



**ARC INFRUITEC-NIETVOORBIJ**

**LNR INFRUITEC-NIETVOORBIJ**

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The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) wishes Dr J L van Zyl well on his retirement.

Born on 11 January 1949, Johan van Zyl grew up on a wine farm near Montagu in the wine-producing area of the Western Cape in South Africa.

He commenced his studies at the University of Stellenbosch in 1968 and obtained a BSc (Agric) degree in 1971 with Chemistry and Soil Science as major subjects. In 1973 he obtained his Hons BSc (Agric) and in 1975, his MSc (Agric) cum laude with a thesis on "Vineyard Irrigation within the framework of the soil-water-plant atmosphere continuum." He obtained a PhD degree on a thesis on the response of wine grapes to different soil moisture regimes, irrigation systems and moisture stress at different phenological stages of the vine.

In 1972 he was appointed Professional Officer at the Viticultural and Oenological Research Institute (VORI) in Stellenbosch, which fell under the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply. He was promoted to Senior Professional Officer in 1973, to Chief Professional Officer in 1979, and in 1983 became Assistant Director in the Soil Science Section, which concentrates on research in the fields of water requirements, nutrition, soil preparation and soil cultivation in viticulture. He was promoted to Senior Agricultural Management Advisor in 1987 and was stationed in Pretoria. In 1992 he became Head of the Information and Communication office of the Agricultural Research Council. Later that same year moved to Nelspruit to fill the position of Director of the Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops, a position that he occupied until 1999. On 1 April 1999 Johan became Director of Infruitec-Nietvoorbij, a member Institute of the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa. He then held the title of Research Institute Manager (RIM): ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij from 2008 until his retirement at the end of January 2014.

Dr van Zyl was a pillar of strength for the Institute and the Industries that it served and can truly be commended for his outstanding contribution.

The acting RIM, Dr Hennie du Plessis<sup>1</sup>, management team and all colleagues at the ARC would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr van Zyl for all his hard work and continued efforts in keeping the ARC flag flying high.

We wish him every success in his well-deserved retirement.

Kind regards

DR HENNIE DU PLESSIS  
Acting Research Institute Manager  
ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij

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