MINUTES OF THE R&D / TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2022, 9:00 – VIA ZOOM

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1. **Welcome and Attendance**
   The Chairman welcomed all and declared the meeting open.
   Present: Gert van Dyk, John Scrimgeour, Carlo Costa, Nico Uys, Mike-Alec Kearney, Vittoria Jooste.
   The Chairman informed attendees of Dr Gerhard du Toit's resignation as a Director, adding that GdT will be available to review research papers if required.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

2.1 Additions to agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions being made.

3. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
   The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no corrections.
   Proposed: GvD / Seconded: NU

3.1 Actions arising

3.1.1 VJ indicated that actions arising would be covered under their respective headings.

4. **Research Projects**

4.1 Research Strategy

GvD reported that he and GdT had one meeting to work on a proposal for research strategy and R&D goals. MAK was away at the time and did not participate. GvD wishes to have a strategy session with the entire Committee before presenting to the BoD. VJ recommended that MAK have a look at the preliminary work before the group strategy session. GvD will arrange directly with MAK.

4.1.1 Proposals for 2022-23

GvD indicated that proposals will flow from the strategy session. VJ shared a list of research projects that are being considered for 2023, commenting on the spend – or lack thereof – in the 2021-22 year.

She stated her interest in continuing the chemical profiling research, for which SA Olive has been providing EVOO samples, to include shelf-life aspects. She added that a high-level budget estimate was required for the upcoming Board meeting. VJ reported that Dr Chris Spies had spoken to GvD and CC about a proposal on biocontrol agents. GvD added that the scope of research will be broader than just biocontrol agents, as controls for some of the soilborne pathogens need to be identified.

Dr van Asch has proposed that an illustrated Field Guide be created from the results of this research and indicated Dr Allsopp's availability to collaborate with SA Olive on this, if there is interest. VJ referred to an Australian Field Guide she had shared with the Committee a few months back, which should be used as a benchmark to create a South African version. MAK fully supported the proposal, adding that it would enjoy support from members. JS added that it should be accessible on mobile phones. The pros and cons of developing an app were briefly discussed; it was decided that having it available on a website would be the simplest way to achieve the outcome desired. CC questioned the benefit of publishing a Field Guide if growers wouldn't know what products to use. VJ stated that the chemicals registration is the other side of the problem and that it would

be covered later in the agenda. MAK added that the two aren't mutually exclusive, and should in fact run in parallel, and that the cost of creating a web-based Field Guide should not be high. NU expressed his support for a simple Field Guide helping to identify the pest and that recommendations on products to be used should not be part of this, as recommendations should only come from registered entities who are qualified to advise. He added that this would not be a replacement for CC's book, but a one-page, portable tool that could be used in the field. CC offered to speak to Dr Spies and help put this together without spending research funds. GvD asked that the main pests, fungi and soilborne diseases be documented. MAK asked that VJ discuss the scope with CC and start the process of creating a page on the website. VJ committed to ensuring that this moves ahead, by putting together a project with timeframe and funds and calling on the technical experts who need to contribute.

VJ asked why Market Access is funded from R&D, when it is a strategic imperative. JS clarified that much of the research has been done already (e.g. OSW, lace bug) but the study of lifecycles requires trials, which need to be carried out in a research environment. CC related his experience carrying out trials in his ARC days, adding that more than one company needs to be involved in trials. NU supported the allocation of budget towards trials, since chemical manufacturers are not prepared to fund trials in an industry as small as ours. Trials can cost in the region of R 50K each. The Committee can prioritise the active ingredients required to control certain problems and quotes can be obtained for trials to be carried out.

	BUDGET 2021/2022	ACTUAL 2021/2022	PROPOSED BUDGET 2022/2023		NOTES
REVENUE					
Levy income (15%)	345 000	298 500	285 000		15% of estimated Levy revenue for 2022-2023
Field Days					
Income : Attendance	7 500	30 435	30 000		R500 pp x 30 pp x 2 FDs
Income: Sponsorhips	30 000	70 413	60 000		R5000 per sp x 6 sp x 2 FDs
OTHER INCOME					
WCDOA ACF	50 000		-		No ACF call announced yet
WCDOA ACF	85 260		-		No ACF call announced yet
TOTAL REVENUE	**517 760**	**399 348**	**375 000**		
EXPENSES					
Field day					
Expenses	-15 000	-9 905	-10 000		R5000 x 2 FDs
R&D PROJECTS					
Market Access - minor crop registration	-120 000	-	-250 000		Registration of chemicals for olives in SA (conduct trials on candidate agchems)
Market Access - product trials for olive seed wasp	-120 000	-	-		Combined with above
Use of a microbial consortium to ferment and de-bitter green olives	-80 000	-	-		Project was not supported in 2022
ARC Genebank	-20 000	-	-		To be discussed with Dr Zelda Bijzet
Chemical profiling of South African EVOO	-20 000	-5 690	TBD		Work for 2023 being scoped with US Chemistry and Food Science Dept.
Soilborne diseases (continuation)	-85 260	-85 361			Completed
Assessing the potential of putative biocontrol agents to protect olive trees planted into pathogen-infested soil			TBD		Dr Spies has sent preliminary concept, still to be developed and costed
Follow-on from soilborne pathogen research			TBD		To be discussed with Chris Spies
Lace bug and flea beetle (continuation)	-50 000	-21 739	-		Completed
Field guide to olive pests, diseases and disorders showing images and damages provoked			TBD		Modelled on the Australian Field Guide. Dr van Asch / Dr Allsopp offered to contribute on insects. Web-based rather than mobile app.
ADMIN & SUPPORT		-55 583	-60 000		To include time, transport, catering, printing, gifts, promotion
TOTAL EXPENSES	**-510 260**	**-178 277**			

4.2 Research expenditure

VJ reported that no expenditure had been incurred on the 2021-22 research projects, apart from allocations for admin and support.

5. Research Feedback and Results

5.1 Characterisation of Soilborne Pathogens (ARC PPRI) – extended

The final report submitted to ACF was circulated to the Committee. GvD remarked that the two AIs that need to be considered from a soilborne disease perspective are potassium phosphite and fluopyram, in addition to a biological product. NU stated that potassium phosphite is being discontinued on other crops and wondered why we should go against this trend. He committed to sharing information about this AI.

JS reported that the Jonkershoek project had highlighted new problems and recommended that SA Olive maintain the relationship with research institutions or they will turn to other industries. Moreover, Dr Spies is a top researcher who is committed to the olive industry. GvD stated that a technical discussion with Dr Spies would be required. Following some discussion, it was decided that NU would schedule the meeting and that VJ would attend if available. It was also agreed that the whole Committee be kept in the loop with all emails.

JS further remarked that Dr Spies' research highlighted the importance of choosing the right compost as it can do damage if it is not properly prepared and tested. NU added that compost must be in a finished state. It was recommended that an advisory on how to make compost be written and circulated to members. NU volunteered to write it. GvD asked that this be flagged on the website Discussion Forum.

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

The final report submitted to ACF was circulated to the Committee. CC commented that the difference between species may be relevant if their lifecycles differ, the ultimate goal being to eliminate or reduce the impact of the pest. JS added that field visits are showing that the prevalence of Tingitid is on the increase. VJ reminded the Committee that a copy of the Entomological Society publication on South African insects is available for consultation at the SA Office, adding that no copies will be circulated.

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

The final report sent to ACF was shared with the Committee. The THRIP audit on Year 3 claims is still unfinished due to delays on DTIC side.

5.4 Market access

VJ reported on recent conversations on chemical registrations with Mr Richard Hartmann from CGA and with Mr Thilivali Nepfumbada. Mr Nepfumbada was at the Registrar for 12 years, then at Bayer, and is now an independent consultant. He advised VJ to work with manufacturers who work in olives, as they already have an interest and know the crop. Olive growers must be prepared to support those manufacturers that agree to partner with the industry.

He added that a detailed needs and gap analysis and strong case needs to be presented, adding that there are ways to fast-track the process. He also recommended staying away from organophosphates. A programme of three trials can cost anything between R 120K and R200K, with MRLs.

An updated table summarising active ingredients, pests, registered chemicals and licence holders was shared on screen (see Appendix). VJ highlighted the products on the table that appear to be a priority, asking all to contribute to the summary table by end of October. VJ will then prepare a presentation for TN. VJ asked what happened of the 'registration trials in progress' marked on the list. JS related that the trials on OSW were done but there was no infestations, hence they needed to be repeated; olive scale. CC recommended that a table of pests be compiled and offered to assist VJ to develop it.

JS reported that Bianca Steytler, who had taken over from Carolien van Zyl at Villa, was open to consider doing trials on olives. He recommended including them in following up on the OSW research, which is very urgent. JS will follow up and gauge their interest in

doing a trial. CC remarked that Koroneiki and Kalamata are particularly susceptible to OWS and agreed to identify orchards/growers willing to host a trial on these cultivars. CC reported that in some work he had done using 'friendlier' chemicals, scale appeared to increase when OWS was controlled.

It was agreed that OSW and minor crop registrations are aspects of the same issue, and that they should be budgeted for under a single Market Access heading for 2022-23. VJ reiterated that she would take the lead on this work, with the support of Committee members.

6. Publications

6.1 Scientific Papers

CC will have a session with VJ to go over the Discussion Forum and decide where to place papers of interest to attract readers. VJ added that the infrastructure is there, but it needs to be populated with content of interest, or members will have no reason to visit it. VJ was asked to share again the link to SA Olive's R&D drive with the Committee for their screening and review of papers that should be placed on the website, since no progress had been made.

6.2 Contribution to SAFJ

VJ had inquired about SA Olive's membership and subscription to the SAFJ following the June meeting. She will follow up and update the Committee.

7. Training & Field Days

7.1 Field Day 19 August 2022

VJ reported that the Field Day was attended by 37 people, despite being postponed by two weeks. She added that planning for 50 attendees would be more realistic than 80-100, and that sponsors' expectations can be better managed. There were 9 sponsors this time, but returns might have been disappointing. GvD reported that feedback on their exposure had been good, but some sponsors had not organised logistics well enough with the hosts. The pruning and nursery demonstrations were very well received.

Responding to NU, VJ explained that the Field Day expenses only amounted to R9K for external catering, against R15K budgeted. Income from sponsorship amounted to R38K, and attendance amounted to R13K.

VJ recommended planning for two Field Days for 2023, with 6 sponsors each. She added that in future sponsors should be given a 5-minute slot in the agenda to introduce their products and services.

GvD asked that the income from Field Days be allocated to a separate account and used within the R&D scope. VJ responded that a separate account is not possible but a mini-P&L can be generated for the Field Days. GvD recommended that discounts be offered (e.g. 3 for 2, PDIs) next time. JS supported using some of the income to subsidise PDIs's attendance.

CC proposed to access training funds to organise pruning courses for max 20 people, in different areas. VJ supported the proposal and agreed to add an item in the budget. JS will determine budget and locations together with CC.

7.2 Dates & Topics for 2023 Field Days

It was acknowledged that August is not a good time to organize Field Days, as too many other events occur.

The next Field Day will be held at the end of February, possibly on Thursday 23rd. To be confirmed once the date of the next Board Meeting has been set. Early bird and other discounts will be offered. Catering arrangements need to be effective; delays were

experienced due to the food cart being under resourced. VJ remarked that catering at Cascade Manor had worked well in November.
Topics might include handling of fruit, rejuvenation of old orchards and pre-harvest preparation. Members must be asked to suggest two topics for the 2023 Field Days. VJ will send out a link to a Google form and share the results.
CC further asked if having a hands-on course on olive oil making would be beneficial. GvD felt that this would be more suited to an environment like Elsenburg, and that it might be of interest to new entrants into the industry.

8. Tree Census

8.1 Database and Tree Census 2022
Development of a web-based Tree Census interface is almost complete and will be rolled out during November. VJ asked if the TC should continue to be done annually, or if it should become bi-annual. Regulations do not specify the frequency. It was agreed that TC returns should remain annual. JS added that the issuing of CTC seals is linked to completion of the TC. VJ added that the process will be greatly simplified by the new interface.
VJ reported that the Western Cape DoA will do another flyover and SA Olive will be able to compare their data with the TC results.

9. Nurseries

9.1 NU followed up with emails but there was no response. To be followed up again in due course.

10. Other Matters

Nu reported back on his participation in the panel on fertilisers and soil health across southern Africa. He could not attend the first day due to load shedding. The panel is developing policy to protect Africa from becoming the dumping ground for chemicals and poisons that have become obsolete elsewhere. Discussion was good, although focused on broadacre crops, e.g. maize, wheat, soya. NU will give feedback once outcomes of submissions are shared. His contribution will be primarily on soil health issues. NU added that he is involved in soil health analyses for carbon credits, using a model being developed for Macadamias. Essentially baseline analyses are done to determine a property value in carbon credits, a 15% payment is made and 85% retained for a 3-year period after which new analyses are conducted and a new payment cycle is set. If improvement has occurred, the value of the property increases for the new cycle. He added that compost with beneficials can contribute to a carbon bank. GvD asked if soil conditioning should be on the Committee agenda. NU offered to give a presentation to the Committee to determine if there is sufficient interest in SA Olive and what can be derived, both in terms of a technical course and research. VJ recommended that soil health be discussed in the R&D strategy meeting.

11. Next Technical Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 28 November 2022 @ 9.00, at the SA Olive office. It will be a one-hour meeting.

Closure of Meeting

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

Appendix

ACTIVE INGREDIENT	PRODUCT TRADE NAME	LICENCE HOLDERS	CATEGORY	TARGET ORGANISMS	WITHOLDING PERIOD (dd)	COMMENTS
Azadirachtin	BioNeem	ReallPM	Insecticide	**Sucking, Chewing and Biting insects**		Requested by NU
Azinphos Methyl	Azinphos 200 SC	ADAMA	Insecticide	**Olive Beetle "Leaf eating beetles, Scale"**	90	**Registered** Extremely harsh on predator population. Has been withdrawn in deciduous fruit industry
Beauveria bassiana	BroadBand	BASF	Insecticide	**False codling moth**	??	**Registered**
Beauveria bassiana	BioInsek	Agro-Organics	Insecticide	**Weevils - Snout beetle**		Requested by NU
Boscalid, Pyraclostrobin	Bellis Active	BASF	Fungicide			Requested by CC. Not registered for olives
captab [syn. captan]	Captab WP Captan 500 SC Merpan 50 SC Thor 500 WP	Universal Crop Protection FarmAg ADAMA Agchem Africa	Fungicide	**Leaf spot**	14	**Registered**
carfentrazone-ethyl [syn. carfentrazone]	Aurora 40 WG Grainwatch 400 WDG	FMC Chemicals Universal Crop Protection	Herbicide	**"Weeds - Broadleaf weeds, Weeds - Grass weeds"**	??	**Registered**
Copper hydroxide	Kocide 2000	AECIPH (Nulandis)	Fungicide	**Anthracnose, Leaf spot**	14	Requested by GvD **Registered**
copper oxychloride	Copper Oxychloride WP (L5809) Copper Oxychloride WP (L6231) Coprox Super Coprox WP Copper Oxychloride CU Super Supra-G	Villa Crop Protection Villa Crop Protection ARYSTA LifeScience AECIPH FarmAg FarmAg IntroLab	Fungicide	**Anthracnose, Leaf spot**	14	**Registered**
cuprous oxide	Nordox 86% WG Nordox 86% WP	Ascendis Biosciences Ascendis Biosciences	Fungicide	**Anthracnose, Leaf spot**	??	**Registered**
deltamethrin (pyrethroid)	Deltathrin	Arysta Lifesciences	Insecticide	**Olive Seed Wasp**	Apples/pears: 7'; Grapes: 28	Registration Trials to be repeated Very harsh; kills predators too
demeton-S-methyl	Demeton	Villa Crop Protection	Insecticide	**Lace bug (tingittid)**	Olives : 90	
Fluopyram	Velum Prime	Bayer Crop Science	Fungicide	**Phytophthora and Rhizoctonia**		Recommended in Dr Spies final report
glyphosate	Bounty SL Glygran 710 SG Glyphogan Plus Kalach 510 SL Makhro Glyphosate 360 SL Panga 360 SL Panga Turbo 450 SL Roads 767 SC		Herbicide	**Weeds - Broadleaf weeds, Weeds - Grass weeds, Weeds - Noxious weeds, Weeds - Sedges**	??	**Registered**
Mancozeb (dithiocarbamate)	Mancozeb 800 WP	FarmAg	Fungicide	**Downy mildew Anthracnose**	14	**Registered**
mercaptothion [syn. malathion]	Harrier 500 EC Insecto 500 EC Mercaptothion 500	Villa Crop Protection AECIPH DOW AGROSCIENCES	Insecticide	**Olive Fly**	10	**Registered**
Methomyl	Methomyl 200 SL	ADAMA	Insecticide	**Olive fly**, but rather as a late season Red Scale spray. Also effective against bolworm and most other insects.		Some efficacy trials in combination with Wetcit, with good results
Mineral Oil	MSW EOS	ADAMA				
natural pyrethrum	Xterminator	Henchem	Insecticide	**Aphids, ants, Scale, Psylia, Thrips, White fly Wooly aphids**	2	**Registered**
polyether-polymethylsiloxane-copolymer	Break-Thru Charge Ocean Wetter Spreader Silhouette Sunawett			**Adjuvant - Foliar nutrients, Adjuvant - Fungicides, Adjuvant - Insecticides**	??	**Registered**
Potassium Phosphite	Phosguard	AECIPH	Fungicide	**Phytophthora and Rhizoctonia**		Recommended in Dr Spies final report. NU noted that is is being stopped on other crops
primicarb (carbamate)	Aphox	Syngenta	Insecticide	**Lace bug (tingittid)**	Citrus/Apples: 14; Stonefruit: 21	
Pyriproxifen	Nemesis	Philagro SA	Insecticide	All sucking insects, **Red Scale, Psylla, pernicious scale**, (might also control tingitid), will also suppress **thrips**	Citrus : 90	Registered in Australia. Villa has generic NU talking to Philagro
Spinetoram	Delegate 250 WG	Dow Agro Sciences/Corteva	Insecticide	**Olive Beetle** (will also work against Olive fly, thrips, lepidoptera (such as bolworm) and other chewing insects) **"Bollworm - African (American) bollworm, Olive beetle, Thrips"**	14	**Registered**
Spinosad	Eco Fruitfly Bait GF-120 GF-120 NF	Dow Agro Sciences/Corteva	Insecticide	**"Fruit fly - Asian fruit fly, Fruit fly - Marula fruit fly, Fruit fly - Mediterranean fruit fly, Fruit fly - Natal fruit fly, Olive fly"**	1	**Registered**
Spirotetramat	Movento	Bayer	Insecticide	**Sucking pests – including silverleaf whitefly and various aphid, scale and thrips pests**	Stone fruit: 14; Citrus: 60	Registration Trials in progress (???) Also controls olive beetle Requested by GvD
Sulfoxaflor	Closer	Dow Agro Sciences/Corteva	Insecticide	**Scale**	Apples/pears: 7; Nuts: 14; Grapes: 28	