



**MINUTES OF THE R&D / TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2022, 10:00 – VIA ZOOM**

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**1. Welcome and Attendance**

The Chairman welcomed all and declared the meeting open.

Present: Gert van Dyk, Gerhard du Toit, Mike-Alec Kearney, Willem Norman, Vittoria Jooste.

Apologies: John Scrimgeour, Carlo Costa, Nico Uys.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**2.1 Additions to Agenda**

No additions were made.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no corrections.

Proposed: GvD / Seconded: MAK

**3.1 Actions arising**

Feedback was given to ARC on the Committee's decision; Prof Botha's proposal was circulated to the Committee.

All previous actions on JS and NU are held over due to their absence. VJ remarked that actions held over from one meeting to the next result in lack of progress for months. NU and JS must be asked to provide written progress reports.

**3.1.1 Follow-up on efficiency tests for OSW products with Villa (JS)**

**3.1.2 Historical documents with strategic goals for the Committee could not be found in SA Olive's records, also due to the timeframe not having been specified. GvD and GdT will look through the R&D folder on the Google Drive.**

**3.1.3 Locate reports on efficacy of trials by Villa (NU)**

**3.1.4 Sharing scientific papers and publications with members. See point 6.1.**

**3.1.5 Topics for next Field Day. See point 7.1.**

**4. Research Projects**

**4.1 Research Strategy**

GvD and GdT will dig out existing documentation on R&D goals and arrange a meeting with MAK to develop further. MAK wishes to ensure that there is a role for him to play. GdT recommended that a call for proposals for 2023 be sent out no later than August 2022.

**4.2 Research expenditure**

The 2021-22 R&D budget was shared on screen and MAK's questions were addressed. MAK recommended that expectations/outputs, performance and expenditure for each project be used as a template for reporting.

GdT explained that proposals are submitted by research organisations and once agreed upon, they become the project plan. Thereafter, reports on progress against the plan are submitted and decisions made during the Committee meetings.

Dr van Asch has been reminded that an invoice needs to be sent to SA Olive in order for carry-over funds to be paid, i.e. it is not SA Olive holding back her work.

VJ reported that no expenditure had yet been recorded on approved 2022 projects. She voiced concern at the lack of progress with the Market Access projects, which are both internal. VJ also asked how the funds originally allocated to ARC's debittering project would be utilised. GdT suggested that some funds be allocated to drive delivery of results.

MAK pointed out the differentiation between direction, management and execution levels. He stated that unless people are being held accountable, results will not be delivered. Some discussion on the role and responsibilities of the CEO followed. VJ asked that her accountability in respect of the activities of the R&D/Tech Committee be clarified and communicated to her before the next Committee meeting.

## 5. Research Feedback and Results

### 5.1 Characterisation of Olive Trunk Disease Pathogens (ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij).

A project close-out report was submitted and a THRIP audit on Year 3 claims is ongoing. VJ has resent all documentation previously submitted.

### 5.2 Characterisation of Soilborne Pathogens (ARC PPRI) – extended

A Progress report was submitted to ACF and circulated to the Committee.

### 5.3 Survey of lace bug and flea beetle (US) – extended

A Progress report was submitted to ACF and circulated to the Committee. Dr van Asch has been away on fieldwork; additional work will be carried out after June.

### 5.4 Market access

5.4.1 No feedback on olive seed wasp due to JS's absence.

5.4.2 No feedback on minor crop registration due to NU's absence.

## 6. Publications

### 6.1 Scientific Papers

No update on scientific papers on SA Olive's server to be shared with members, due to CC's absence. VJ will share the link to R&D drive with R&D Directors for their screening. SA Olive does not have a contribution to the survey on *Xylella fastidiosa* circulated by DALRRD.

### 6.2 Contribution to SAFJ

Nothing to report.

## 7. Training & Field Days

### 7.1 Field Days 2022

The Committee decided that the next Field Day would be held on Friday 5 August.

Topics for the agenda will include:

- Pruning
- IPDM practices
- Weed control & cover crops
- Nurseries

GvD and WN mentioned a few potential speakers - details to be provided. Someone from ARC Nietvoorbij or Elsenburg may be able to speak on weed control. VJ will ask CC for a suggestion, and whether he will talk about pruning.

VJ reported that the representative for FOODLab, a portable tester for olive oil, has offered to participate as a sponsor. VJ added that members' talks should not be used to advertise their products/services unless they are sponsoring the event.

Possible locations are Willow Creek or Buffet Olives.

GdT recommended including a talk by a nursery on screening for pathogens and cultivar choices. If there is a nursery on site (e.g Willow Creek), the nursery manager should present. GvD mentioned Jean Hanna (Olive Branch Nursery) as an alternative.

GdT suggested offering an incentive for speakers. VJ noted that nurseries are part of SA Olive and offering money would set a precedent.

The first planning meeting for the August Field Day will be held early in July.

## **8. Tree Census**

### **8.1 Database and Tree Census 2022**

Development of the new database is progressing well. Outstanding Tree Census returns are from small growers or historical farms that may no longer be active.

Development of a web-based Tree Census interface will run in parallel with the Database development, to be ready ahead of next census season.

## **9. Nurseries**

9.1 NU has shared a historical questionnaire which can be adapted for 2022 and sent to nurseries.

## **10. Other Matters**

None raised.

## **11. Next Technical Committee Meeting**

The date for the next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 11 October 2022 @ 10.00.

A meeting on the Field Day and progress updates will be scheduled for the week of 4<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Closure of Meeting**

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 11.30.