

## VOORSITTERSREDE

O VON G SCHOLTZ, Bosveld Kunsmis (Edms) Bpk

Mnr die President, U Edele mnr Schoeman, geagte eregaste, dame en here, ek wil graag my voorsittersverslag oor die aktiwiteite van die Misstofvereniging van Suid-Afrika gedurende die afgelope jaar begin deur 'n woord dank uit te spreek teenoor my voorganger, mnr René du Toit. Dit is 'n jaar laat, maar dit is die eerste openbare geleentheid wat ek het om dit te doen. Diegene van u wat die Misstofvereniging geruime tyd ken, sal beseef dat daar 'n merkwaardige verandering gekom het in sy aktiwiteite en die doelgerigtheid waarmee hy sy taak van aanmoediging van die gebruik van misstowwe en die bevordering van samewerking tussen Staatsinstansies, Georganiseerde Landbou en ander belange in die landbou, aangepak het. Hierdie metamorfose in die Vereniging het ingetree onder die leierskap van mnr René du Toit en namens die lede van die Vereniging wil ek hom graag hier bedank vir wat hy in hierdie verband vir ons gedoen het.

Our activities during the last year were concentrated on promoting the use of fertilizer and forming closer links with all interested in agriculture. Many articles and publications were prepared by our staff, inter alia, the following:

Our 'Ferdie' articles regularly appear in the Farmer's Weekly. These articles are also translated into Afrikaans and are made available to the country press. The pamphlet 'Die Mieliestorie', is so popular that we cannot supply the demand. A revised issue is being prepared for publication as well as an English translation thereof. Some 4 000 copies of maize calendars were distributed as well as a maize record keeping system for maize farmers. About 10 000 copies each of pamphlets on nitrogen and potassium were printed and distributed, and we continued to distribute the pamphlets on soil acidity and phosphorus. The issue of the FSSA Journal containing the proceedings of our last Annual General Meeting appeared as well as three issues of Plantfood News. One of these dealt with the first Farmers' Day promoted by the Society, held at Eloff, and the other contained lectures given by the Society medal holders at a special function arranged during 1969. (We were not entirely in agreement with some of the viewpoints expressed in this issue!) A series of articles under the heading 'Plantvoeding' is in preparation for the Landbouweekblad.

Members of the Society regularly give talks at Farmers' Days arranged by farmers' organisations. They also take part at meetings arranged by study groups in various areas and we support, with advice and finance, fertilizer trials conducted by farmers' associations.

The Society endeavours to promote the use of fertilizers in the Bantu areas of the Transkei, Natal and Zululand by means of lectures, 'instructive farming calendars, advice, films, soil fertility courses and NPK trials. In the latter respect it is distressing to note that we are not receiving full co-operation in the post-planting supervision and maintenance and for this reason the NPK trials will be suspended in the Transkei. Bursaries are also made available to Bantu students in agriculture.

We assist European students by the granting of a bursary of R500 per annum, which will increase progressively to four bursaries per annum of R500 each during the next four years.

I have mentioned but a few of the activities of the Society as I do not want to go into details. We feel that we have achieved much in co-ordinating our activities with those of Organised Agriculture, specialized committees of the South African Agricultural Union and other Regional

Agricultural Unions, with Control Boards, with Sampi and last but not least with the Department of Agriculture.

We have particular pleasure in recording two outstanding steps in our progress towards better co-operation with the Department. Firstly the directive under the heading Co-ordination of Agricultural Extension and Research of the Department of Agriculture with that of the Private Sector dated the 2nd September 1969, wherein closer co-operation in regard to extension with the private sector for the first time received official blessing.

Secondly, at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Dr J W Geyer on the 23rd of July 1969, a start was made with the co-ordination of applied research between the Society and the Department of Agriculture.

These two steps of progress can be regarded as the outstanding achievements in a very successful year. The impetus gained from this led to the approval of the establishment of a Research Division within the FSSA where for the first time applied research would be undertaken by the Society on behalf of its members and, we sincerely trust, in conjunction and in co-operation with the Department of Agricultural Technical Services. We are hopeful that the results of the research trials will be recognised officially and accepted by all concerned with agriculture. Such efforts are, in many other countries, subsidised by the State.

Dit is uiters moeilik om die vooruitgang en doeltreffendheid van 'n vereniging te meet wat homself alleenlik toespits op die koördinasie van sekere aktiwiteite van sy lede met betrekking vernaamlik tot bevordering voorligting, skakelwerk tussen sy lede en Staatsinstansies, Georganiseerde Landbou, ens. Die Vereniging is nie 'n handelsorganisasie nie en daar is nie die gewone maatstaf van winsgewendheid waardeur die doeltreffendheid van sy werk gemeet kan word nie. Dit is uiters noodsaaklik dat die bevorderingsprojekte, die artikels en tydskrifte voorberei deur die Misstofvereniging, die lesings gelewer deur sy lede namens die Misstofvereniging, almal baie deeglik oorweeg, voorberei en van baie hoë gehalte moet wees. Dit is noodsaaklik dat ons verskeie komitees en sub-komitees moet verseker dat dit — ons kan dit produkte noem — wat hulle produseer van so 'n standard is dat dit alleenlik tot eer van die Vereniging sal strek.

Hierin dink ek het ons tot 'n groot mate geslaag. Ons sien uit na 'n jaar waarin die doelwitte van die Vereniging verder bevorder sal word tot voordeel van die landbou in Suid-Afrika.

Vroeër het ek lof aan mnr du Toit toegeswaai vir sy dienste. Sy voorsitterskap het gepaard gegaan met die aanstelling van dr H C Luitingh as Direkteur van die Misstofvereniging en hy en sy bekwame personeel het 'n baie groot aandeel gehad in die vooruitgang van die Vereniging. Die lede wat dien op die verskillende komitees het hul eie pligte in hul eie organisasies en die verantwoordelikheid vir die doeltreffendheid en kwaliteit van die werk gelewer deur die Vereniging rus in die laaste instansie op die breë skouers van ons Direkteur en sy personeel. Ons is bly dat hy na sy lang siekte nou ten volle herstel het en in staat is om voort te gaan met sy wardevolle dienste aan ons.

Ten slotte wil ek graag die Vereniging se dank uitspreek teenoor al die lede van die Bestuurskomitee, die Uitvoerende Komitee en al die ander subkomitees van die Vereniging vir hulle toegewyde dienste en samewerking gedurende die jaar.