

this edition

7

Vision for Extension Suite Online® 2016

1

Tips and tools:
The importance of
crop rotation

2

ESO tip: Update
user details for
2016

2

Monthly ESO
National Top User:
Jeremia Murovhi

The vision for Extension Suite Online® - 2016

Dr Roelof de Villiers

We trust that all our users and friends in the industry found the new year to be as exciting and full of promise as much as we do. This year will become known as the year of evolution for Extension Suite Online® (ESO). We are currently busy with the development of the second major version of ESO, taking into account the many suggestions and feedback received from users in the provinces over the past three years.

The new version of ESO, known as ESO Evolution, will extend ESO into an even more, powerful Decision Support System that will span the full spectrum of agriculture and extension approaches in the provinces. So, what can be expected? The new system will be truly mobile. Spanning the range of new communication devices available on the market, it will enable Extension Advisors to not only access the system on computers, but Evolution will be custom built for cellular phones, and tablets.

Content is currently being reviewed and improved, with new sections on forestry, fisheries, extension practices and an all new economics component. A markets and marketing section will be added, and the electronic library (e-Library) now has more than 2000 new documents - all in a searchable format.

A notification system will be added to improve communication between users, their supervisors and respective departments. In addition to the above, the system makes provision for improved linkages to the sector, taking into account a commodity approach to extension

advisory services. This approach will allow co-development, and the expansion of ESO between Manstrat, and national and provincial research organisations, commodity organisations, colleges, universities and the agricultural libraries in the provinces.

Technically, ESO Evolution will be light on data usage, saving users money, and it will be faster and more efficient than its older version. All considered, the new ESO will be a truly integrated decision support system linking information and content from all agricultural role players into a single easy to use package.

We are looking forward to meeting you all in the provinces during the next two months to discuss additional requirements you may have and to include these aspects on top of everything else to ensure that ESO Evolution takes extension and advisory services into the next five years.

Your support team at Manstrat wishes all a wonderful and exciting agricultural 2016.



Dr Roelof de Villiers

ESO WALLPAPERS

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE
DESKTOP WALLPAPER TODAY!

Liven up your computer's desktop with an Extension Suite Online wallpaper. Download wallpapers directly from the ESO newsletter e-mail or on the ESO media website: media.esuite.co.za



Tips and tools for advisors

The importance of crop rotation

Portia Phaphlane

As a general rule of thumb, producers should, after every four-year period of planting the same crop in an allotted field, plant a different crop, before repeating the cycle. The benefits of this practice include the following:

- Pests and diseases build up in the soil and local environment where farmers plant the same crop continually. Planting a different type of crop, breaks the cycle of increasing pest numbers. For example, planting a crop resistant to nematodes will remove their food source, and their numbers will decrease.
- Some crops require more of a specific soil nutrient, depleting the fertility of the soil. For example, to improve soil conditions a nitrogen providing legume is often used in the rotation process. A field can either be left fallow or a selected crop ploughed in, to provide "green manure" and improve soil fertility.
- Alternating crops with different growth habits help to keep weeds under control as some crop plants have dense foliage, which helps to suppress the growing of most weeds.

TOP NATIONAL ESO USER:

The monthly national ESO user will receive the following prizes: First time National ESO User 2016: **4 Gig USB memory stick**, second time National ESO User 2016: **Digital Camera**, third time National ESO User 2016: **Nokia Lumia 520**, fourth time National ESO User 2016: **Samsung Galaxy Tab**.

Congratulations to **Mr Jeremia Murovhi** (Limpopo Department of Agriculture), the ESO National Top User for December 2015.



Jeremia Murovhi

Our congratulations to Mr Jeremia Murovhi from Department of Agriculture in Limpopo who has won the Extension Suite Online® National Top User Award, for a fourth time during 2015 (February 2015 and October - December 2015). For this extraordinary effort, Manstrat AIS will present him with a brand new Samsung Galaxy Tablet. Well done Jeremia.

As usual, we asked our top user, to share some of his experiences. He firstly indicated that Extension Suite Online® has assisted him in providing support and advisory services to farmers, and supplied him with a wide range of knowledge. He uses Extension Suite Online® to develop training material for both plant production and animal production practices for his farmers and clients. He also uses the system's infrastructure information to find the best markets, and up- and down-stream suppliers for his farmers.

One of the techniques that he uses to support his clients is the "Participatory Technique". According to him, the technique empowers farmers to make informed decisions even when the advisor is not available. Jeremia emphasises that farming is a business and that it is important for small-scale farmers to participate in all decisions (agricultural and financial) that will contribute to improving their production and ultimately increasing their income.

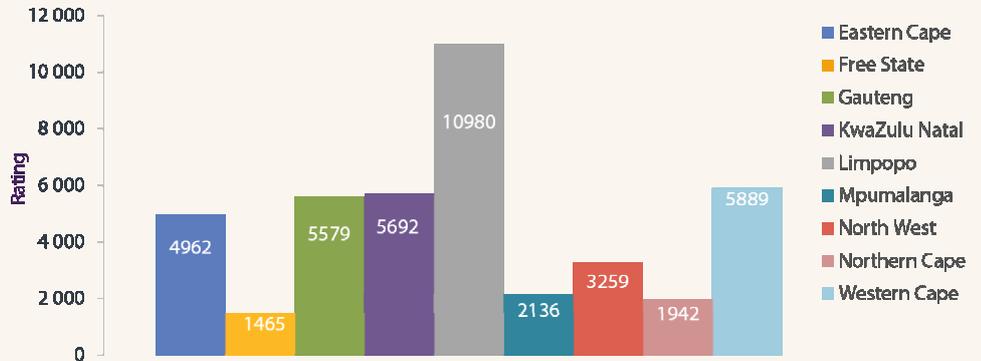
He says, "that to become a better extension practitioner, it is important to love your work. You will wake up motivated, every morning, to execute your task, to the best of your ability." "It is important that one remains up to date with new things and changes within agriculture, as farming is changing almost every day and Extension Suite Online® is one of the most relevant sources of information in improving our knowledge. Working closely with the clients will improve the working relationship which is vital to the success of both advisor and clients."

In saying goodbye, Jeremia applauded the support that he gets from his manager, colleagues and spouse for keeping him motivated and in striving to do more.

EXTENSION SUITE ONLINE UTILISATION: DECEMBER 2015

Extension Suite Online (ESO) utilisation is determined through monitoring user utilisation in the nine provinces and by attaching values to Visits, Pages Visited and Duration of Visits; a rating is calculated to establish the ESO National Top User of the Month.

ESO PROVINCIAL TOP USER GRAPH



ESO PROVINCIAL TOP USERS

| PROVINCE | NAME |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Eastern Cape | Sindile Magoda |
| Free State | Moshodi Marumo |
| Gauteng | Sizwe Nzuza |
| KwaZulu Natal | Dumisani Nzama |
| Limpopo | Jeremia Murovhi |
| Mpumalanga | Sinekhaya Benson Makukule |
| North West | Tlou Harrison Chokoe |
| Northern Cape | Jacobus Sedrick Visser |
| Western Cape | Riaan Nowers |

DISEASE TALK: FEATURED DISEASE

Further information on all featured diseases can be found on ESO.

Scientific Name: African Swine Fever
Popular Name: African Swine Fever

Swine fever is a highly contagious, viral disease, caused by the RNA Pest virus. It is spread from wild pigs to domestic pigs by ticks and by contact through the oro-nasal route. It runs its course in a very short time and results in a high mortality rate. It is a Notifiable and Controlled disease.



African Swine Fever

ESO TIPS:

Update user details for 2016

Piet van Zyl

In addition to the fact that a decision support system like Extension Suite Online® must maintain, improve and update information content to ensure that it stays effective and relevant, it must also ensure that its knowledge about its users, remain current. This will lead to better and more effective communication with users, and help to improve the overall user experience and ensure pro-active client satisfaction.

Knowledge about users further assists the service provider in gathering required information and identifying new trends and interests amongst users. Information that is shared with the national and

provincial departments of agriculture to use in the development and management of their personnel.

Besides updating the standard user biographical databases, updating information like promotions and transfers, helps the service provider in user profiling, as well as ensuring that the systems remains accessible only to bona fide users, and authorised individuals and groups.

Users can update their personal profiles by logging in to Extension Suite Online® - and on the landing page, going to the top left corner, and to click on the "profile" icon, placed in the box next to the Extension Suite Online® logo. This is a "quick and easy" process which should not take longer than a few seconds.

Do you have any technology related questions? Send them to newsletter@esuite.co.za, with your name, province and the question and we will answer them in a following newsletter edition.



Editor:
Jeanne-Louise Bekker

Publishers:
Manstrat Agricultural Intelligence Solutions (Pty) Ltd.

Correspondence:
newsletter@esuite.co.za | +27 12 460 2499



ManstratAIS



@ManstratAIS



ManstratAIS

