



# Newsletter

## January 2024

### Annual review of 2023

The South African Society of Dairy Technology brings you a the SASDT newsletter offering an in-depth look at a 2023 with dynamic activities and valuable insights into the dairy industry.

**Take note of the Symposium in May/June 2024**

**Annual Symposium in April 2023:** The SASDT kicked off the year with a thought-provoking two-day symposium held at Fordoun Hotel in the Midlands on April 17 and 18. The symposium, titled "The Next Decade: Opportunities and Challenges," brought together industry experts, researchers, and enthusiasts. For those who missed it, a detailed recap is available in the [June 2023 newsletter](#).

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### **Webinars and Meetings:**

Throughout the year, the SASDT organized engaging webinars and meetings, providing platforms for knowledge exchange and networking.

Notable highlights include a webinar on **July 19** by Bienca, a Belgian company specializing in microbial safety solutions for food products. The presentation, "Lactoperoxidase: A Natural Enzymatic System to Protect Dairy Products Against Microbial Spoilage," garnered 61 registered attendees and 30 live participants.

**In July**, the Western Cape division hosted a hybrid meeting featuring David Faulker, Mintel Food and Drink Associate, who explored the implications of 2023 trends for the dairy industry.

**Student Evening** at the University of Pretoria: The SASDT's annual student evening at the University of Pretoria on August 17 showcased the impressive work of postgraduate students in the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences, supervised by Prof Elna Buys. Projects focused on developing probiotic yogurt with potential anti-candidal and anti-bacterial activity. The event was attended by 20 in-person attendees and 38 online participants.

Congratulations to the winners:

- First Prize: Tlaleo Marole
- Second Prize: Ursula Thomashoff
- Third Prize: Anthony Hobden
- Fourth Prize: Chrizelda Visser

**SAAFOST Congress Participation:** On August 30, SASDT SAAFOST Congress Participation: On August 30, SASDT presented the dairy session at the 25th Biennial SAAFOST Congress 2023 in Cape Town. The well-attended session featured presentations from Prof Renée Blaauw, Enrike Maree, Andre Adendorff, and three students mentored by Prof Elna Buys.

September featured a collaboration with the Consumer Education Project of Milk SA, presenting the webinar "How Dairy Gives You More Go Than You Know." With 97 registered attendees and 47 live participants, the webinar provided valuable insights.

Closing out the month, Professor Renée Blaauw delivered a compelling presentation at the University of Stellenbosch titled, 'Not All Fats Are the Same with Special Reference to Dairy and Cardiovascular Disease,' attended by 30 individuals.

**New Members - A Growing Community:** A warm welcome to the 17 new members who joined SASDT in 2023. Your contributions enrich our community, and we look forward to collaborating with you in the years to come.



**Looking Ahead to 2024** - Save the Dates! In 2024, SASDT is committed to advancing scientific and technological knowledge. Save the dates for our upcoming events:

**Half-Day Symposium – “Dairy’s boundless potential: Advancing science and technology through the International Dairy Federation”**

Presented in collaboration with the International Dairy Federation (IDF), the symposium will be held on **May 23rd in Gauteng, May 30th in the Western Cape, and June 5th in KZN**. Join us for an insightful day with local and international speakers, concluding with a networking social event with dinner, cheese and wine. Sponsorship opportunities will be available.

Other Events in 2024: Stay tuned for three planned webinars, a student evening in August, regional in-person meetings, and year-end functions in November/December.

SASDT Sponsorship Support - Join Us in Advancing the Industry: As we continue to strive for excellence, SASDT invites members of the dairy industry to support the society financially. Explore our annual sponsorship options, contributing to the promotion of technological advancement and effective management of the society. Details can be found on our [website](#).

Let's build on the achievements of the past year and look forward to a prosperous 2024.

Warm regards,

**SASDT National Committee**



# **ABOUT the South African Society of Dairy Technology**

In the changing consumer environment, where the origin, safety, sustainability and quality of dairy products are often questioned, it is important that people working in the dairy industry stand united and talk about dairy from the farm to the fridge. The South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT) is a platform for role players in the industry to get together to share knowledge that promotes technological and scientific advancement in the dairy industry. The SASDT thus provides an opportunity for those working in the industry to interact and become ambassadors for dairy.

The South African Society of Dairy Technology is an active society whose primary objective is to promote and encourage technological and scientific advancement in the dairy industry.

## **Our values:**

- Honesty and integrity
- Independence
- Passion
- Partnerships

## **History**

The Society was established in 1967, with Bruce Carte as the first national president. More than 55 years after it was set up to serve as a communication network, it is still the dairy industry's preferred hub for trusted information. Members represent all business sectors involved in the dairy industry, including processors, producers and suppliers. The Society is currently represented by approximately 180 members countrywide with diverse industry interests, ensuring that the organisation remains vibrant and relevant.



## **Strategic interest**

In 2022, the Society revisited its strategic interests, which were subsequently formulated as follows:

- To build stakeholder and industry partnerships
- To be actively involved in student development programmes in the dairy sector
- To establish a regional presence for the Society and have regular regional meetings to ensure members are up to date and remain connected
- To develop a strong value proposition to ensure members are actively involved and engaged with the Society

## **Operations and meetings\**

Regional meetings allow for members to stay up to date with the latest trends and technical developments in the dairy industry, both at home and abroad. Information shared through the Society helps members to interact and build lasting relationships in the industry. Regular webinars are held to include online and remote members.

With the SASDT being a SACNASP-recognised organisation, members can also earn continuing professional development points by attending events organised by the Society.

## Offering to our members

The SASDT's main commodity is the dissemination of reliable, vetted scientific information. Through its members, the Society has access to international best practice knowledge as well as information regarding the latest international technological trends. The Society disseminates this knowledge in the following ways:

- **Annual symposium:** A great platform for knowledge sharing and networking by local and international speakers. The event gives exposure to input suppliers and connects them with processors and producers. Student members have opportunities to connect with industry leaders.
- **Regional meetings and webinars:** Ongoing industry engagement is ensured through regional meetings and webinars to discuss relevant topics in depth. This includes student evenings and year-end functions.
- **Member engagement and communication:** Social media messages and newsletters are shared regularly.



### **Current Operating committee**

- President: Christine Leighton
- Vice President: Rian Marren
- Treasurer: Stephan Steyn
- Secretary: Barbara Bieldt

### **Committee members** *(in alphabetical order):*

- Adri Venter (Gauteng)
- Colin Ollhoff (Western Cape)
- Jeandre Johnston (Gauteng)
- Jodie True (Western Cape)
- Johan Boshoff (Western Cape)
- Lauren Longo (KwaZulu Natal)
- Suzaan Kruger (Gauteng)
- Wayne Witthoft (Gauteng)
- Charle Warnecke

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