

ANIMAL WAYS

Talk to your pets

p4

ENTREPRENEURS

Trio's brew magic

p6 +7

MECHANISATION

Drones not only for play

p11



Nectar from the Seekoeihoek Valley

At the Black Horse Brewery & Distillery at Magaliesburg (near Bekker Agricultural School) juniper berries, orange and lemon peel, passionflower, honey, pomegranate and blueberries are turned into lovely gins by near-magic. These award winning creations are of a quality that will satisfy even the discerning palates of gin connoisseurs. Turn to p 6 and 7 to read more about this dynamic distillery that produces spirits of exceptional quality.

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Jaco Kleyn
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062 877 8367
ads@stellalander1.co.za





Jou agent in Noordwes en Noord Kaap

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Cell: 072 807 6913
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Elsabe Klein
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Onion breeding at De Groot en Slot

AGRI-PULSE - Since its establishment in 1955, De Groot en Slot has become a world leader in the development and production of onion seed. Together with their partner Bejo Zaden they have become one of the global leaders in onion breeding and seed production. Onion growers across five continents are increasingly choosing to use De Groot en Slot varieties as they continue to strengthen their market position.

Development at De Groot en Slot and Nuvance is a continuous process which focuses on innovation. The development of any new variety remains a huge investment, both in terms of time and money. It takes on average a period of approximately 16-18 years as well as an enormous financial investment to develop a new onion variety. Since growing conditions vary greatly between regions, countries and continents, identifying varieties which can perform under different climatic conditions across various areas is the challenge. De Groot en Slot has an extensive range of varieties with the characteristics that deliver the best results in the climatic zones for which they are bred. Consequently, they are one of the most specialised Allium breeding companies in the world. Currently, De Groot en Slot have several trial sites all over the world including here in South Africa.

Nuvance has been assisting De Groot en Slot with their onion breeding trials in South Africa since 2008, spread across trial sites in Limpopo, the Western and Northern Cape. These trial sites are situated in the main onion production areas, which also allows for the development of varieties under different day lengths. Each of these trial sites has ±200 individual plots with a different F1 hybrid from various parental crosses.

Besides the climatic adaptability, specific varietal characteristics are also often desirable, such as resistance to powdery mildew, Fusarium and pink root for instance. Since De Groot en Slot is exclusively breeding onions and with that only targeting a limited number of cultivars they are able to excel in their development thereof. Breeding successful varieties is perhaps the most visible element of De Groot en Slot's activities but producing quality seed is equally important. Because of the high-quality standard, an advanced and long post-harvest process of cleaning, grading and seed treatment is the foundation for top quality seed.

After 15 years of trials across South Africa, Nuvance has successfully launched varieties such as **Maragogi**, **Itaparica***, **Buzios** and **Hacienda***. These varieties are the result of the collaborative research efforts between Nuvance and De Groot en Slot. With quite a few new varieties in the pipeline and promising trial results, you can look forward to more exciting new varieties being launched soon.



Moon Phases
February
2023



Full Moon
5 Feb.



First Quarter Moon
13 Feb.



New Moon
20 Feb.



Third Quarter Moon
27 Feb.



North West & Northern Cape

www.agripulse.co.za

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Contact us:

Tel: 014 592 8329
Fax: 014 592 1869
E-mail: mailbag@rustenburgherald.co.za
Address: 13 Coetzer Street, Rustenburg, 0299
Web: www.agripulse.co.za



Best foot forward...The Kori Bustard is nearly ready to be re-introduced to the wild after being treated for injuries at the We Care Wildlife Rehab Centre.



Christa and Ria Mynhardt are the two dedicated women behind the We Care Wildlife Rehab Centre.



Abel, the little Blue Monkey, is one of the special babies being cared for at the We Care Wildlife Rehab Centre.



The Spotted Eagle-Owl is another resident healing in safety at the We Care Wildlife Rehab Centre.



What every baby needs: Safety, food and love – served in generous amounts at the We Care Wildlife Rehab Centre.

AGRI-PULSE - RUSTENBURG – “Our cause is to rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife, like birds, small mammals and reptiles.” The We Care Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Rustenburg has been running for more than 30 years.

The centre is operated by Christa and Ria Mynhardt. “We do not charge fees, but simply rely on donations from the public”, Christa explains. The two women use their own money - like Ria’s pension - to keep the centre operational. Christa is the main rehabilitator - and does not earn an income of any kind.

“When people bring in sick, injured or orphaned wildlife in need, they sometimes do give a donation - but it is not compulsory, yet much appreciated. Even though it is very costly to rehabilitate wildlife, it is more important to us to try and save the life of a patient, than to ask for money,” Christa adds. ‘We Care’ is long standing and a recognised rehabilitation centre in Rustenburg, with the experience and knowledge necessary to accomplish this task. Funds raised will be used for feeding, fuel, medication, veterinary costs, water, electricity - which includes the use of fridges and freezers, heating pads, infrared lights and a thermostat operated facility. Other costs include cleaning materials such as disinfectants, detergents, sterilisers, as well as cleaning assistance, and labour. Also needed are cages, baskets and other patient accommodation, bedding, feeding tools and equipment, telephone, Internet, printing, stationery, and vehicle maintenance. The centre is also in need of storage facilities for cleaned cages, towels and bowls, as well as a food processor, and a generator for when there is a power failure or load shedding.

“We battle to keep patients and babies warm during these periods. Our aviaries need maintenance. We urgently require another 30 meter roll of Weldmesh of 1.8m x 25m x 13mm x 1.6mm,” Christa says.

For more information on the activities of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, contact Christa at email: mynhardtja@telkomsa.net

Please consider donating towards their work:
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Maragogi

- Early short-day onion
- Firm with small root attachment
- Very thin neck
- Suitable for the fresh market



Buzios

- Medium short-day onion
- Well adapted for productions in the Northern Cape
- Ideal for the fresh market
- Medium-early cultivar



Hacienda*

- Vigorous early intermediate onion
- Large, uniform, round medium brown bulbs
- Excellent productivity and great adaptation to the summer growing conditions in Limpopo province (sowing in December)



Itaparica*

- Early short-day onion suitable for the fresh market
- Very uniform bulbs of excellent quality
- Very thin neck to ensure quick drying
- Deep round shape with straw-brown skins
- Good range of adaptation



Nuvance
Beyond Vegetable Seed

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“Gesels met jou troeteldiere, dis goed vir jou!”

Dr. Jan du Preez. Veterinêre Spesialis in Volksgesondheid.

Goeie nuus vir duisende mense. Emosionele, sosiale en fisieke bydraes en voordele van troetel- en geselskapdiere (vernaamlik honde) is vir mense onmisbaar.

AGRI-PULSE - Die dinamiese verhouding of band tussen mens en dier geniet wêreldwyd aandag vanweë die wedersydse voordele wat dit vir albei partye inhou. Tans woon ongeveer 55% van die wêreld se bevolking in stede maar daar word verwag dat hierdie persentasie gaan verhoog. In die meer ontwikkelde lande bly daar ongeveer 74% van die mense in stede, terwyl 44% van die mense in onderontwikkelde lande stedelik is. Teen die jaar 2050 kan die syfers in die omgewing van 58% tot 75% wees. In die betonoerwoud is menslike kontak met plant en dier noodsaaklik maar nie verseker nie, terwyl dit op die platteland ongehinderd voortgaan.

Diere word al hoe meer aangewend as plaasvervanger vir maatskaplike tussenwerking in tehuise vir bejaardes, kinderbewaarskole, hospitale ens. Troetel- en geselskapdiere dien dus enersyds as voorwerpe vir spanningontlading (verminder stres) en andersyds as skakel met die natuur. Troeteldiere het 'n vername invloed op hoe die mens oor homself asook oor die lewe voel. Hulle tree soos onderwysers en genesers met buitengewone talent op. Emosionele, sosiale en fisiese bydraes en voordele van troetel- en geselskapdiere (vernaamlik honde) vir mense is onmisbaar en dit moet volhoubaar vir hulle wees.

Emosionele voordele
Die gemoedstoestand van die mens word opgelig (verbeter) en hy voel nie so eensaam nie. Troeteldiere verlaag die gevoel van eensaamheid en isolasie omdat hulle kameraadskap bied. Daar is iets om voor te sorg en om te gee. Baie ouer mense wat alleen bly, sal jou vertel dat sy troeteldier die rede is hoekom hy wil leef. Makliker aanpas na erge siektes en die dood. Kinders praat baie keer met hulle troeteldiere vir troos indien 'n vriend of familielid gesterf



Diere word al hoe meer aangewend as plaasvervanger vir sosiale omgang in tehuise vir bejaardes, kinderbewaarskole en hospitale.

het. Bedroefde volwassenes wat nie 'n nabye bron van ondersteuning het nie, beleef minder depressie indien hulle troeteldiere besit. Mense is minder angstig en voel veiliger. Troeteldiereienaars is geneig om minder bang en bedreig te voel dat hulle dalk 'n slagoffer van misdaad sal wees wanneer hulle met 'n hond stap of 'n hond in die huis het.

Bevorder ontspanning en verminder alledaagse stres. Troeteldiere kan help dat mense meer ontspanne is, dan is hulle konsentrasie nie op probleme en



Troetel- en geselskapdiere dien enersyds as voorwerpe vir spanningontlading (verminder stres) en andersyds as skakel met die natuur.



“Die mens se beste vriend” is 'n hond omdat hy liefde gee, goedgesindheid openbaar, saam met sy hanteerder werk, altyd vriendelik is, nie oordeel nie, onvoorwaardelik vertrou kan word en 'n oor vir probleme bied.



Troetel- en geselskapdiere se sosiale voordele.



Troetel- en geselskapdiere se emosionele voordele.



kwellinge toegespits nie. Fisiese kontak met diere. Die geleentheid om iets aan te raak soos 'n troeteldier is psigologies belangrik vir die mens. Baie studies toon aan hoe belangrik aanraking vir die mens is vir fisiese en emosionele gesondheid. Bly aktief. Om 'n troeteldier te besit, help baie om die mens aktief te hou. Die mens kry nie net oefening omdat hy met sy troeteldier stap nie, maar verhoog sy aktiwiteit deur kos vir die troeteldier te gee, hom te borsel en ook met hom te speel. Troeteldiere dra by tot beginselvastheid of konsekwentheid. Troeteldiere voorsien beginselvastheid vir mense se bestaan. Om te sorg en om te gee vir 'n troeteldier het 'n aansienlike uitwerking op 'n mens se roetine.

Dit gee vir die mens 'n taak om elke dag te verrig en waarna hy ook elke dag kan uitsien. **Sosiale voordele** Skep 'n gevoel van welstand en nabyheid. Opnames wat gedoen is voordat en nadat die gesin 'n troeteldier gekry het, wys dat die gesin gelukkiger is nadat die troeteldier tot die gesin toegevoeg is. Gesprekvoering word gestimuleer. Mense by 'n dierekliniek het meer gesprekvoering met mekaar in die vertrek in die teenwoordigheid van 'n hond, as wanneer die hond nie daar was nie.

Aanmoediging van interaksie. Inwoners van langtermyn versorgingsfasiliteite was meer gewillig om aktiwiteitsessies waar 'n dier teenwoordig was, by te woon. **Fisiese voordele**

- Lewensduur word verleng na hartaanvalle. Die eienaars van honde se kans om langer te leef na 'n

- hartaanval is gunstiger.
 - Verlaag cholesterol en trigliseriede. Persone met troeteldiere het laer vlakke van cholesterol en trigliseriede vergeleke met persone wat nie troeteldiere het nie. Beide groepe se diëte, gewigte en rookgewoontes was dieselfde.
 - Verlaag bloeddruk en verminder stres. Persone wat strestoestande of fisiese ondersoek in die teenwoordigheid van 'n hond ondergaan, se hartspied en bloeddruk was verlaag gedurende die toetse.
 - Verhoogde fisiese aktiwiteit en funksionering. Troeteldiereienaars het soms beter fisiese gesondheid omdat daar 'n behoefte aan oefening is, en om te sorg vir sy troeteldier.
 - Verminder doktersafsprake en geringe gesondheidsprobleme. Die gebruik van voorskryfmiddels en die totale koste vir die pasiënt se versorging in die verpleeginrigting daal wanneer geselskapdiere deel van die behandeling uitmaak.
 - Voorspel van epileptiese aanval. Sommige persone wat periodieke aanvalle kry sê dat hulle honde voel aan, of besef dat die epileptiese aanval gaan kom, voor hyself dit besef.
 - Waaksaam wees vir hipoglikemie (bloedsuikergebrek). Daar is diere wat die eienaar bewusmaak van episodes of voorvalle van hipoglikemie wat aan die kom is en dit gee die eienaar kans om aksie te neem ter voorkoming van 'n koma.
- Honde en katte is die mees algemene troeteldiere wêreldwyd. Ten minste 70% van alle huishoudings in die Verenigde State het troeteldiere (honde, katte en troeteldiervoëls). “Die mens se beste vriend” is 'n hond omdat hy liefde gee, goedgesindheid openbaar, saam met sy hanteerder werk, altyd vriendelik is, nie oordeel nie, onvoorwaardelik vertrou kan word, gee sy oor vir probleme, dra by dat die mens voel hy word benodig en aanvaar altyd toegeneendheid. Bogenoemde is ook van toepassing op ander troetel- en geselskapdiere. Dit is onontbeerlik en gebiedend dat die gesondheidstatus van elke troeteldier asook geselskapdier bo verdenking is, en om te verseker dat kontak met die diere nie soönotiese besmetting (troeteldierverbondesiektes) sal veroorsaak nie. Voedsame gebalanseerde kos vir jou troeteldiere en geselskapdiere is beslis noodsaaklik vir optimale gesondheid en immuniteit wat siektes weerstaan (bv. sarkoptidose). Kundige volgehoue doeltreffende troeteldier- en geselskapdier- en diereversorging verminder stres en bevorder hulle immuniteit en gesondheidstatus.



Die emosionele, sosiale en fisieke bydrae en voordele van troetel- en geselskapdiere (vernaamlik honde) is vir mense onmisbaar.



Troeteldiere se fisieke voordele.

46ste Griekwaland-Wes Gloetveeveiling

8 FEBRUARIE 2023
Skougronde, Postmasburg

Aanbod:

3 Angus Bulle	10 Wit Dorper Ooie
2 Brangus Bulle	23 Boerbok Ramme
2 Tuli Bulle	6 Boerbok ooie
61 Dorper ramme	21 Van Rooy ramme
14 Wit Dorper Ramme	5 Persie ramme
10 Dorper Ooie	6 Meatmaster ramme

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Nuutste oor Bek-en-klouseer

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG – Bek-en-klouseer is steeds ‘n probleem.

Drie nuwe uitbrekings, met die mees onlangse uitbreking op 31 Januarie aangemeld, is aan die Wêreld Dieregesondheidsorganisasie (WOAH) gerapporteer. Tien van die voorafbestaande liggings is opgelos en gesluit.

Volgens die RPO is twee virusstamme verantwoordelik vir die huidige uitbrekings:

- o SAT 2 serotipe uitbreking in KwaZulu-Natal, met ‘n verspreiding na die Vrystaat en dan o SAT 3 serotipe van oorsprong van die tweede uitbreking wat Limpopo (voorheen ‘n bek-en-klouseervriesone) raak.

Dié uitbreking se verspreiding het gelei tot die derde uitbreking wat die Noordwes, Vrystaat, Gauteng en Mpumalanga raak.

Die betrokke plase en voerkrale in die Noordwes, Vrystaat, Gauteng en Mpumalanga bly onder kwarantyn en toegangsbeheer word streng toegepas. Volgens die verslag van die RPO is al dié genoemde plase en voerkrale goed omhein en kan die beweging van diere hier deeglik verhoed word. Die plase en voerkrale in KZN en Limpopo bly ook onder kwarantyn en geen beweging van gesplete-hoefdiere of hul produkte mag plaasvind nie.

Die beheermaatreëls met betrekking tot gesplete-hoefdiere en enige produkte afkomstig van dié diere uit Bek-en-klouseersone bly onveranderd.

Vir die volledige verslag, klik op die skakel <https://bit.ly/Bek-en-klouseer-januarie>



Appenzeller from Switzerland



AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - The Appenzeller breed has its origin from Switzerland, is a light breed, soft feather and lay white eggs. The roosters weighs 1,6kg to 2kg and hens 1,4kg to 1,6kg. There is no bantams.

The body is medium length and carried high, wings rather long, carried close, tail well furnished and well spread. Head is medium sized with crest bent forward. Horn type comb consisting of two small rounded spikes, separate and without side springs. Beak is powerful with strong cavernous nostrils. Neck is medium length with abundant hackle. There is only three colours: silver spangle, golden spangle and black.

Serious defects/disqualifications are comb other than horn type, side springs, narrow or roach back, low wing carriage, any sign of feathering on shanks.

The Rustenburg Poultry Club is 50 years old and has 54 members, the youngest being eight and the oldest 75. Shows are held every year from April to September with the SA Championships at the end of June. The Rustenburg Poultry Club also hosts shows in Lichtenburg and Parys. This exciting hobby can be enjoyed by young and old.

For more information please contact Sarie at 072 227 8031 or Dawie at 071 196 7696.



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BLACK HORSE BREWERY & DISTILLERY

Be enchanted and indulge yourself



An array of different botanicals used in the distilling process.

AGRIPULSE – MAGALIESBURG – Everything about Black Horse Brewery & Distillery is enchanting – amid the magnificent Magalies mountain range and surrounded by pristine natural beauty, the exquisite array of flavour, from the copper kettles at the brewery and distillery, flows spontaneously.

Black Horse Brewery & Distillery is located in the Seekoeihoek Valley, in Magaliesburg Gauteng on the seven hectares at the Black Horse Country Estate, established in 1998 by Bernard Botha. The name Black Horse originates from the Friesian horses that still roam the meadows.

The brewery was established in 2012 and at the heartbeat of the brewery and distillery, since its inception in 2012, the three dynamic, brewers and distillers, Marius Bezuidenhout, Nuschka Scheepers and Chanté Hilse created award winning organic crafted spirits. Nuschka Scheepers is the brewer, handcrafting all the beer.

Beers and ales include Witching Hour Pale Ales, Ginger Berry Ale, Premium Light Lager, Golden Draft and Night Shift Dark Ales.

Marius Bezuidenhout, the Master Distiller together with Chanté Hilse, are passionate about distilling spirits.

One of his superb creations is the Morality gin - an enlightening statement of what gin can be. Every bottle of Morality Gin is handcrafted and vapour-infused with Juniper berries, lemon peel, orange peel and a host of other botanicals.

The gin is then cask-aged in new French oak before being bottled. With notes of new oak and rich juniper, this gin lends itself to a smooth oak finish that's best enjoyed neat, on the rocks, or with your favourite Indian tonic.

Continues to page 7.

PC LE ROUX BOERDERY

Aanteelweiling

24 FEBRUARIE 2023

11:00 | STELLA VEILINGSKRALE

200+ DIERE

120 1STE KALF VERSE
SOMMIGE 3IN1
DRAGTIG VAN BRAFORD BULLE
Hartwater aangepas

50 DRAGTIGE VERSE
40 OOP VERSE

DRAGTIGHEIDSTATUS SAL BESKIKBAAR WEES OP VEILINGSDATUM.
Vir meer inligting besoek André Kock & Son Livestock Auctioneer/Estate Agent Facebook Blad.

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FICA dokumentasie (ID / paspoort en bewys van verblyf) moet teenwoordig wees om transaksie af te handel.

VOERSORGHUM: SUGARGRAZE

Bekommerd oor beurtkrag se invloed op besproeiing van kuilvoermielies later in die seisoen?

Oorweeg Sugargraze voersorghum as alternatief waar besproeiingswater beperk kan wees.

Relatief tot mielies kan Sugargraze kuilvoer produseer met ongeveer 5% minder energie/kg, maar 'n hoër totale energie/ha kan onder droëland/semi-droëland toestande (veral op marginale grand) verwag word.

DAAR IS NET EEN SUGARGRAZE

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Verkoopsbestuurder/
Limpopo, Gauteng,
Mpumalanga

083 326 7167
johnny.young@limagrains.com

Limagrain Zaad South Africa

Limagrain



Continues from page 6.

The peculiar Kolibri and Passion flower, have won three coveted gold medals. This gin is made with juniper berries and infused with the rose of Jericho flower. An elegant dry gin with soft characters of fresh cucumber.

The famous Seven Deadly Gins are a must have in any serious gin collector's collection.

According to the Black Horse tradition:

* *Gluttony* - Caramel Gin is pure self-indulgence with a buttery caramel flavour and a bitter Juniper ending. "Curiosity is gluttony. To see is to devour." - *Victor Hugo, Les Misérables.*

* *Lust* - Pomegranate Gin. Some historians believe the pomegranate was the tree of wisdom in the Garden of Eden, symbolically linking the fruit's garnet flesh with temptation forevermore. Every bottle of Lust is enchanted with the fruit of lust and distilled with the fruit of lust and distilled with hand, vapor-infused with Juniper berries, pomegranate arils, and a range of other botanicals.

* *Pride* - Blueberry Gin. Violet Beauregarde for her sin of pride, turned into a giant blueberry. This Black Horse Blueberry Gin, the original and most serious of the seven deadly gins might just turn you blue with

conceit. Every bottle of Pride is distilled and bottled by hand and steeped-infused with fresh blueberries and Juniper.

* *Envy* - Kiwi Gin. This cheeky gin is full of kiwi and lime, a fresh summers gin. "*Envy eats nothing but its own heart.*"

* *Greed* - Lemon forward Gin. This rich gin infused with Juniper berries, an abundant amount of lemon peel and thirteen other spices will exalt your greed with a dash of pure 24-carat Gold.

* *Wrath* - Chilli Gin. This remarkable gin infused with chilli will enhance even your darkest taste with a warm glow of vengeance.

* *Sloth* - Honey & Butterscotch Liqueur. A gin that does not want to do too much. The laziest gin ever created a perfect sipping gin liqueur for that cold and lonely nights, with notes of honey and butterscotch.

Another enchanting handcrafted spirit is the Black Horse Absinthe, La Fee Verde. This Bohemian Absinth, the elixir of intellect and vision contains grand wormwood, anise and other botanicals.

For a truly distinct experience, full of culture, history and incredible spirits visit the website www.blackhorse.co.za and book a tasting tour.



Nuschka Scheepers, brewer.



Chanté Hilse in the distillery busy with preparations of one of her award winning gins.

JAN DU RAND TRUST SKAAPBOERDERY

Algehele Uitverkoop

28 FEBRUARIE 2023

11:00 | PLAAS: JAKKALSDANS, MAREETSANE

Aanbod:

- 350 OOIE (VERSEIE STADIA)
- ±140 OOIE MET LAMMERS
- 60 DRAGTIGE OOIE (BEGIN 10 FEB LAM)
- ±50 STOORLAMMERS
- 30 RAMME (UIT MALUTI DORMER GROEP)
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ELB EQUIPMENT

Crushing Africa's toughest terrains

At a recent customer day at the Brits Branch the team showcased some of their impressive equipment. Back: Lance Constable, Desmond van Heerden and Gavin Baard. Front: Chris van der Merwe, Bianca Olivier and Keon Kardolus.

TOSCA

Aanteelveiling

300

10 Feb. 2023 - 11:00

Tosca veilingskrale

AANTEELDIERE

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AGRIPULSE – BRITS – Not only is the earthmoving machinery of ELB Equipment crushing through the toughest terrains, but the people of this company will move mountains for their clients.

With branches all over Africa, ELB Equipment is one of a select few South African companies who can offer a broad range of world-class earthmoving, construction, mining and quarrying equipment from a single supplier. No doubt that ELB Equipment is considered as one of the most respected names in the industry.

According to Keon Kardolus, National Sales Manager, earthmoving equipment is a staple of the construction industry and that is why customer service and excellence is the key to their success.

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ELB Equipment is the suppliers of equipment and machinery for construction (road building, trenching, horizontal directional drilling, backhoe loaders, skid steers, graders and telehandlers), earthmoving (excavators and bulldozers), mining and quarrying (mobile and static crushing and screening plants, washing plants, conveyors and stockpile stackers, rock drills, hydraulic breakers, waste recycling systems) as well as screening technology and process equipment: screen media, ceramics, wear parts and mineral processing.

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ELB Equipment’s head office is situated in Boksburg and there are branches in Brits, Cape Town, Durban, George, Port Elizabeth, East London, Kimberley, Middelburg, Africa Business Development, Polokwane, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

For more information contact the head office on 011 306 0700 or send an email to: Elb@elbquip.co.za

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23ste LUCASDAM DORPERS & 14de CJ COETZEE WITDORPERS VEILINGS

23 FEB. 23 - 11:00

PLAAS LUCASDAM, POSTMASBURG

GPS: 25°14'52.8"S 22°51'31.8"E

John Daniel

082 552 2933

45 Dorper ramme • 30 Dorper ooie • 15 Wit Dorper Ramme

20 Wit Dorper ooie • 5 Savanna Ramme [onder die beskerming van die Genootskap]

10 Van Rooy Ramme • 50 Van Rooy ooie • 30 Savanna Ooie

30 Verse [Top kwaliteit, nie onder die beskerming van Genootskap nie]

Jaco Coetzee

083 501 0650

NAVRAE: Bemarker: Roux van der Merwe: 082 781 3735

Afslaer: Theuns Visser: 082 338 1356

Stoet- & spesiale veillings: Ramona de Bruin: 083 319 8626

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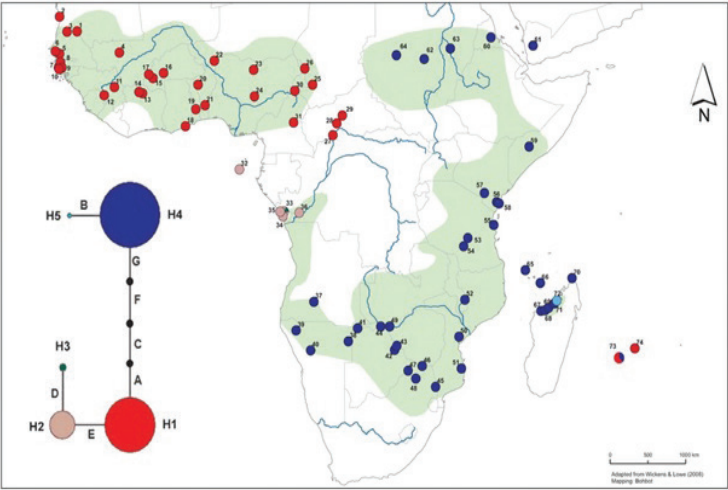
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Fairy tales, myths and legends of the upside-down tree

Naas Grové

AGRIPULSE - NORTH WEST - The baobab belongs to the BOMBACACEAE(Kapoktree) family with about 28 genera and 220 species occur in the world. The natural range of Adansonia digitata, endemic to Africa, is south of the Sahara and north the Tropic of Capricorn (23° South). Bombax rhodognalhalon occurs only in northern Mozambique. Another member of the family, Ceiba pentandra, the alien kapok tree, originates from tropical America and India and it is often planted as street trees and, also in city parks.



The native distribution of the baobab, Adansonia digitata in Africa (light greens areas on the map) (Tsy, et al. 2009)

There are eight species Adansonia in the world; six species (A. grandidieri, A. suarezansis, A. rubrostipa, A. madagascarensis, A. za and A. perrieri), all endemic to Madagascar, one in Australia (A. gregorii) and one in Africa. The well-known African species, Adansonia digitata, is native to the semi arid areas of sub-Saharan Africa. The genus name is derived from Michael Adanson (1727 - 1806), a French botanist and the species name digitata from Latin digitatus / -a / -um referring to the palmately compound leaves of the mature tree.

The origin of the common name baobab is mysterious. Some claims it derives from ho'bab bu', a name given to the plant in the ancient market places of Cairo. It is however probably derived from the Arabic bu hibab which refers to a fruit with many seeds.

For many centuries, all knowledge about the genus was based on the knowledge gained about the species Adansonia digitata. The 14th century Arab traveler Ibn Batuta first recorded information about this tree and referred to the water storage capacity of the tree and its massive stocky trunk. The San people believed that the tree fell from heaven and landed on his head, hence the name up-side-down-tree. Certainly, when winter comes, the baobab resembles a mass of roots pointing towards the sky instead of being underground.

There are many accounts about the beliefs, practices and myths regarding this mysterious tree. Boiled leaves have been used to treat fever and diarrhea. The bark is exported to Europe and sold under the name Cortex Cael Cedar as a substitute for quinine.

The tree provides shelter to many species of birds, reptiles, and wild predators. The white waxy crinkled flower spikes are bisexual and have a lifespan of about 24 hours. The flowers open during night time and are pollinated mainly by fruit bats. A mature tree can produce up to 400 flowers at a time.

The fruit is large, oval and initially pale green and covered with brown velvety hairs. Mature fruit is light brown, indehiscent (i.e. the ovary wall does not break open to release the seeds) and contains many bean-shaped, black seeds embedded in a floury, dry white fruit pulp.

The fruit pulp contains ascorbic acid, tartaric acid and citric acid and is mixed with water to make a delicious drink.

The myth that the trees can grow 6 000 years old, is still a subject of discussion at many camp fires. Notes by Von Breitenbach (Journal of Dendrology: 1985) on the growth rate measured of planted baobabs, monitored over their lifetime, showed different growth stages and genetic variation of the Adansonia digitata.

This probably refuted the speculation about the longevity of the baobab tree. It is also very difficult to tell the age of the baobab tree in the absence of annual growth rings. Once they die, they dehydrate rapidly, splitting into thousands of small pieces, eventually decomposing into the soil. Nevertheless, Von Breitenbach did research between 1960 and 1985, measuring and monitoring the growth rate of 40 planted baobab trees aging between 12 and 92 years in 11 different locations in the former Transvaal.

Despite the relatively small sample the results on the growth rates relating to stem thickness, tree height, crown width, biomass and graphical analysis suggested a clear pattern. Once the information was analyzed, Von Breitenbach was able to extrapolate growth projections and four distinct growth phases on the lifespan of a baobab tree were recorded, namely:

- 0 to 10 to 15 years, the young tree phase
- 10-15 and 60-70 years the cone phase
- 60-70 to 200-300 years, the bottle phase
- 200-300 to 500-800 years, the old age phase

Initially, during the young tree growth phase the leaves are simple, then it changes to three-fold compound leaves during the cone phase and when the tree enters the bottle phase the leave structure again changes from three-fold compound to five to seven times palmately compound.

This is also the reason why people believe there are no baobab saplings in the wild.

With all the mystique and wonderful stories surrounding the plant, it is no wonder that for many horticulturist and plant lover this plant holds a special fascination.

This is reflected in the presence of many trees to be found outside its natural distribution area. There is even a baobab tree in the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town, although growing under artificial conditions.

The hard shelled seeds must be soaked in hot water before planting or it can be treated with a mild acid solution. The seeds germinate very easily and after the first year, the plant will already grow 15cm tall and will look like a miniature baobab with a swollen miniature trunk. Initially it grows very fast, but in time the growth rate seems almost stagnant.

If you therefore plant a baobab tree you literally do that for your children's children in good faith and hope that it will survive the elements of nature.

There are numerous baobabs successfully growing in Rustenburg. The best known one grows in Cashane and another one at the Rustenburg Kloof. The tree likes well-drained soil (definitely not turf or peat!) and if well drained will survive the summer rain fall. The challenge is to keep the plant dry during the winter season when the plant is most vulnerable to root rot. It can tolerate moderate cold but not frost. For the bonsai enthusiast the secret is patience with equally great rewards.



The planted avenue of baobab trees at Genoa close to Swartwater in Limpopo where Von Breitenbach did some of his research.



The baobab tree as we know it.

If you know of a baobab tree planted in your area I would like to get the information that will be entered into a register. WhatsApp (082 575 4244) the details of the location of the tree (street name, farm name, GPS location), trunk circumference at chest height (about 1.4m above ground), name of the owner and if available when the tree was planted. The trunk circumference of the trees will be measured once a year and the results will be recorded in a register.



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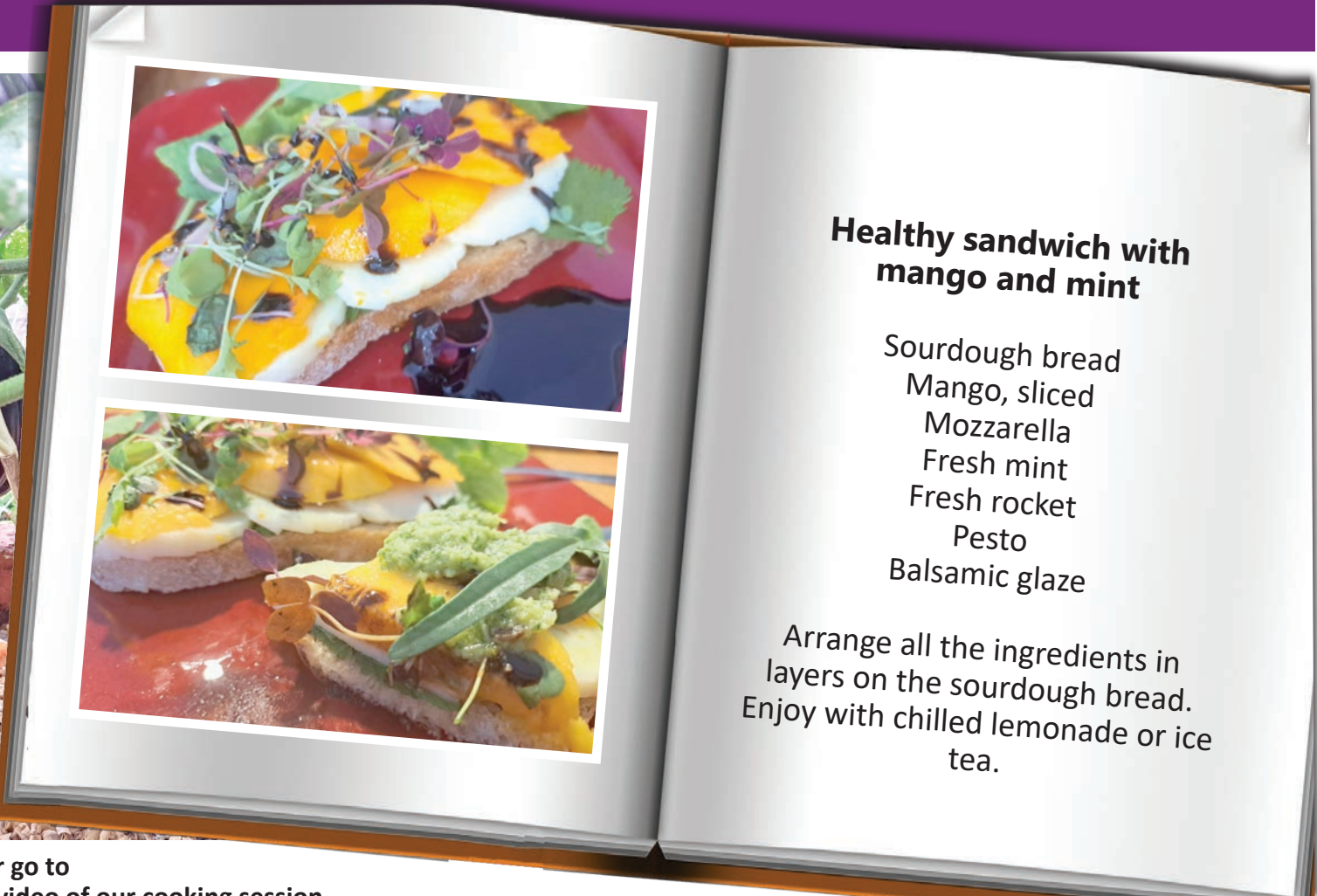
Healthy eating from your own garden

More and more people are starting veggie patches at home. Size is only determined by the available space. Success depends on the proper preparation of the soil. Christa van Rooyen is such a miracle maker. Her city garden delivers a healthy crop of veggies and herbs every season. You don't need green fingers, she laughs, only knowledge to prepare veggies and fruit organically. Christa presents workshops about compost and preparation in Klerksdorp and the first one for 2023 will take place on February 17. She makes her own compost and uses it in her garden to ensure healthy soil. She hates perfect produce sold in supermarkets. "Why do we want to eat produce that insects do not want to eat? Those produce are covered with pesticide and cannot be good for human consumption." She has also conducted a study on herbs and plants that can be used for medical purposes and knows which plants can be used as a tea or in ointments for various illnesses. During a walkabout in her garden where she identifies the various plants, it is very difficult not to be mesmerized while she is talking. The eggplants shine purple in the

sun, massive cucumbers climb up a trellis and her tomatoes taste like a holiday in Italy. She harvests herbs to be used in a health loaf, while talking about producing of the produce. Did you know mint is good for digestion? She knows what to feed her plants and wants to get people to produce their own compost. "It is has living organisms. Nothing will survive in a plastic bag left in the glaring sun." It make sense doesn't it? Pesticide is a no-no in her garden and she fights illnesses affecting plants organically. Gardens cannot also be perfect. "We had lots of rain and then the heat. That is not good for the plants and they cannot absorb goodness. Good organisms either die or wash away. The bad ones take over which cause plants to get sick." She proposes a cover made of leafs, stones, and shavings of bark to protect the soil against extreme cold and heat. The time is running out, but she has so much to say. I say goodbye with homemade pesto, three eggplants and an ointment made of herbs and the worda: You can eat healthy from your own garden. Contact 071 903 0994 if you want to join the workshops about compost and preparation.



Tap here or your electronic device or go to <https://bit.ly/mango-broodjie> for a video of our cooking session



The flight to higher cost efficiency

BY: ANITA KOTZÉ



Jacobus Claassens, operational manager at NWK's Agricultural Steering Services, filling the drone's container with spray.



A drone with a spray tank spraying poison over maize fields on the farm Rietgat, outside Lichtenburg.

Jacobus Claassens, operational manager at NWK's Agricultural Management Services together with Frikkie Bronkhorst, formerly manager of whole goods and precision farming equipment at NWK Mechanisation, during a demonstration of the operation of the T30 drone.



AGRI-PULSE - Drones which are really just unmanned aircraft are playing an increasingly prominent role in everyday farming and greatly help with risk reduction, while at the same time increasing yields on farms. Artificial intelligence and robotics are rapidly sending the industry in a new direction and form the foundation of precision farming.

In essence, it is a flying robot, which can be controlled from a distance or can fly automatically by means of controlled flight plans that work with sensors and a GPS. This technology can be used in game, livestock and crop farming. In the drone industry there is already a wide variety of products available on the market.

Drones can be deployed for checking boundary wires, chasing wildlife and livestock, tracking thieves and predators, monitoring pond and cistern water levels, as well as monitoring livestock grazing or standing in the corral, farm operations and staff and crop growth. It is also used for identifying possible problem areas in

fields such as diseases, pests and weeds as well as mapping management zones in fields and pastures.

NWK Mechanization has added a series of drone packages to its product range that enable producers to make even more accurate applications on fields. This agricultural company wanted to build on the success of the precision farming team at NWK Mechanisation/MechXpert and Agricultural Management Services and the DJI Agricultural Drone series fits their vision perfectly. With rising input costs and the pressure to be more efficient and productive, NWK looked at how they could make the already diverse whole goods and production range on offer even more unique. Drones can equip growers to do aerial spraying themselves with their equipment.

The T30 drone comes complete with a 30 liter spray tank and optionally with a 40 liter spray tank. The 30 liter spray tank typically covers 1 hectare and can realistically spray 8 – 10 hectares per hour. The speed and height at which the drone sprays a product largely determines the

amount of hectares that can be covered per hour. As many as five drones can be connected to one remote control, each on its own route. The drone is supplied with three batteries, each of which is guaranteed for 1000 cycles. The fast charger that forms part of the package can fully charge a battery in just ten minutes.

There are currently three packages available within the DJI T30 Agras Agricultural Drone range at NWK Mechanisation. A distinction must be made between private and commercial use. A farm functions as a commercial entity and according to law must undergo the necessary registrations. This entails that the drone operator must obtain a remote control certificate.

Furthermore, the farm must also obtain an operator certificate or work through a company that already has one. Keep in mind that you only qualify for professional and third party liability cover if you hold a legal operator's certificate.

There are various payment and financing packages available for producers who want to purchase a drone. Customers can inquire at any of NWK's eight Mechanization operating points in the North West and also those in the Free State. Call NWK Mechanization on 018-6331271 or send an email to johanjvr@nwk.co.za.

(Credit to NWK's Arena for help with information)





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Soil extinction is a great threat to Humanity

AGRIPULSE: STELLALANDER- For millennia, life on earth has been sustained by a thin layer of fertile soil on the earth’s crust, 87% of all life on the planet depends on this fertile soil for survival with 95% of our food coming from soil.

This important ecosystem is unfortunately dying silently right beneath us, and turning into mere sand not capable of producing food.

Our countries are turning into vast stretches of deserts not capable of supporting life right in front of us. The United Nations has stated that we have only 60 years of soil left and already 52% of agricultural soil is degraded globally. Our planet is losing the ability to grow food because of alarmingly rapid degradation of soil – 95% of our food comes from soil.

This means that we here in South Africa could start experiencing the effects of food scarcity and soil extinction within the next 10-15 years. Soil, the basis of life on this planet, is globally in danger of desertification.

Desertification is characterized by soil having insufficient organic content (animal and plant matter). Normal organic content for example in a forest is about 15%. In Africa, the average organic content in agricultural land is scarily 0.4%. Being 0.4% many farmers have to use chemicals to produce crops. According to science, we need a minimum of 3% - 6% organic content to call agricultural soil healthy (enough to keep microbes in soil on a survival diet). Lack of organic content in soil results in lack of nutrition in food, thereby resulting in malnutrition. Moreover, desertification means soil will produce less food over time, resulting in famines and forced migration. South Africa is also facing extreme weather effects from lack of water to floods. Soil rich in organic content and managed well can absorb rainfall better, preventing both flash flooding and drought.

Soil rich in organic content retains water and can slowly release these over time

keeping plants hydrated where there is low rainfall, and keeping rivers flowing for longer. Increasing organic content in soil reduces water required for irrigation significantly.

Tseke Nkadameng, aged 45, a South African businessman, farmer near Dullstroom, Mpumalanga, father and entrepreneur has taken it upon himself to activate support from the citizenry to turn the tide for the wellbeing of our society and future generations.

Tseke is walking an epic 10 000 km over eight months across South Africa in collaboration with the global Save Soil Movement to raise awareness amongst fellow South Africans about the seriously depleted soil health.

Tseke’s walk has been inspired by the Save Soil founder, Sadhguru, who completed a 100-day, 30 000km lone motorcycle ride across Europe and Asia. In 2018, Tseke registered for the Inner Engineering program after following Sadhguru on social media for some time. He then thought of a plan of intensifying his experience by taking up more programs offered and to carry on with the practices on the farm.

From 27 July 2022, Tseke embarked on a 10 000 km 250-day walk across South Africa. Starting from Dullstroom to Durban, then Bloemfontein via Bethlehem, Middelburg EC, Queenstown, Gqeberha, Knysna, Cape Town, Calvinia, Upington, Kathu, Kimberley, Taung, Schweizer-Reneke, Vryburg, Mafikeng, Thabazimbi, Venda, Tzaneen, Polokwane, Jane Furse, Kempton Park, Johannesburg and then finally Pretoria on 4 April 2023.

Tseke is assisted by Musa Skosana and Ustinov “Bimbo” Kgosane who is driving the Toyota pickup vehicle. By walking 35 to 40 km per day, Tseke has completed over 6 400 km on 14 January. Tseke said the pain in his ankles, legs and body are relentless, but by taking in the beauty of nature and the land makes him feel better.

Tseke’s daily activity includes walking from early morning to cover a minimum of

40 km per day, then set up a stall at each stop (taxi rank, offices, village halls, malls, prominent people houses) where they then invite all to come and listen about Save Soil and, if interested, sign a petition for Save Soil.

Tseke said they do not and will not take any financial donation nor solicit financial support during their trip. Their sole aim is to inform citizens about the South African degrading soil condition, and Save Soil activities and ask for support by pledging and signing the book which will eventually be submitted to government in Pretoria.

Tseke said that he is welcomed positively by farmers and has never experienced any fear or attack on his life while walking. Tseke met with a pecan nut farmer in Jan Kempdorp that went organic a few years ago. The current cost for this farmer is about R 6000 per/ha, while non-organic farmers, in the same area as him, have a cost of around R 18 000 per/ha. The quality and nutritional value of the pecan nuts have increased since he turned to organic farming methods.

In Bloemhof, some farmers are studying a non-tilling method of farming as tilling of the soil is not good and are exposing earthworms. With regards to South Africa, Tseke’s plan is to initially present to influential people, visit local communities and government officials and

attend various conferences to talk about soil.

He also realized that for most people to take him seriously, he had to take off the businessman coat and wear a different one.

This movement required a 100% effort to make a dent in the policymakers’ heart to realize the imminent calamity facing all as a nation. “After numerous presentations to schools and institutions and visits to many places, I am hoping that this 10 000 km walk, the pamphlets we are distributing and the signatures we would collect on the road will show to all decision makers how serious this matter is,” said Tseke.

“The degradation of soil will affect all of us, rich or poor, black and white and it is up to all of us to work together to find solutions. If we don’t stand up and save soil, we are going to find ourselves consuming poor quality food. The higher the organic content, the higher the nutritional value, but if the organic content declines, it will cost us all dearly.”

The aim is to inspire at least 3.5 billion people (60% of the world’s electorate) to support environmentally-conscious governance decisions. This will then drive national policy changes toward raising the organic content of soil up to at least - 6%. Organic content is what differentiates arable soil from desert sand.



Tseke Nkadameng uses a copper water bottle that he received from Sadhguru that keeps the water cold and has added healthy elements. (Photo: Charlize van der Linden)



Tseke Nkadameng (45), who is walking 35 to 40km per day, has walked 6 400km since he started walking in July 2022. (Photo: Charlize van der Linden)



Tseke Nkadameng (middle) is assisted by Musa Skosana and Ustinov “Bimbo” Kgosane who is driving the Toyota pickup support vehicle. (Photo: Charlize van der Linden)

Follow Tseke’s walk of 10 000km on social media:
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WalkingtoSaveSoil>.
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/savesoilwalk/>.
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HeadlinesMzans>

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