



11TH CRI

Citrus Research Symposium

The 11th Citrus Research International (CRI) Symposium took place on 21 August at Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensberg. By Liezl van der Linde



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More than 800 delegates, including CRI staff and speakers, registered for the CRI Citrus Research Symposium - a key entry on the South African citrus calendar.

The Laeveld Agrochem golf day that kicked off the event, drew 107 golfers to a sunny course, with the beautiful snow-capped Drakensberg mountains as a backdrop.

Winfield United was the main sponsor of the event along with 48 other sponsors and supporters of the citrus industry.

The technical agenda started on 22 August and included all research portfolios, with presentations from the last four years of research. Overall, growers and industry role-players found presentations very insightful and practical. Growers also tasted new cultivars. The Symposium programme consisted of over 74 scientific presentations and 40 posters, of these four were from international keynote speakers.

Judges from SASCCON and CRI Extension personnel also evaluated student presentations and posters over the three



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1: CRI CEO Vaughan Hattingh (right) presents Louis Von Broembsen with the Technical Merit Award 2: Foyer display at Champagne Sports Resort 3: Rochelle de Bruyn, winner of the Best Presentation Award, and Tim Grout (CRI Research and Technical Manager) 4: Main Presentation hall – Buttress



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days, and the prize for the best overall presentation went to Rochelle de Bruyn (it was titled "Citrus virus A associated with citrus impietratura of grapefruit and a blotchy rind disorder of Valencia in South Africa"). The prize for best poster was awarded to Kelsey Andrews, titled "A new diagnostic tool for the identification of fruit fly larvae in citrus".

The symposium was brought to a close with awards of honour at the SAPPI Gala dinner and an evening of entertainment by King Price Insurance. CRI CEO Dr Vaughan Hattingh presented the CRI Technical Merit Award to Louis von Broembsen, a well-known individual in the citrus industry and former R&T manager of SACCE/Outspan. Louis's dedication and commitment have proven to be a game changer for the industry.

The delegates were given a good send-off with music by the talented Dr Victor and the Rasta Rebels. They danced until midnight.

We look forward to the next Symposium in 2024, and hope to see you there. 🍊



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