

SEAN MOORE

Visiting professor at Rhodes University



Sean Moore

Last year Sean Moore, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Portfolio Manager at Citrus Research International (Pty) Ltd was appointed as a visiting professor at the Centre for Biological Control at Rhodes University.

Sean Moore's appointment follows his tenure as research associate at the university since 2012.

This position is awarded based on academic excellence, seniority, and local and international reputation. Sean is regarded as an internationally recognised leader in the field of IPM, and has made a significant contribution to Rhodes University over the last decade. During his association with the

institution, Sean has published 60 papers and five book chapters, and co-supervised nine PhD and 23 MSc students. He has also supervised countless third-year and honours research projects. Sean contributes to the agricultural entomology focus of the SARChI chair in applied entomology at Rhodes, and is Deputy Director of the Centre for Biological Control where he gives guidance with regard to the research needs of industry. Sean currently also chairs the organising committee of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Society of Invertebrate Pathology (SIP) to be held in Gqeberha in August 2022 and that hopes to draw over 300 delegates from all over the world.

NEW HANDBOOK on fertilisation of citrus trees in SA

Last year marked the release of a 141-page manual that provides critical support for SA's export-driven citrus industry. By Engela Duvenage (Faculty of AgriSciences, Stellenbosch University)



Pieter Raath

The Handbook for Fertilisation of Citrus in South Africa was compiled by Dr Pieter Raath of Citrus Research International (CRI) and the Department of Horticultural Science at Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with members of the Citrus Fertilisation Working Group.

Issues such as the nutritional needs of citrus trees; the sampling and interpretation of soil; leaf and water samples; the fertilisation of bearing and non-bearing trees; and symptoms of nutrient deficiency are all tackled in this prized new manual.

Over the course of last year, Dr Raath and colleagues also introduced to the citrus industry key concepts that feature in the manual, through a series of two-day workshops in Addo (Eastern Cape), Simondium (Western Cape), Hoedspruit (Limpopo) and Groblersdal (Limpopo).

Funding for the publication of the book came from the Department of Science and Innovation.

"The goal with this handbook is to empower both citrus growers and advisors to obtain a thorough understanding of the

The book, presently only available in hardcover, will soon also be available in electronic format.

It includes up to date, authoritative and practical citrus nutrition guidelines towards a rigorous citrus fertilisation programme that optimises financial returns, sustains yields and maintains soil and water quality.

"Our new handbook updates the invaluable guidelines set out in the original Fertilisation Guidelines and combines age-old scientific principles with new practical implementations to reflect the dynamic nature of the South African citrus industry," says Dr Raath.

About the need for producers to focus on matters related to fertilisation, Dr Raath says: "Fruit tree nutrition rightfully enjoys much attention in modern citrus production systems. The purpose of fertilisation is to ensure that all mineral nutrients are available to a tree in sufficient quantities, to achieve a specific production target. Citrus growers and their technical advisors, therefore, have to ensure balanced nutrition for each specific soil-tree-climate situation."

He says in practice this requires a knowledge of several variables such as soil, climate, fertilisers, tree physiology and fruit quality goals.

"Information regarding all these is required to properly compile a fertilisation programme and to implement it on orchard level."

He thanked the members of the working group, among whom were soil scientists and citriculturists, for their help with compiling the handbook.

"The result was that scientific principles, which have been established over many years, as well as practical experience, could be uniquely combined to provide the South African citrus industry with a fresh, up-to-date and complete guide to successful citrus tree nutrition."

Copies cost R250 each. For enquiries, contact Dr Pieter Raath at praath@sun.ac.za or Bella Thulare at bella@cri.co.za.

theoretical and practical elements that need to be considered for optimal citrus nutrition management," says Dr Raath.

"Being able to deliver the highest quality fruit to highly demanding global markets starts with perfecting the basics of optimal production practices, and that is where nutrition takes centre stage," says CRI Chief Executive Officer Dr Vaughan Hattingh.

Citrus Research International is a research and technical services organisation based in SA that focuses primarily on citrus.

Dr Hattingh congratulated the team behind the handbook: "It was a daunting challenge to distil the multitude of recommendations into a handbook, but Dr Raath and his team of contributors have excelled in their task. This handbook represents an invaluable tool in enabling the Southern African citrus industry to continue producing the best quality fruit for global markets, and is a must for all horticultural advisers and citrus producers."

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