

DO NOT FALL VICTIM TO “PSEUDO SCIENCE”

THE CASE OF THE BOXES

Dr Pieter Haumann



Pseudoscience consists of claims, beliefs, or practices presented as being plausible scientifically, but which are not justifiable by the **scientific** method.

In practice “Pseudo Science” is the stating of utter nonsense in such a manner that the victim believes that it is a proven scientific fact.

This sort of thing happens regularly since the earliest times of business hence the Latin statement of “*Caveat emptor*” or buyer beware!

THE CASE OF THE BOXES

Probably the most bizarre case of recent times is that of the “**Boxes**”. The perpetrators of this scam preyed upon farmers who have had extremely bad seasons in which crops have mostly failed due to drought. The claims regarding the boxes were convincing enough that more than 50 000 ha of lands were subjected to this “treatment”.

According to members of Fertasa, it is tragic to see the lands of victims of this scam after the wonderful rain that was a blessing for the whole farming community.

Hopefully justice will be served on the perpetrators, but the damage is huge. It is also difficult to determine under which discipline the transgression resorts since “energy fields” were mentioned and nothing was actually applied to the soil.

AVOIDING REPETITION OF SIMILAR OCCURENCES.

Farmers should not use any “new” and wonderful device or substance without first insisting on proof of efficacy and evaluating any scientific claims

One of the first people to contact should be associated or working for a company that is a member of Fertasa.

Accountability ranks highly in companies who are members of Fertasa. They strive for various principles including:

- Protection of crop producers against dubious suppliers and
- Complying with a Code of Conduct enhancing the integrity of the Fertilizer Industry.

For more information on Fertasa go to the website : www.fertasa.co.za

MOENIE 'N SLAGOFFER VAN "PSEUDOWETENSKAP" WEES NIE

DIE GEVAL VAN DIE BOKSE

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Pseudowetenskap bestaan uit bewerings, gelowe en praktyke wat as wetenskaplik geloofwaardig voorgestel word, maar nie deur die wetenskaplike metode geregverdig kan word nie.

In die praktyk is "Pseudowetenskap" die verkondiging van uiterse onsin op so 'n manier dat die slagoffer glo dat dit 'n wetenskaplike bewese feit is.

Hierdie soort ding gebeur dikwels sedert vroeë tye in besigheid, vandaar die gesegde "*Caveat emptor*" of te wel koper wees versigtig!

DIE GEVAL VAN DIE BOKSE

Een van die mees bizarre gevalle van die afgelope tyd is dié van die "**Bokse**". Die uitvoerders van hierdie verneukspul het boere uitgebuit wat die afgelope tyd slegte seisoene beleef het, met oeste wat erg benadeel is deur droogtes. Die bewerings oor die bokse was so oortuigende dat meer as 50 000 ha "behandel" is.

Volgens lede van Fertasa is dit tragies om die lande van die slagoffers te aanskou na die wonderlike reëns waarmee die boerdery gemeenskap geseën is.

Die uitvoerders van hierdie verneukspul sal hopelik aan die pen ry, maar geweldig baie skade is aangerig. Dit is ook moeilik om te bepaal onder watter dissipline die oortreding resorteer aangesien "energievelde" genoem is en niks is eintlik aan die grond toegedien nie.

VERMYDING VAN HERHALING VAN SOORTGELYKE VOORVALLE

Boere moet nie "Nuwe en wonderlike" toestelle of middels gebruik voordat daar eers bewyse van werking en evaluasie van wetenskaplike bewerings gesien is nie.

Een van die eerste mense om te kontak moet betrokke wees by / of werk vir 'n maatskappy wat 'n lid van Fertasa is.

Verantwoordbaarheid word hoog aangeskrewe by maatskappye wat lede van Fertasa is. Hulle streef na verskeie beginsels insluitende:

- Beskerming van gewas produsente teen twyfelagtige verskaffers en
- Onderwerping aan 'n Gedragskode wat die integriteit van die Kunsmisbedryf bevorder.

Om meer inligting oor Fertasa te verkry gaan na die webwerf www.fertasa.co.za