



Nuusvrystelling

News release

Graan SA Kongres "beste in jare"

Die 2012 Graan SA Kongres was voorwaar 'n hoogtepunt op die landboukalender en word beskryf as "die beste Kongres in jare".

Graan SA was bevoorreg om mnr Derek Hanekom (Adjunkminister van die Departement van Wetenskap en Tegnologie) vir 'n hele oggend daar te hê om kongresgangers toe te spreek oor navorsingstechnologie vir voedselsekerheid. Hy het in sy toespraak gesê dat 2012 'n jaar van aksie in landbou sal wees en dat daar 'n verhoogde fokus op voedselproduksie is. "Voedselproduksie oor die algemeen en spesifiek graanproduksie is kwessies wat die Departement van Wetenskap en Tegnologie baie ernstig opneem," het mnr Hanekom gesê. Hy het verder ook die verskil tussen nasionale en huishoudelike voedselsekureit verduidelik asook onderskeid getref tussen die beskikbaarheid, bekostigbaarheid en veiligheid van voedsel. Hy was vol lof vir Graan SA se Ontwikkelende Landbouprogram.

Prof Jonathan Jansen (Vise-kanselier en Rektor van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat) het die Kongres toegelig oor hoe eenheid in landbou bewerkstellig kan word en het klem daarop gelê dat beide empatie en dissipline nodig is om hierin te slaag.

Mnr Stephen Hanival (Hoofdirekteur: Agro-verwerking, Departement van Handel en Nywerheid) het die werking van en strategiese raamwerk vir agro-prosesserings aan die Kongres verduidelik. Verder het hy die nuwe markgeleenthede vir die graanbedryf uitgelig met die klem op biobrandstof en nuwe perskapasiteit vir sojabone. Die menigte nuwe geleenthede vir markuitbreiding en werkverskaffing het almal baie opgewonde gehad.

Verskeie toekennings is gemaak aan lande waarheen Suid-Afrika in die afgelope seisoen mielies uitgevoer het. Mnr Hector Valezzi (Ambassadeur van Mexiko) het die toekenning namens Mexiko ontvang en gesê hy hoop om in die toekoms steeds mielies van Suid-Afrika in te voer. Die toekenning aan die Republiek van China (Taiwan) is deur mnr Michael (Pei-Yung) Hsu in ontvangs geneem. Hy glo dat Suid-Afrikaanse mielies van uitstekende gehalte is.

Mnr Louw Steytler, geen vreemdeling in Georganiseerde Landbou nie, is tydens Kongres verkies om die leisels as Voorsitter van Graan SA by mnr Neels Ferreira oor te neem. Mnr Steytler het in sy toetredingstoespraak gesê dat dit 'n voorreg sal wees om die organisasie te lei en sy dankbaarheid teenoor mnr Ferreira en vorige Voorsitters van die organisasie uitgespreek. "Graan SA is 'n organisasie waarop ieder en elk trots kan wees," aldus mnr Steytler.

Mnr Andries Theron is as Vise-voorsitter van Graan SA herkies.

Graan SA bedank graag alle borge wat Kongres 2012 moontlik gemaak het vir hul lojale ondersteuning.

“Die inhoud en sentiment van die Kongres was ‘n sterk mosie van vertroue in die mandaat van Graan SA se nuwe strategiese rigting,” het mnr Jannie de Villiers, Uitvoerende Hoofbestuurder van Graan SA gesê.

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Pretoria

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Grain SA Congress "best in years"

The 2012 Grain SA Congress was definitely a highlight on the agricultural calendar and is described as “the best Congress in years”.

Grain SA was privileged to have Mr Derek Hanekom (Deputy Minister of the Department of Science and Technology) at the Congress for a whole morning to address attendees on the subject of research technology for food security. Mr Hanekom said in his speech that 2012 would be a year of action in agriculture and that there would be an intensified focus on food production. “Food production in general and grain production in particular, are matters that the Department of Science and Technology takes very seriously”, said Mr Hanekom. He also explained the difference between national and domestic food security and distinguished between the availability, affordability and safety of food supplies. He also had much praise for Grain SA’s Farmer Development Programme.

Prof Jonathan Jansen (Vice Chancellor and Rector of the University of the Free State) addressed the Congress on ways of achieving unity in agriculture, emphasizing the point that both empathy and discipline would be required to achieve such unity.

Mr Stephen Hanival (Chief Director: Agricultural Processing with the Department of Trade and Industry) explained to Congress the working of, and the strategic framework for, agro-processing. He paid special attention to the new market opportunities for the grain industry, with the focus on biofuel and extended crushing capacity for soybeans. Congress attendees were excited about the many new opportunities for market expansion and job creation.

A number of awards were presented to countries which imported South African maize during the past season. Mr Hector Valezzi, the Mexican ambassador, received the award on behalf of Mexico and said that his country hopes to continue importing maize from South Africa. The award to the Republic of China (Taiwan) was received by Mr Michael (Pei-Yung) Hsu, who believes that South African maize is of excellent quality.

Mr Louw Steytler, who is no stranger to Organised Agriculture, was chosen by Congress to take over the reins from Mr Neels Ferreira as Chairman of Grain SA. Mr Steytler said in his inaugural speech that it would be a privilege to lead the organisation. He expressed his gratitude towards Mr Ferreira and previous chairmen of the organisation. “Grain SA is an organisation of which we can all be justly proud,” said Mr Steytler.

Mr Andries Theron was re-elected Vice-Chairman of Grain SA.

Grain SA would like to thank all the sponsors for making Congress 2012 possible and for their loyal support.

“The content and sentiment of the Congress reflected a strong vote of confidence in the mandate for Grain SA’s new strategic direction,” said Mr Jannie de Villiers, Chief Executive Officer of Grain SA.

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