independent agricultural consulting services

PROCROP

agricultural consultancy

ProCrop is an all-inclusive independant agricultural consultancy company with consultation interests both nationally and internationally, focusing on crop production activities.

ProCrop is not involved in the direct or indirect marketing of any products related to the field of consultation and proud itself in the provision of independent and impartial advice.

- Experienced professionals in various crops and agricultural fields
- Practical and scientifically sound recommendation
- Long-standing relationships with progressive clients
- Long-standing relationships with research institutions and academic experts
- Specialist training course provider
- Provision of research services

Soil Fertility
Facilitation of Diagnostic Services
Crop Protection
Research
Training

OUR SERVICES

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SOIL FERTILITY

The main focus in this discipline is on the design of well-balanced fertiliser programs based on all the contributing variables and exploitation of new technology in this regard which include:

- Evaluations and recommendations on the suitability of soils for specific crop types and recommendations on physical and chemical improvements to soils.
- Development and compiling of fertiliser programmes based on soil and leaf analyses together with production and growth history of an orchard, vineyard or field.
- Compiling of foliar fertiliser spray programmes based on leaf nutrient analyses
- Compiling of three year lime maintenance programmes of soils.
- Implementation, modification and guidance of nutritional programmes throughout the season in orchards and vineyards to ensure a good balance between growth and fruit baring.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Facilitate diagnostic services including:
- Nematology
- Plant diseases
- Soil, leaf and related analyses
- Pesticide residue analyses

OUR SERVICES

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CROP PROTECTION

This involves all the various sub disciplines of crop protection with specific focus on the following:

- Development of IPM based crop protection management plans per crop
- Ensuring market access and compliance to all legislation and related regulations involved with pesticide use.
- Implementation of pest and disease scouting systems
- Implementation and development of pest and disease forecasting systems

RESEARCH

ProCrop has a team of qualified scientific researchers that can conduct scientifically sound assessments in the following but not limited to:

- Spray application evaluations
- Pest and disease forecasting systems
- Field evaluations of plant protection related products

Our research activities are aimed at the development of new expertise and technologies as well as the scientific evaluation of existing technologies/products in a very unbiased commercial environment. Current research projects involve spray application, pest and disease forecasting as well as co-supervising in several post-graduate plant pathology studies at the University of Stellenbosch.

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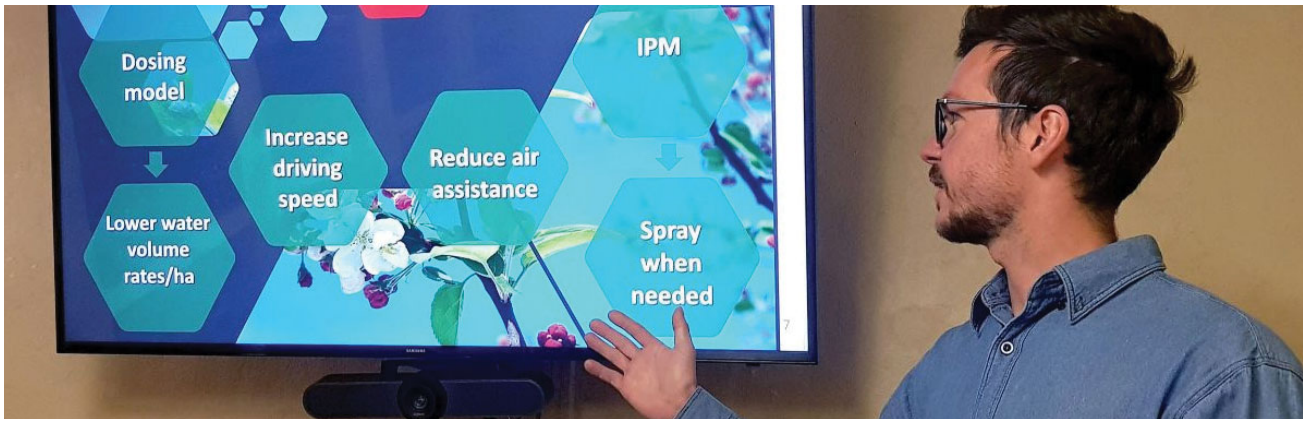
TRAINING



Various courses related to crop protection support including but not limited to

- Safe handling of agricultural pesticides
- Pest and Disease scouting
- Pesticide application
- Other technical topics related to crop production

TRAINING SEVICES:

SAFE HANDLING OF PESTICIDES

Aimed at any person to likely come into contact with agricultural chemical (agro-chemicals) products. In this full day course learners are educated about the:

- Potential hazards of agro-chemicals
- How to identify the hazard class of each chemical product
- Guidelines on the safe handling and storage of agro-chemicals
- Personal safety equipment and how to use them
- General guidelines on the environment in which to use agro-chemicals safely

PEST AND DISEASE SCOUTING

Training of personnel who can be employed on commercial fruit and vegetable farms as a pest and disease monitors/scouts. This two day course covers all aspects of crop pest and disease scouting including:

- Goal of monitoring and related theory
- Characteristics of a good crop pest and disease scout
- Day to day duties and responsibilities of a crop pest and disease scout
- Crop pest and disease scouting methodology
- Data capture and use of data
- Identification of common crop pests and diseases

PESTICIDE APPLICATION AND CROP PROTECTION

Various seminars and workshops on the basics and technical aspects of fruit and vegetable pesticide application and crop protection. These courses can be tailored on request to the needs of the audience to target the key area of knowledge that needs to be expanded. The seminars and workshops are presented by the ProCrop team who are qualified in the various fields of crop protection.

OUR TEAM

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Bekker Wessels

Managing Director
Senior Technical Consultant

BekkerW@procropsa.co.za

Education:
BSc Agric University of Stellenbosch; BSc Agric Honours - University of the Orange Free State; MSc Agric University of Stellenbosch.

About
After a career of 10 years in the Agro Chemical industry Bekker started **ProCrop** (at that point operated as a Trust) as a private consultancy business specialising in the field of crop protection. Over years **ProCrop** has grown to become a well known brand in the Agricultural community of especially the Western Cape but clients also included mega farming enterprises in other regions of the country like the well known tomato producer ZZ2 in Mooketsi as well as DuToit Agri in the Langkloof. Although well specialised in providing crop protection consulting services to the pome and stone fruit industry, **ProCrop** is also involved in cash crops such as onions, potatoes, tomatoes and several other smaller vegetable commodities.

On the research front Bekker is also involved with several research projects together with the University of Stellenbosch as well as smaller farming organisations.

Stephen Rabe

Non-executive Director
Technical Consultant

Stephen@srconsult.co.za

Stephen is part of the **ProCrop** management team with vast industry experience.

About
Stephen has built his career from the bottom of the production ladder after finishing his studies at the University of Stellenbosch, to top management and executive positions that he has filled thus far and currently occupying through his passion for agriculture. He has exposure to the local and international agricultural sector.

Stephen is a natural leader and great motivator which has led him to serve on the board of directors of multiple high-profile agricultural entities such as the Fruitways Group, Caledon Valley Nurseries and Hortgro Pome, to name a few.

With his experience in management roles and forward-thinking attitude Stephen is a catalyst for growth in **ProCrop**.

OUR TEAM

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Dr. Gideon van Zyl

Technical Consultant

GideonVZ@procropsa.co.za

Education:
B.Sc. Agric (Viticulture and Plant Pathology) Stellenbosch University, Ph.D. Agric (Plant pathology) Stellenbosch University.

Gideon has been part of **ProCrop** as a technical consultant since September 2016, advising **ProCrop** 's client base and other interested parties in matters retaining to plant disease control.

Gideon is a Plant pathologist and researcher, with specific focus on application technology theory and implementation, one of the most important factors in optimal disease control. He also has experience in disease prediction modeling.

Gideon has multiple authorships and co-authorships on the topic of spray application. Other than consultation, with close ties to the University of Stellenbosch,

Gideon also focusses on research and development of novel application technology and techniques, disease control methodology, on all crop types.

He also teaches on the topic regularly at a professional level at local and international conferences, grower days and university.

Lionel van Schalkwyk

Technical Consultant

LionelVS@ProCropSA.co.za

Education
B.Sc. Agric (Horticulture and soil science), Stellenbosch University

About
Lionel joined **ProCrop** in 2018 as an experienced horticulturalist with more than 28 years of industry experience.

His experience ranges from basic farm level management practices to a vast knowledge of all horticultural aspects of the deciduous fruit and table grape industry, locally and internationally.

His additional soil science background strengthens his understanding of the nutritional aspects of fruit crops.

OUR TEAM

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Philip Rebel

Technical Consultant

PhilipR@ProCropSA.co.za

SCAN ME

Education
B.Sc. Agric (Agronomy and Plant Pathology) – Stellenbosch University, M.Sc. Agric (Plant Pathology) – Stellenbosch University.

About
Philip joined the **ProCrop** team in January 2019 as junior technical consultant following the completion of his M.Sc. Agric at the University of Stellenbosch.

His research was focused on spray application technology in modern apple orchards as well as disease control in these orchards.

Prior to his M.Sc. studies Philip gained knowledge of field trials and crop protection by spending university holidays working in industry.

Philip focusses on novel application technology and other innovation in crop protection with close ties to the University Stellenbosch.

Contact us for more information on how we can make a professional, informed and innovative difference on your farm.

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