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COMBINED CONGRESS

# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

22-25 January 2024

Wilderness Hotel, George





# Join us for the Combined Congress 2024

The Southern African Society for Horticultural Science, Soil Science Society of South Africa and South African Society of Crop Production are pleased to invite you to join us for the Combined Congress 2024.

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The Congress will include engaging and informative keynote presentations from expert speakers; presentation of technical papers in research and development within the agricultural sector; and provide delegates with an opportunity to share common challenges, new research and solutions.

An added bonus is the spectacular venue situated on the beautiful Southern Cape coastline of South Africa. Steeped in a grand tradition with old-style charm and featuring modern facilities, the Wilderness Hotel in George is an excellent destination for both the tourist and business traveler alike.

## **The Combined Congress is an annual congress of three scientific**

**societies:** Soil Science Society of South Africa (SSSSA), Southern African Society for Horticultural Sciences (SASHS) and the South African Society of Crop Production (SASCP).

The Southern African Weed Science Society (SAWSS) who was also part of this collaboration, is now represented by SASCP. Weed science topics are thus still included in the congress.

These societies join forces to optimise resources, and promote collaboration between members.

These three societies are further represented and scientifically supported by the local journal, South African Journal of Plant and Soil (SAJPS), that publishes original articles and commentaries on research in the fields of fundamental and applied soil and plant science.



# Congress Dates and Venue



**22–25 January 2024**



**The Wilderness Hotel, George**



To book please email  
[reservations@thewildernesshotel.co.za](mailto:reservations@thewildernesshotel.co.za)  
or view [www.thewildernesshotel.co.za](http://www.thewildernesshotel.co.za)

### ***Michael Walsh***

*HWSC and the weed control revolution in Australian cropping systems*

Michael Walsh has spent 25 years working on the research and development of alternative weed control technologies to reduce herbicide resistance's impact on Australian grain cropping systems.

Much of his work has been focused on introducing and using harvest weed seed control systems to mitigate the impact of resistant weed populations on grain production.

More recently, he has commenced research on weed recognition technologies and opportunities for precision weed control in cropping systems.

Since returning from a Fulbright scholarship in the US, he is convinced that recent technological advances are creating exciting opportunities that will forever change weed control.



**MICHAEL WALSH**

SASCP Keynote Speaker





### ***Beverley-Anne Joseph***

*A 'hop' into the flower fields - diversifying to minimise farming risk*

Beverley-Anne Joseph is managing director and co-owner of Zelpy (PTY) Ltd, her hop farm business outside George, a town in the Western Cape, South Africa.

As the first black woman-hop farmer in Africa, she had run a successful business supplying hops to South African Breweries (SAB). COVID-19 lockdowns had given her a wake-up call as to the risk of having most of her eggs in one basket and she had to consider diversifying her farming business to minimise risk.

Fynbos flower cultivation was added to the basket. In 2021 Ms Joseph was awarded 'New Harvester of the Year', at the annual National Young Farmer of the Year awards and will share her difficult journey of perseverance with us.



**BEVERLEY-ANNE JOSEPH**

SASHS Keynote Speaker



### ***Prof Cornie van Huyssteen***

*It is all about soil*

Cornie van Huyssteen is an associate professor in the Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein.

His research focuses on the relationship between soil morphology and soil hydrology. From 1991 to 1999 he was employed by the Institute for Soil, Climate and Water of the Agricultural Research Council, where he aided in the land type survey and spatial analysis of soil data.

He received his B.Sc. Agric. in 1991, his M.Sc. in 1995, both at the University of Stellenbosch and his Ph.D. in 2004 at the University of the Free State. He is current vice-chair of the IUSS working group for the World Reference Base and past president of the Soil Science Society of South Africa.

He is author or co-author of 25 reviewed papers.



**CORNIE VAN HUYSSTEEN**

SSSSA Keynote Speaker





# Call for Abstracts

Abstracts are invited to be submitted in poster or oral format for the conference. Submissions can be made under the following themes:

## SSSSA

- Soil physics
- Soil chemistry
- Soil biology
- Soil fertility
- Soil genesis, classification & mapping
- Soil mineralogy
- Soil technology
- Soils & Policy

## SASCP

- Agrometeorology
- Crop modelling
- Crop physiology
- Crop nutrition & water
- Crop production
- Crop breeding & adaptation
- Crop quality
- Biofuels
- Conservation agriculture
- Crop protection
- Weeds, management & herbicides
- Alien invader plants

## SASHS

Physiology  
Nutrition & water management  
Hort crop protection  
Hort production & cultivation practices  
Rural development  
Biotechnology, breeding & propagation  
Post-harvest biology  
Indigenous & medicinal plants  
New & alternative crops

To submit your abstract please visit

<https://allevents.eventsair.com/combinedcongress2024/abstracts>

Please follow the instructions.

# Important Dates

- **30 August 2023** – abstract submission open
- **15 September 2023** – registration for congress starts
- **27 October 2023** – abstract submission close
- **15 November 2023** – Reviews done and results sent to authors.
- **1 December 2023** – Early bird registration closes

[www.combinedcongress.org.za](http://www.combinedcongress.org.za)