

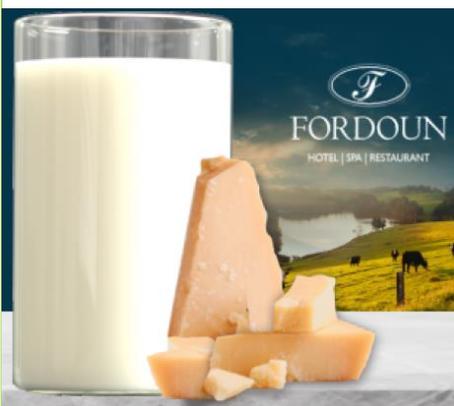
SASDT NEWSLETTER

March 2023

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Dairy: the next decade: opportunities and challenges.

1. Symposium 2023: Dairy – the next decade

The highlight for this year is our annual symposium to be held at the Fordoun Hotel in the beautiful KwaZulu-Natal Midlands on 17 and 18 April.

Under the theme ‘Dairy – the next decade’ presentations during this two-day event will focus on innovation and sustainability solutions in the dairy industry.

More information and registration details are available on <https://sasdt.foodfocus.co.za/>

2. Strategy update

After the member survey at the end of 2021, the Society revisited its position in the dairy industry. The national committee has since been strategising how to keep the SASDT standing in the dairy industry relevant. **The outcomes will be shared with members at the symposium.** Be sure to attend the event.

3. Events in 2022

Last year kicked off with the annual symposium, themed ‘A bright future for dairy’, held at the Lanzerac Hotel in Stellenbosch on 24 March. We had a stellar line-up of speakers, who shared ideas, innovations and inspirations for the future of dairy in a more sustainable world. The social event that concluded the symposium was an opportunity for delegates to interact further and reconnect with old friends and colleagues.

The Society also presented several other events, both online and in person, in the different regions. Recordings of the webinars are available on the website: <https://www.sasdt.org.za/webinars/>

- Digging into the minds of consumers – Mariesa Vorster, Shoprite Checkers Group
- Plant-based alternatives to dairy: Threat or opportunity? – Davide Risso, Tate and Lyle
 - The use of genomic testing in the dairy industry – Matthew Cook, Director Semex, South Africa
- Current dairy market conditions – Alwyn Kraamwinkel

4. Webinars and 'in-person' meetings: Staying in contact in 2023

As webinars are a great way for the SASDT to share information – from new technologies to consumer trends – a webinar will be held every quarter in 2023. However, to ensure that we do not lose 'in person' contact, regions will plan physical meetings for members and so provide an opportunity for networking and building relationships. Recordings of the physical meetings will also be available for downloading for those who are not able to attend.

In 2023, four webinars are planned and communication will be shared with members

5. Student awards 2022

The annual student evening, which is a highlight on our calendar every year, was hosted by the SASDT and the University of Pretoria on 25 August 2022. Attended by both students, SASDT members and other colleagues in the dairy industry, the event is an opportunity for students of the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences to showcase their work. Four postgraduate students, supervised by Prof Elna Buys and Dr Thulani Sibanda, presented their research. The students are supported through a research project funded by Milk SA and were awarded prizes for their presentations at the event.

- The first prize was awarded to Tlaleo Azael Marole,
- Ursula Thomashoff was awarded second prize
- Chrizelda Visser and Olivia Buck were joint second runners-up.

Afterwards, everyone was treated to a delicious meal prepared by the Department's third-year Hospitality Management and Culinary Science students.

6. Merit awards 2022

Merit awards are presented every year, but owing to the Covid pandemic that derailed many in-person events over the past two years, the annual awards ceremonies of 2020 and 2021 were postponed. Rina Belcher (Belnori Boutique Cheesery) and Kobus Mulder received merit awards from the Gauteng and Western Cape and Gauteng branches, at the regions' 2022 year-end functions.

Rina Belcher is known for producing award-winning goat milk products that combine science and art. Kobus Mulder, South Africa's 'King of Cheese' is a renowned cheese maker and has taught many dairy technologists their craft.

7. Executive member matters



Stephan Steyn, president of the society from 2012 to 2020, moved to Denmark in October 2022 to further his career there. Stephan had been part of the SASDT since 2003 when he attended his first symposium at Mabalingwe. The Society recognises his enthusiastic contribution of almost 20 years and wishes him well as he pursues his new career at Arla Foods.

We also said goodbye to Yvonne Steyn, who retired and moved to Somerset West to be with her son. Yvonne had been part of the SASDT management committee since 1999 and her contribution to SASDT, and especially her part in helping our symposiums to run so smoothly every year, will be sorely missed. We wish Yvonne much happiness in this new life chapter.



**We look forward to a productive 2023.
Christine Leighton (President) and the National Committee**

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF DAIRY TECHNOLOGY