and would have welcomed an additional half an hour to put together a better presentation that better illustrated our key thoughts. The balance between content and delivery was missing in our presentation and I think we suffered as a result. It was good to get difficult questions from the judges, but I would've appreciated individual feedback that would allow us to improve in the hope of performing better in future.

2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem?

I think the case was relatively abstract and didn't allow for the use of numbers to justify the arguments we were making. The case focused on "soft" issues and my undergrad studies in Business Science provided me with a broad range of tools including People Management and Marketing that assisted in finding solutions for the case. In addition, I took a Wine Marketing course last year as part of my Master programme course work at Stellenbosch University which gave me insight into issues and potential solutions unique to the Western Cape wine region.

3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?

I team decided to read the case individually first to allow each member to analyse the information independently. Thereafter we brainstormed possible areas of importance and delegated work streams to ensure we covered the focus areas of the case. Each member

then picked a work stream(s) according to his or her self-perceived strengths. The work streams were then presented to the group for final review before the content was included in the final presentation. We focused on allowing each member to play to his/her strengths to ensure that time was not wasted in covering all of the content as a group – in hind sight it was probably a better idea to work through the entire case as a group and come-up with solutions as a group.

4. What were the strong points of your team?

I think our group worked well together. We were comfortable trusting our members to work on tasks by themselves and contribute to a broader team effort. However, I do think our time-management was a big issue and contributed to our poor performance in the presentation.

5. What value have you brought into the team?

I am comfortable presenting to an audience and feel that I brought some stability to the overall delivery of our presentation. I also performed a review function within the team. My knowledge of the Paarl area and Land Reform issues assisted in giving some direction to the various work streams our group devised.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

Being put with team members you are unfamiliar with and having to assess their weaknesses and strengths and get the best out of them in a short period of time was certainly the most challenging part i.e. getting around the team dynamic. I think that had we had slightly more time to bond with our team members prior to being given the case, we would have been better placed to use everyone's strengths and accommodate for weaknesses within the team.

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Given the issue of not knowing your team member's strengths and weaknesses and the major time constraint, I would have not suggested that our group delegate work streams. I would have focused on developing the entire case solution as a group to ensure that if one member felt under pressure presenting or during question time that the other members could assist. I think had every member understood the various sections we would have used less time for review and had more time available to put our presentation together. Finally, I think that working as an entire group would have potentially been less stressful and allowed us to devise more detailed solutions.

8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

I really enjoyed presenting the case to the panel of judges and seeing how they responded to the solutions we posed. In addition, it was good to get to know our team members at a deeper level and understand exactly what makes them 'tick' in the hope of producing the best piece of work possible. I also really enjoyed the competitiveness between the teams.

9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

I think I gained some 'soft' skills through my participation in the competition. I was able to identify some of my own weaknesses in a team environment and I will hopefully improve those before I am required to participate in a team in the 'real' world. The competition also gave me some much-needed insight into the world of fynbos and deciduous fruit that could be very useful in the future.

10. What is your advice to future participants?

Manage your time effectively, think out of the box and choose your team strategy wisely!

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

Not being a part of the final two groups afforded me with the opportunity to engage with congress delegates while the finalists prepared for their presentations. I made a concerted effort to speak to delegates from a broad spectrum of organisations and businesses to find out about the work they do and their views on the outlook of the agricultural sector in South Africa. In addition, I attempted to network with these individuals by exchanging business cards and having short one-on-one meetings with various delegates to break the proverbial ice. If I felt that I was interested in a particular company or organisation, I actively sought to make contact with the individuals representing those companies/organisations.

2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?

As alluded to in my previous response, I enjoyed the networking opportunity and the opportunity to interact with industry players. In addition, I am seldom exposed to the views of Agri Business and the strategic focus areas of the parties concerned. I enjoyed the useful insights shared by presenters, which provided an overview of the interaction of various macro issues affecting agri-business in South Africa.

3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why?

The Economic Outlook presented by Mr Etienne le Roux was by far the most interesting for me. His analysis considered macro-economic principles that were later applied to the micro sector environment. I felt that his use of data to tell a story provided an insight we are not always exposed to. I also enjoyed the fact that he was largely positive about the prospects for South Africa.

4. What are you taking home from the congress?

I think the key take-away for me was that the broader economy is indeed linked to the agricultural sector and we must remain cognizant of this fact. Understanding how the economy works and applying broader knowledge about multiplier effects etc. goes a long way to formulating business strategy and positioning. In addition, I was fortunate enough to meet many people across the industry that shared valuable insight around Land Reform issues, which I found to be really interesting. The 'soft' skills gained through interacting with people from different backgrounds has also allowed we to develop my interpersonal skills.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

1. What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme?

I think that more than anything else, being a part of the programme offered me some much needed exposure; exposure to industry players, agricultural sector thought leadership and potential employers and future business partners. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have been given an opportunity to engage with industry leaders in a more social setting, this was aided by the fact that everyone was willing to engage with us knowing that we were students with relatively limited knowledge of the intricate workings of the industry.

2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

On a final word to both Agbiz and NWK, I appreciate the opportunity that the Chamber and NWK has afforded me with. I really enjoyed being a part of the congress and student promotion and gained valuable insights over the few days. I hope that this is not our last interaction together and wish both Agbiz and NWK the best in their endeavours as industry leaders.

I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to participate in the Student Promotion and the Congress. You all made us feel at home, were incredibly helpful and left no stone unturned to ensure that the congress with a smooth experience for us. I know that all of my fellow students feel the same way and we really appreciated the Agbiz team going the extra mile for us. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have gained many insights from the Agbiz thought leadership and the networking opportunities afforded to us through our participation at Congress. As students, we wish you all the very best in your endeavours and hope that this will not be our final interaction with you.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Tatenda Tinashe Mutungira MCom: Agricultural Economics University of Pretoria Monsanto

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel

The initial presentation I was very nervous to an extent I struggled to convey fully what I had intended to. However in the final I was very confident as the fear had gone and I acknowledged that the industry leaders are just like other normal people.

2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem?

To the fullest extent as the tools I used to tackle problems was what I have learnt throughout my studies. For example the SWOT analysis, PESTLE analysis and the Boston Matrix are all tools I have learnt that made it easy to break down the problem in segments.

3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?

The strategy was to be as simple as possible and to break the case into three segments:

- i) What is the problem
- ii) What is the possible solution to solve it, highlighting pros and cons of each possible solution and highlighting the best solutions starting with the most important.
- iii) Explain the findings and provide the recommendations for immediate remedy and near future solutions
- 4. What were the strong points of your team?

We had different strong points, mine being risk analysis, Michiela being market analysis, Dominique being marketing and Haness being strategy. We therefore did not have to allocate work but each member quickly jumped onto what they were good at and we put the case together quite easily. 5. What value have you brought into the team?

I enjoy risk analysis hence I did the risk analysis for the team and formulated the strategy around risk with help from the team mates.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

It was not easy to maximise on time provided. I struggled to put everything together given the time allocated to read the case study along with the relevant supporting material.

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Yes definitely I would have. Firstly I would have rather skimmed through the case study quickly since I struggled to finish as I wanted to read in detail. Secondly I would have not limited myself to the information in the case study alone but used the information available on the internet regarding the case itself, which I feel was one of the main reason we didn't win in the final. Lastly I would have been more confident in the first presentations. Apart from the case study, I would have spoken to more industry people too.

8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Yes there was and a lot. It was working with people you have never met which was both intriguing and awesome. The suspicion amongst the different teams as we worked through the cases was captivating. The overall feeling of pressure was very exciting.

9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

I have gained exposure to the agribusiness industry in terms of rubbing shoulders with those in top management of the different organisations that were there and made lots of contacts. I got to learn directly from the different stakeholders within the congress as they debated on current issues which is way more than what I would have learnt from simply reading news articles.

10. What is your advice to future participants?

"Don't be scared, these industry gurus are human too!"

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

I made sure I had meaningful conversations with different people and took part in social activities they were involved in. I got several contacts which I have just started contacting to let them know more about me, my research work and career aspirations, and have asked for career guidance/development opportunities if any are available.

2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?

I enjoyed networking the most.

3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why?

The issue of government departments and policies not being in line with what agribusiness sees needs to be done. I forgot the title of the presentation but it was on the last day of the congress.

I can relate to this situation as I am involved in research around land reform. Myself I can see the misalignment but what was empowering for me was feeling the same frustrations around other congress attendees being aired to the gentleman who represented government. What was even more entertaining was the response given by government that backed up my thoughts on what I think their views around agriculture and food security are.

4. What are you taking home from the congress?

To continue hoping for the best and constantly think innovation to survive into the future.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

1. What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme?

It meant a lot to me in that I feel empowered and important to have been chosen amongst the many agricultural economics students at my university. It was a great feeling to be able to represent Tuks and to have made it to the final. Also it was an experience like no other to be surrounded

2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

I want commend Agbiz for hosting such a successfully congress were many from our field can come together to social and discuss the problems that face our industry and debate the many possible solutions. I want to thank Agbiz for having the case study competition which gives us future leaders exposure to our industry leaders and a chance to showcase our talent, and appreciate the environment we operate in from the words of the different stakeholders.

I would like to sincerely thank Monsanto for affording me the opportunity to not only take part in the Agbiz case study competition but also for covering all the costs that came with it and allowing me to go to Cape Town for the very first time! It is a great opportunity you have given me and my peers as young guys to get first hand views from the industry leaders of what is exactly happening in our industry and has opened many new opportunities for us! Without Monsanto's support, all this would not have been possible hence I wish that your organisation continues to support students in this way in the future, as we learnt a lot from attending the Agbiz congress, thank you!



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Lawrence Njabulo Nkosi Agricultural Economics University of KwaZulu-Natal Syngenta

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel.

It was nerve racking and exciting at the same time, my team's strategy was to have each team member present on their strong points so that we can be more confident in what we say.

2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real-life problem?

The case study required creativity and critical thinking. Not much application of academic knowledge but thinking out of the box. The case was more of a business problem rather than an agriculture policy or market problem.

- What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?
 Diversification and vertical integration, rebranding, marketing and advertising.
- What were the strong points of your team?
 Each had a unique strong set of skill which gave us a wide range of strategies. We had complimentary skill sets and experiences.
- 5. What value have you brought into the team?

I decided to add my creativity since we all had similar ideas about the business solutions and strategies. So I came up with the rebranding idea and created a new logo and a short promotional video clip, and drafted the advertising strategies and marketing strategies. And also critiqued the other team member's ideas and also build on to them. I also made sure we don't diverge from our key idea by being too broad.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

Having to decide what's best for the farmers with little information. My personal challenge was language. I found it exciting to work with three Afrikaans speaking individuals, who mostly think in Afrikaans and sometimes forget to revert to English. Over time, I could pick up what they were saying, and it was a great experience since the same case exists in the real world.

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Not really because the major challenge was time. But that condition was set, I believe to test how fast and critical can we think with limited time and information. We got all the feedback we needed to prepare for the final, and we also had enough time to prepare ourselves for the final presentation.

- Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 100 words. Lots of fun, first of all, the excitement of the challenge, all the suspense before getting the case. The knowledge that we all given the same information and resources is exciting. Working with the team was fun. Getting to know each other and the different worlds we come from. Everything just happened very snappily.
- 9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 100 words.

This competition gave me a perspective of what challenges are there in the farming business. Also the courage to establish my own farming business, starting from the bottom. A chance to build a network of top students across the country. The knowledge of what other students plan to do with their academic skills.

10. What is your advice to future participants? That they should relax and enjoy every moment, use it to their best advantage to help them realise to which part of the industry they fit best. It's like the Olympics; it's not about winning but the participation. It's not every day that you get to share your ideas with the industry leaders.

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

I have approached some leaders and just got to know who they were what they doing and what role as an agricultural economist could I play in their organisations. I have their details and will follow up on them as I plan to join the working force soon.

- What have you enjoyed most of the congress?
 The presentations, and the panel discussions. The hospitality goes without saying.
- 3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why? The trade developments in South Africa by MR Peter Draper. I did an honors research project on free trade agreements and recently did a masters project on trade-led growth. I work as a research assistant and work largely on trade-related projects, recently was working on trade sophistication in African countries. So it's always interesting to find out the changes happening in trade over time.

4. What are you taking home from the congress?Confidence in this industry as a pillar of our countries future and the role that I have to play in it

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

- What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme? It was such an honour to be part of the 16 students to attend the Agbiz congress 2016. It was also an encouraging experience to know that there is no limit to what I can achieve if I work hard and focus.
- 2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

Lots of appreciation for the opportunity to be part of such a great platform. You guys really are shaping the future of the industry and thank you for passing down the vision of unity to our generation. It's amazing how big the industry and how well everyone knows each other. Thank you so much and may you continue to do the same for next students.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Pilela Majokweni MSc Agricultural Economics University of KwaZulu Natal FNB

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel.

It was both nervewecking and exciting, in the sense that you may be literally looking at your own future and that the panel are people really knowledgeable about the case study or something similar.

- 2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem? I had an opportunity to apply most of the things I had learnt right through school in the case study, with regards to the model, marketing, farm management and so on that I was able to apply but only to a certain extent which is where the new knowledge came along.
- 3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case? We sort of separated duties and different people dealt with different things at first and then we combined later on, in a mission to save time, one was also dealing with the slides while we were discussing which did save time.
- 4. What were the strong points of your team? We listened to each other and valued the different points we were bringing to the table. One of our other strongest points was co-ordination; we gelled pretty well for people who met a day ago.
- 5. What value have you brought into the team? I believe I brought an element of stability when it was needed in terms of guiding what should be done at particular moment. I used some of my academic background to give insight and suggestions to solve the problem.
- 6. What was the most challenging part of the competition? *Time management*
- 7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 100 words.

Yes, focused a lot more on the execution of the strategy and give equal attention to the presentation layout as it is how you impress the judges.

- 8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 100 words.
 A lot, the pressure on its own gave some element of fun. Hearing different ideas from new people from other institutions and different companies was also both fun and educational.
- 9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 100 words.

I have learnt to think on my feet with regards to real life situations and not just theory. I believe my team work skills have improved and also learning to get out of my shell and networking with professionals.

10. What is your advice to future participants? *Enjoy the experience and make the most of it.*

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

- Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?
 I am trying to keep in touch with my prospective employees though emails and other forms of communication.
- 2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress? *Meeting new people and the presentations.*
- 3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why? *The 'Scenarios for South Africa' by Ms Chantell IIbury, it gave me a lot of insights and enlightenment with where South Africa is and where it is going, such being critical information for an aspiring agricultural economist. The other one was the presentation by Mr Mkhabela as that one was very relatable and inspiring.*
- 4. What are you taking home from the congress? I now realise and understand my role as an agricultural economist in the development of my country and the world.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

- What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme?
 I was afforded an opportunity which has probably in a way, changed the trajectory of my future, I am inspired to make the most of this opportunity and being in a room of full of people doing what I also want to do with my life has been inspiring.
- What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?
 To both AgBiz and my sponsor FNB, never underestimate the value of the experience you give to students. It is an amazing experience, I will forever be grateful for, thank you so much.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR:

Putuma Quqani BSc Agric (Hons) Agricultural Economics University of Fort Hare Talent Africa

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel.

ANSWER: Presenting my work to the panel was frightening, I had stage fright but then again I gained confidence.

2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem?

ANSWER: My academic knowledge helped me in terms of applying theory to solve the problem practically.

3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?

ANSWER: Identifying the current situation and applying the SWOT analysis was the best strategy in finding the solution for the case.

4. What were the strong points of your team?

ANSWER: Marketing and product diversification

5. What value have you brought into the team?

ANSWER: Time management, slide formulation, and presentation layout were some of the values I bought to the team.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

ANSWER: Being in Honours level among Masters Students was very challenging for me but then again it was very helpful because I realised that it was just a moment of weakness and lack of confidence.

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

ANSWER: Managing the time was the only thing that I would have done differently. My team was a very hardworking team and they were good in accommodating one another where there is need otherwise I wouldn't have done it without them. I learnt a lot from them as a result there was nothing different I would have done by myself.

8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

ANSWER: My team was going to present last so the first presenting teams came out and told us scaring stories about what is happening inside the conference room. That part was fun in a way that we were afraid of something we did not even see. The other fun element in the competition was when we telling each other stories about where we from during case preparation only to realise that time was against us. The fun part of this was when the USB Drives were collected and we were about to start our PowerPoint presentation.

9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

ANSWER: Working with different people of different levels especially the level above yours was of the most important experience I gained from participating in the competition. Another I gained was being able to stand and talk in front of the big audience and be able to engage with one another. The competition also helped me to network with the big boys in the industry as well as people from different departments/organisations in the industry.

10. What is your advice to future participants?

ANSWER: I would advise future participants not to lack their self confidence when mixed with different people from different places, more especially people who are not in your academic level.

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

ANSWER: I used every chance I got to interact with many employers finding out what their organisation are about and telling them what I can offer to their organisation.

2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?

ANSWER: The most part I enjoyed was interacting with my peers, discussing our future and careers and the Agribusiness sector.

3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why?

ANSWER: The presentation about water security impressed me the most because people don't take the water crisis serious more especially where I come from in the rural areas of Eastern Cape.

4. What are you taking home from the congress?

ANSWER: The experience I got from the congress is what I am taking home to my peers and also the information in the presentations delivered at the congress is what I am taking home to educate smallholder farmers in my area.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

1. What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme?

ANSWER: It meant a lot of things, but most importantly "learning".

2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

ANSWER: I would like to thank Agbiz and my sponsor (Talent Africa) for the opportunity they had given me to go out there and explore the little knowledge I have about and for giving a chance to learn more that I know.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Frieda Scheepers M.Comm Economics North West University Potchefstroom Syngenta

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

- 1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel.
 - Presenting our work to the panel pulled me out of my comfort zone, it made me aware of my strengths and shortcomings and those of our team, boosted my self-confidence and transpired the theoretical knowledge and experience I gathered during my studies.
- 2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem?
 - With the case study being very real and practical I applied a combination of academic knowledge and experience to solve the problem.
- 3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?
 - Our strategic approach followed a specific plan where we determine the exact position of the company, to get a clear understanding of the case study and what was required.
 - We then identified what was important and what should be achieved and worked towards it.
 - We had a unique vision and worked towards it with our theoretical knowledge and experience filtering through.
- 4. What were the strong points of your team?
 - We were very diverse, each with our own expertise and knowledge contributing to a cohesive team
 - We had continuous bubbling energy and enthusiasm
 - We worked hard and never stopped asking and answering internal questions
 - We are young leaders with strong opinions and creative ideas
- 5. What value have you brought into the team?
 - Agricultural background, as I grew up on a farm where we are constantly exposed with scenarios affecting an agricultural business.
 - Creating and visualising creative ideas
 - Financial- and- economic analyses and strategic management skills
 - My optimism and persistence contributed to an insightful and efficient presentation
- 6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

- The unknown, since this was the first conference and case study competition I attended
- Presenting my ideas in English
- 7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently?
 - Not in terms of my contributions and our teamwork during the case study. I worked hard and gave my best.
- 8. Was there a fun element in the competition?

Yes,

- Agbiz spoiled us in a way that I never dreamt of. The food, the location and hotel, the welcoming and gala event and attending the last part of the congress was a wonderful experience
- Our team did not only worked hard we also bonded, laughed, and had a lot of fun within the team and the rest of the student case group during the competition
- We would have loved to go to the ocean, but we ran out of time
- 9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition?
 - I have made 15 new friends that I will remember for the rest of my life
 - Broaden my agricultural networks
 - Identified my shortcomings and how to overcome them, in order to become a competitive individual in the industry
 - Knowledge about the Fynbos industry
- 10. What is your advice to future participants?
 - Immediately start bonding with the case study students, because the time you spend together run out so quickly.
 - A tip my mother gave me: "Give the members of you team a chance to prove his or her expertise and boost each other through the competition."
 - Do not pack lots of heavy and fancy jackets as you will wear the Agbiz jacket most of the time and that is how the rest of the congress attenders notice and start to know you.

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

- 1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?
 - I introduced myself to several professionals and prospective employers and attempted to get to know them not only within their business environment, but personally as well.
 - Minimum sleep and lots of networking. During the networking we exchanged ideas, explained opinions and debated about theories within the agricultural industry and the country.
 - I also collected business cards to whom I will sent my CV
 - And gave a hard copy of my CV to interested employers.
 - It also helped that we were in the final and gave our presentation in front of several congress attenders.
- 2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?
 - The optimistic interaction between industry experts and prospective experts
 - The competition and getting to know the rest of the students
 - The way we were spoiled
- 3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why?
 - I was impressed by Ms Chantell Ilbury's presentation regarding scenarios for South Africa and her metaphorical explanation given the mind of the fox. However our team only attended to the 2nd day's presentations, given that we prepared on the other days.

- 4. What are you taking home from the congress?
 - New networks, friends and experience

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

- What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme? It was an absolute privilege to have been chosen and invited to be part of the student case competition. I feel so honoured. I am also very proud to represent the NWU Pukke. I believe attending to the Agbiz congress as a student will give me the opportunity to kick-start a career in the agricultural industry. I have also gained hope for the youth as potential leaders, myself included, and development in the industry.
- 2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?
 - Thanks to Agbiz. Thanks for hosting such a successful congress and that I was part of it. Thank you to the Dr Purchase, Erika, Lynette, Prof Johan, Johann and the rest of the organisers for all your contributions.
 - Thanks to Syngenta. Thank you for making this opportunity possible with your sponsorship. Thank you to Antonie Delport's presence, networking and interaction with me and our group. It was such a privilege to represent Syngenta during the student case competition.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Manzi Sishi MSc Food Science Stellenbosch University TWK

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

- The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel. Presenting to the panel was slightly intimidating. This is because at the back of my mind I knew that they knew a lot more than we did and would pick up any errors or false statements very easily. Also for me, presenting on a topic that was outside my comfort knowledge zone of science was a bit of a challenge. However, since there were many any angles to tackle the problem from, it was comforting to know that the industry leaders could have learnt a thing or two from my team and I that they might not have thought about yet. Nonetheless, it was an enjoyable, confidence – boosting experience.
- To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem? Although the type of knowledge that needed to be applied was outside my academic background, I was able to apply basic problem solving where I knew the type of things that needed to be considered for such a problem (Finances, target market, marketing strategies, business rebranding, Fynbos status etc.).
- 3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case? We broke the problem down into different sections and brainstormed possible solutions. We did not use any particular strategy and worked as a team when we had to decide which solution would be the best after assessing all pros and cons.
- 4. What were the strong points of your team?

We worked well as a team and valued each individual member's opinion. We were also able to manage our time well although towards the end things were rushed.

5. What value have you brought into the team?

I started making the PowerPoint presentation from the beginning of the allocated preparation time. That allowed us to save a lot of time by not having to prepare the slides at the end of the problem solving discussion and that way we were able to focus more on the content of the slides. Furthermore, I was constantly motivating my group members to stay positive throughout the planning as I sometimes felt spirits were dampening whenever we were stuck or could not solve a particular aspect of the larger problem. Also I often was the one who made sure that we were aware of the time at all times.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

The thinking under pressure and the fact that we had limited time to prepare for our presentations. It was also deciding which solutions to the problem would be the best since there were numerous ways to solve the problem at hand. We sometimes had different views as individuals in the group so it was sometimes challenging to decide what we were going to go with. Moreover, when it came to the slides, expressing what we wanted to present was challenging because we needed to try and keep the wording on the slides minimal.

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

I would have managed our time better because towards the end we were starting to panic and lose focus. There was a time where we spent more than an hour trying to figure out the financial aspect of the problem. I also felt that our approach to the problem a bit complicated. Therefore I would simplify the solution to the problem and focus more on the most important aspect which was HOW the problem was going to be solved. That way we would have been able to give a clearer, more concise presentation.

8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Yes. I am a good team player so working together as a team and the combined efforts were rewarding at the end. It was fun getting to know my team mates at the same time where we were able to capitalise on each other's strengths and knowledge. Analysing and breaking down the problem into bite - size pieces was also enjoyable and made the competition easier to complete.

9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

The competition definitely enhanced my thinking and problem solving skills. I also gained a wonderful opportunity of sharing ideas and problem solving techniques with fellow students and team mates. Moreover, I gained deductive reasoning skills due to the fact that at the end of each discussion, decisions had to be made regarding which choices would be most economically viable to take the business forward.

10. What is your advice to future participants? They must remember to have fun and enjoy the competition! The simplest solutions are often the best way to solve problems – so stay focussed on the main question which is HOW you are going to solve the problem at hand.

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

As a slight introvert, I challenged myself to approach people and actually start conversations with them during tea breaks. It was intimidating at first as I felt small amongst them all, however, as I got more comfortable I approached a lot more people and had some thought – provoking and motivating conversations. I also brought along with me some "business cards" with my contact details on them. I made it a point to distribute all those that I had brought along with me and I was successful in doing so. I collected a number of business cards as well which will make it easier to contact industry players in the near future.

2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?

The wonderful networking opportunity and engaging in meaning conversations with numerous individuals in the industry.

3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why? Mr Mpumelelo Mkhabela's presentation about socio-economic issues in our country, as well as black economic empowerment. I enjoyed this presentation because it addressed issues that we as black youth are faced with and I therefore felt that I could relate. I enjoyed how he laid the presentation out in the three different scenarios. His go – getter attitude was inspiring.

4. What are you taking home from the congress?

The agricultural sector is a very rewarding and exciting department to be affiliated with. There are a lot of opportunities available waiting for bright, future – orientated minds to take them on. Most importantly, it is very important for everyone in agriculture to be united so that the common goal of preserving our precious earth and making sure that everyone has access to natural resources is accomplished.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

 What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme? Being part of the Agbiz Congress was a great privilege and learning opportunity for me. The congress offered me a wonderful networking opportunity whilst engaging with fellow upcoming leaders in the Agricultural industry. Being selected to be part of the student case competition has boosted my confidence and self-belief in that I also have a big role to play in the industry.

2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

I would like to express my gratitude and thank Agbiz and TWK for awarding me the wonderful opportunity of participating in the student case competition and attending the congress. I thoroughly enjoyed myself at the congress as I got to attend very educational presentations by various speakers and got to network with many individuals from the across the country within the agricultural sector. I went home feeling very open minded and excited for the future. I will forever be grateful for to have been selected and sponsored to be part of this magnificent event.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Sanelise Tafa Agricultural Economics University of Fort Hare Kaap Agri

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel.

Although my performance in the presentation was below my average due to lack of preparation with my team, the presentation afforded me the opportunity to showcase my knowledge to my industry leaders. Presenting in the panel was so thrilling and also giving a bit of anxiety.

2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem?

The case afforded me and my team an opportunity to gather together our academic knowledge in some cases such as analysing the business status. We used the academic knowledge through the case. The most interesting part was that our knowledge and expertise varied, so that gave us the greatest advantage.

3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?

My team recommended that the company should retain both the nursery and plum farm in the short run. This strategy is meant to allow the farm to plant new plum trees so that they can be leased out in the long run. Moreover, my team recommended that the company should try to seek investment funds from other sources outside. This strategy might dilute the 100% BEE status, howbeit in the long run the aim was to go back to the normal status. This strategy was meant to counteract the current challenges.

4. What were the strong points of your team?

The strongest points of my team were:

- (1) Dilute the BEE status in the short run through external investment(s)
- (2) Lease out the plum tree to the other farmers

5. What value have you brought into the team?

I brought ideas during discussion and further contribution to the ideas which were brought by others.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

The most challenging part of the competition was that one of deciding whether to retain plum trees or not.

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

There would be no much difference. The only difference would be the strategies because I was alone I would think of replanting the plum tree without leasing them out in the long run. Furthermore, looking at our slides, I know that I would have done much differently. This does not mean that our own were wrong, but every presentation has its own method in slide organisation.

8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Yes, there was a fun element in the competition. Showcasing our analytical skills was fun to me, especially the one of trying to convince your judges as if we are already the professionals. The other fun thing in the competition was that the case is the real life situation compared to our normal academic problems whereby your thinking is narrowed by the theory.

9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Personally, I am the kind of person who usually becomes more productive when working alone, but through this programme, I have managed to trust other people's abilities. I grew up where I used to enjoy doing everything by myself without delegating other people. So, this competition afforded me an opportunity to allow other people's opinion to come first than mine.

10. What is your advice to future participants?

To the future participants; taking part in this prestigious congress is the greatest opportunity in your life diary, so take responsibility of everything you are given there. A student case is meant for a group but make sure that you see yourself as the one responsible for doing it. Without your input other members will surely fail.

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

I have managed to network with different kinds of people. Through networking I have managed to submit my Curriculum Vitae to a fresh produce export forum CEO for an internship. Moreover, I met one guy from United Kingdom who will help me in terms of finding a University in England.

2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?

Student case competition is the most part I have enjoyed in the congress.

3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why?

The presentation by Professor Muller from Wit University on water security and water governance in South Africa highly impressed me.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

1. What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme?

For the reason that the event is one of the greatest events in South Africa, hosting South African top students, it meant that I am now fit to face the world.

2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

To the Agbiz congress management, keep the good work you are doing to expose young generation to the business world. Now to my wonderful sponsor, I would like to thank you for sponsoring me and being there as my father during the event. I only felt that I have a parent there in the congress. I would like you not to tire from doing the great job.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Michaela Zietsman M.Com risk Management and investment North West University (NWU-Pukke) SSK

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel.

- It was a very challenging experience to present in front of a panel of judges with great knowledge as well. All-in-all, it was very professional and exciting.

2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem?

- To a full extent, my knowledge, competitiveness, experience and way of thinking and being up to date with economic problems enabled me to solve the problem.

3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?

- All of us worked through the case study ourselves and we presented and discussed our findings and views about the case study.

4. What were the strong points of your team?

- We worked really well together as we were all focused, excited and full of encouragement and respect towards each other.

5. What value have you brought into the team?

- Because my field of study includes Risk management and investment management, i was able to make them think about possible and practical problems and solutions.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

- To present the case study in a time of 15min.

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

- No, i believe that as a team, we did everything we could and it is easier said that one would have done something differently. We did our best give the circumstances and topic. For me as an individual, I would've done a bit more "networking".

8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

- Yes definitely, the fact that we were students from different universities made it very interesting as well as

9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

- New friends! As well as a lot of possible business opportunities. I also gained a lot of insight into the Agri world.

10. What is your advice to future participants?

- Embrace every challenge and embrace the fact that you are totally out of your comfort zone, albeit comfort zones are beautiful places, nothing ever grows there.

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

- I acquired each one of their business cards and I will be sending them all emails as they said that I must. Hopefully something can materialize from all of the "networking".

2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?

- Honestly, everything! The food, people, presentations and speakers- just everything.

3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why?

- Because I was a part of the team for the finals of the student case competition, I could not listen to all of the presentations and also not the ones that I really wanted to, such as the Chief Economist from RMB as well as the Governor of the Reserve Bank.

4. What are you taking home from the congress?

- Gained knowledge and exposure as well as a new outlook on people, life and possible career opportunities.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

1. What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme?

- This is literally one of the highlights of my life. I feel so fortunate and blessed to have been a part of the student case competition as well as AGBIZ.

2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

- To AGBIZ: Thank you for doing what you do for this economy and its people. You are a crucial key to the future of this Country and I feel fortunate to have been a part of this Congress, Fit for the Future. My views and perspective on the Agri economy in SA have changed immensely and I enjoyed

this so much that I have decided to not limit myself to what I am studying- As much as finance and investment banking excites me, I might just end up in the Agri business to try and radically be a part of the change towards a better future for South Africa.

To Oom Ernst and his wife:

Thank you very much for the amazing opportunity. I truly, honestly feel blessed to abundance to have been a part of the AGBIZ Congress and Student Case Competition. Without you as my sponsors I would never have been able to. Thank you for being so friendly and I will most definitely come say hello whenever in Swellendam, I think you and your wife are lovely people and thank you for the kind words and support throughout the competition.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Hannes vd Merwe MSc. Agricultural Economics Stellenbosch Monsanto

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel. "Growth starts where your comfort zone ends". For me, the case competition especially offered this environment where growth is imminent. The panel's ability to facilitate the process of merging our academic knowledge with their industry experience was quite something to experience and learn from.

2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem?

The case study approach of analysing a real life scenario enabled me to combine my academic knowledge with my practical knowledge of farm management to form a whole farm strategy that is theoretically sound and practically feasible.

3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?

We used the Boston matrix to classify the entities of the business into categories (Cow,Star,Dog). We developed a different strategy for each that will enable each to contribute toward the vision of the whole farm portfolio and its management team.

4. What were the strong points of your team?

Each member brought a very unique skillset to the table, from problem identification, classification, ranking and innovative ways to solve them. The maturity of each individual in applying their unique skill and knowledge in the team, allowed the diversity among us to be channelled toward complementary. This brought about a distinctive richness in our team. We worked very well together and the contribution and views of each member was taken into consideration with the genuine attention of all team members. Also, there were no talks about

winning, even in our social times together, this indicated to me that we were there to give it our all and that would be enough.

5. What value have you brought into the team?

I believe that I served a coordinative purpose. I enjoyed to combine the perspectives of each individual into an answer that portrays the teams view in a specific matter.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

The time frame given to come up with solutions for the case was tight. This challenged me to stay calm as I saw the clock ticking while maintaining the ability to think out of the box. Also, presenting our solution to an audience of eminence pushed me far out of my comfort zone and into my growth zone.

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

I would spend more time to speak to delegates about their business and life journey that lead them to be where they are today.

8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Most certainly. At the start, I did not know what to do with the tangible seriousness of the competition. Later on I realized that we were here to have fun and that the outcome of this completion would by no means change who I am or where I am headed. This gave me the freedom to enjoy every moment.

9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

I gained a perspective on how unique each student is. My leadership skills were also developed in a new way.

10. What is your advice to future participants?

Do not focus too much on the quantitative nitty gritty aspects of the case. Rather spend time to develop a well thought through strategic approach that will speak to the main problem of the case study firm.

Also spend time to get to know your fellow students well, your ways will cross again sometime in the future.

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

I have taken time to ask individuals about their life journey that lead to where they are today. And ask questions about what they would have done differently.

2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?

The networking and the opportunity to get to know new people each coming from a different background and to learn from how they have utilised the opportunities that came their way.

3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why?

I was most impressed by the presentation on water and how legislation impact the distribution thereof. I also realized anew how important water is and the fierce competition there is for human, industrial and agricultural use.

4. What are you taking home from the congress?

I take from this conference a motivation that sprouts from seeing anew how big a role agriculture plays in the economy and the overall wellbeing of South Africa. I thoroughly enjoyed to see how theoretic knowledge is applied in a hands on way to solve real life issues.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

 What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme? It has been a privilege to rub shoulders with such eminent people. I have learned how to explain a solution to a problem in a business setting.

2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

<u>To Agbiz:</u>

Thank you very much for the wonderful opportunity to meet with industry leaders. Also for the opportunity to experience first-hand how pending issues are being handled and processed through a proper entity. Thank you for serving agriculture and the important role you play in representing the industry as a whole, from farm level to industry level.

To Monsanto:

Thank you so much for making my attendance possible. Your sponsor has been a blessing to me in so many ways. I wish your business all the best.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



NAME: FIELD OF STUDY: UNIVERSITY: SPONSOR: Luan van der Walt Agricultural Economics University of the Free State Syngenta

A STUDENT CASE COMPETITION

1. The student case competition provided you an opportunity to showcase your knowledge to industry leaders. Explain your experience presenting your work to the panel.

It was a good experience which is not everyone get the chance to do. One learn a lot not only from the other students an industry leaders but also from and within yourself. Some guys found it a lot easier to do presentations in front of people.

2. To what extent were you able to apply your academic knowledge in solving a real life problem?

Academic knowledge is always good, but the big question is where are the link between the academic work and the reality of solving the problem. The academic knowledge did indeed came in handy while discussing the solutions with the team members. You always remember something you learn in the academics. It is just important not to try to make it to complicated, but rather more simplified.

3. What strategy has your team followed in finding a solution for the case?

The strategy we focused on was to make the solution not to complex, but rather focus on the core problems and solutions rather than to be too complicated and focus on smaller detail. Focus on the core problems and get back to the basics. Make the problems understandable.

4. What were the strong points of your team?

We worked good together as a team and we focused on listening and discussing our ideas rather than to be self centred. Even though we id not always agree on certain points we respected each others ideas and incorporate it to get to the solution. Everyone have something different to bring to the table.

5. What value have you brought into the team?

I always tend to make things as simple as possible. I liked to listen to the others comments and then just take a step back and help to interpret it as simple as possible and make it understandable. I also liked to bring some calmness to the discussion.

6. What was the most challenging part of the competition?

NA

7. In hind side, would you have done anything differently? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

Looking back there was not really something I would have done completely differently. We worked good together as a team and meet good new friends at the conference. It was nice interacting with the students from other universities as well as with the business leaders of the country. I utilised the opportunities good in order to get to know the people and build conversations with them.

8. Was there a fun element in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

There was definitely a fun element in the competition. It was great working with the other students and while discussing the problems and solutions there are always a good sense of humour amongst the students which help a lot with the co-operation and to relief some stress. It is also important for team and friendship building.

9. What have you personally gained from participating in the competition? Explain in 50 – 100 words.

One always learn a lot in such competitions on a personal level. I've learn to work with different students who all have different ways of thinking and ways of doing things. From that one learn a lot of how to deal with that and to co-operate with them. It was a great chance to improve human communication skills.

10. What is your advice to future participants?

Never be afraid to do or say anything. It is a great opportunity of meeting new people and get to know how other people think and work. Make sure you start conversations with the business leaders even though it is not always easy to do so.

B AGBIZ CONGRESS

1. Being selected to attend the Agbiz Congress provided you an opportunity to interact with prospective employers and to build a professional network. What have you done to make optimal use of this opportunity?

I've made sure that I start conversations with the business leaders. I went to them and introduce myself to them and start conversations.

2. What have you enjoyed most of the congress?

I enjoyed the chance to spending some time with my fellow students as well as with the business leaders. It is great getting to know them and having conversations with them. The knowledge you build there can't really be described in words and expressed in rand values.

3. Which presentation delivered at the congress impressed you the most and why?

Because of the preparation of the presentations for the competition we weren't able to attend many of the presentation sessions. The sessions I've enjoyed the most was the panel discussions. It is not

only one person delivering a speech but the questions from the floor also help to start a thinking process in a different manner.

4. What are you taking home from the congress?

The unbelievable experience and the knowledge I gained there at the congress.

C OVERALL EXPERIENCE

1. What has it meant for you being part of Agbiz congress student promotion programme?

As already mentioned it was a great experience been part of the Agbiz student case competition. It is a chance and a opportunity that not everyone can experience and be part of and therefore it was a very special occasion which I am very thankful for.

2. What is your final message to Agbiz and your sponsor?

I would like to really thank them for the great opportunity that they provided the students with. It make me as a young man, who have to take on the "real world" after my studies, extremely positive about the future. To see the opprtunities we've been presented with make me really thanful and to know that these guys invest in the young upcoming people in the industry.