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Proceedings of the 4th Biennial Conference
of the
African Farm Management Association

Farm and Farmer Organisation for Sustainable Agriculture in Africa

- 2 -09- 1999
BIBLIOTEEK

Edited by
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26 - 30 January 1998
University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The African Farm Management Association (AFMA) wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to the following companies for their generous contributions, which made it possible to hold the conference:

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FOREWORD

Agriculture is at present experiencing rapid change in the socio-economic, technological, political and institutional fields. Agricultural reform and adjustment are occurring in all regions. Basic changes in operating conditions will require fundamental restructuring of the working methods of farmers in the coming decades. The transformation of international trading conditions, for example, requires adjustment everywhere. Countries involved in the GATT agreement have committed themselves to reduce protectionism and give more scope for competitive advantages. Rapid developments in the field of information technology will further the globalisation of agricultural trade. Under these conditions the Organising Committee considered the choice of "Farm and Farmer Organisation for Sustainable Agriculture in Africa" as a conference theme as very appropriate. Principles and perspectives from practice regarding sustainable agriculture were covered thoroughly in the papers and during conference discussions.

Altogether 139 delegates attended the conference. Of the 58 papers that were accepted for presentation at the conference only 35 were actually presented. A possible reason for the late withdrawal of papers is the relatively high travelling costs on the African Continent. The 12 papers that are included in this publication were selected by a panel of referees (refer to the list of referees elsewhere in this publication). We are indebted to the referees, as without their input this publication would not have been possible.

The Division for Marketing and Communication of the University of Stellenbosch undertook secretarial work regarding liaison with the authors as well as with the preparation of this publication. A special word of thanks is owed to Mr C. J. Britz for his considerable involvement in the editorial process.

Finally, the views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AFMA or of the institutions to which the various authors are affiliated.

Johann Laubscher
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