

**MINUTES OF THE R&D / TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2022, 9:00 – SA OLIVE**

1. Welcome and Attendance

The Chairman welcomed all and declared the meeting open.

Present: Gert van Dyk, John Scrimgeour, Nico Uys, Vittoria Jooste.

Apologies: Mike-Alec Kearney

Absent: Carlo Costa, Willem Norman

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 reviewed and approved with no corrections.

Proposed: GvD / Seconded: JS

3.1 Actions arising

3.1.1 Actions arising are reported under the respective heading.

4. Research Strategy

4.1 Research Strategy Framework

GvD thanked JS for making research strategy historical material available. JS highlighted that R&D underpins the entire value chain, not just the growing end. He stated that members ought to be primed with information and encouraged to suggest research topics in Members Forum meetings. VJ suggested adding a Discussion slot on the Field Day agenda (before practical demonstrations). JS added that technical experts could make themselves available for one-on-ones after the demos.

It was agreed that SA Olive should reinitiate work on the Genebank and become the custodian of the SA gene pool. MoUs may need to be signed with farm owners hosting trial orchards. VJ will reconnect with Zelda Bijzet; GvD and JS will talk to CC and arrange to visit ARC's block during the next Committee meeting.

Management of trial orchards will be added to future meeting agendas.

The extent of unpublished research stored at ARC will also need to be determined, and an agreement signed with ARC for transfer of IP where applicable.

GvD will update the historical strategy material and then pass them to VJ for review, with a view to present the strategy at the SA Olive Board meeting in February.

5. Research Projects

5.1 Projects for 2023 budget

'Field Guide'

The AOA flyer circulated by VJ was accepted as a template to begin developing our own set of flyers. It was reiterated that this would not be a replacement for CC's book, but a series of one-page PDFs that could be easily viewed in the field. VJ undertook to develop a 'localised' example and circulate it for review by mid-January. Permission to be obtained from CC to use excerpts from his book, integrated with content from other

sources. No recommendations on specific controls will be made and necessary disclaimers will be added. The launch of first flyers will be at the next Field Day.

Feedback from Dr Chris Spies

Two meetings were held with Dr Spies. The proposed research will span two seasons: a first phase in nurseries and a second phase (the following year) doing follow-ups. The project will test the use of both Phosguard and biological controls. A revised budget estimate is awaited. There was agreement that maintaining the relationship with Dr Spies alive is in the best interest of SA Olive. JS remarked that staying connected with academic allows SA Olive to access international researchers indirectly, and tap into research done abroad. JS recommended that SA Olive gifts be sent to academic institutions that we have worked with during the year.

6. Registration of Chemicals

6.1 Prioritisation of Active Ingredients

The list of AIs was briefly reviewed and two biologicals were added to the prioritised products. NU cautioned about using pyrethroids responsibly.

Referring to VJ's engagements with Thilivhali Nepfumbada, NU queried why effort was being duplicated since he had already been talking to Screeners. VJ explained that the conversation with Thilivhali had been about the application process and likelihood of success, adding that no commitments had been made, nor quotes requested. NU shared the contact details of his prior engagements so that written quotes may be obtained by SA Olive.

GvD added that SA Olive will need Thilivhali's assistance with the actual application process.

6.2 Way forward for 2023

JS asked VJ to follow up with Nolwazi Mkize (Bayer), Bianca Steytler (Winfield United) and Carolien van Zyl (UPL) regarding cost sharing for trials and then develop a timeframe for trials.

7. Training & Field Days

7.1 Dates & Topics for 2023 Field Days

A request for topics for 2023 Field Days was included in the latest SA Olive newsletter. Pending any suggestions, it was agreed that the next Field Day would cover handling of fruit, soil conditioning and compost, and IPM [It was confirmed that the acronym IPM should be used instead of IPDM].

NU will put forward names of potential presenters and will deliver a presentation on soil conditioning. He added that 1-2m deep holes will need to be dug in order for the soil profile to be visible.

Sponsors' names will be sent to VJ so that a 'save the date' can be emailed soonest. GvD proposed that the next Field Day be held on Thursday 2 March, followed by the AGM on Friday 3 March. This may facilitate attendance at both events for members travelling from far. VJ will check with BoD regarding the AGM.

Early bird and other discounts for multiple attendees will be offered as discussed previously. VJ will contact Buffet Olives and Cascade Manor to make arrangements.

8. Other Matters

8.1 Access to SAFJ

VJ reported having applied for SA Olive's membership and subscription to the SAFJ, however login details have not yet been obtained from Hortgro.

8.2 Website updates

CC and VJ had reviewed the structure of the Members Dashboard page to accommodate technical content and improve visibility. The new structure was illustrated as follows:

TECHNICAL FIELD DAYS

- Field Day Dates

- Presentations – grouped by topic

RESEARCH MATERIAL

- Project Names (SAO FUNDED)

- Project Final Reports – by project

- Published Papers (from Project)

- Peer-reviewed journals

DISCUSSION FORUM

- Popular publications

Work on the page will begin in January 2023 and the new structure will be presented at the next Field Day.

VJ reiterated that the Discussion Forum needs to be kept alive and populated with content of interest, or members will have no reason to visit it. All Committee members can add Topics, whereas Discussion Groups can only be created from the backend.

JS asked if Elsenburg's Enterprise Budgets were available in the public domain. They are available at this [link](#), and from the SA Olive website. The link will also be added in the next newsletter.

8.3 Feedback from Niche Crop Symposium

JS and NU gave a brief report on their participation in the Niche Crop Symposium.

8.4 Geographic Indicators (GIs)

JS asked VJ to reconnect with Dirk Troskie (Elsenburg) and Prof Tuffin (UWC).

8.5 Engagement with SU Food Science

VJ is meeting with Dr E. Moelich at Food Science. GvD asked that they be made aware of our members' ability to accommodate students for internships at processing facilities.

9. Next Technical Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 9 January 2023 @ 9.30, at the SA Olive office. GvD asked that all future meetings be in person, with Zoom attendance as optional.

Closure of Meeting

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