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May 2018   Vol. 43   No.7
Orchids and onions

The month of May is special because it starts with a public holiday that is either celebrated or commemorated, depending on where you are in the world. In the forestry and wood products sector May marks the annual release of a number of important documents, some of which are reported on in this issue of the magazine.

The orchid award goes to the 2017/18 Forestry South Africa (FSA) Annual Report that was presented at the organisation’s annual general meeting. It provides a fascinating and important insight into the vital contributions made by the plantation forestry owners and growers to the country’s regional and national economies.

FSA also announced the launch of the Code of Good Practice for Managing Alien and Invasive Species (AIS). This will see increasing efforts by forestry companies and growers to voluntarily partner and work with their rural neighbours to innovatively manage and prevent the spread of AIS.

The dti also announced the launch of this year’s furniture design competition, and government grants for agri-processing.

Sacks of onions go to Microsoft and Intel. Like all users of the Microsoft based devices, I was aware of the pending Windows 10 upgrade, and kept making a note to self: backup your documents and email! What I was not aware of is that Intel had notified Microsoft in December 2017 that many of its chips are vulnerable to a “spectre-style” virus attack. This creature arrived in style aboard the Windows bus and the result is that I am writing this editorial on a borrowed PC because after three wasted days of trying to get past the blue screens, black screens, and error messages, I have had to reformat my hard drive. And no, I did not get around to making that backup.
Forestry SA (FSA) has released its Annual Report for 2017, and the report once again emphasises the incredible value that the organisation brings to the forestry industry and thereby the entire forestry beneficiation value chain.

The report is an honest and transparent reflection of the challenges faced by the organisation itself, its members, the sector and the government departments the FSA communicates with. The annual report was released at the FSA’s annual general meeting that was held in Howick early in May. At the meeting Enoch Maponya, previously the vice chairperson, was made the new chairperson.

In this issue of the magazine we are presenting an edited version of the foreword to the FSA Annual Report by its outgoing chairperson, Graeme Freese.

“In spite of the lower than anticipated timber volumes recorded in 2017, there were many significant highlights for FSA and for the Industry in 2017.

We are fortunate to have an Industry Association like FSA, which represents almost all timber growers, irrespective of scale or race in South Africa and which remains a powerful and credible voice among State and other stakeholders.

Some of the positive changes in the political landscape in December 2017, however, were accompanied by negative ones, like the adoption by the ruling party, of a policy of expropriation of land without compensation. This has set in motion a Parliamentary process in which FSA has been closely associated.

Other highlights in 2017 were the Gazetting of the revised Forest Sector Code for Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment in April and in which FSA had played a pivotal role. We believe that the revised codes will not only lead to accelerated transformation of the Sector but also to increased growth. The codes, in a first for any sector of the economy, bind Industry and Government commitments together in a shared scorecard. We believe that this will empower and compel the State to do more to address the binding constraints to the further transformation and growth of the Sector and we expect that other Sectors will follow our lead through this approach.

We are also delighted to note that our small-scale growers may, for the first time, be able to access DAFF support. FSA has consistently lobbied the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) on the need for such support and in the DAFF CEO’s Steering Committee meeting in November 2017, they advised FSA that some of their Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) funds would be ring-fenced to support small-scale growers in the Forestry Sector. FSA is working with the various CASP co-ordinators in the provinces, to develop funding proposals, which we hope will bear fruit for our members.

We are also delighted to announce that the dti approved two of our THRIP applications, in the amount of R4 591 668, which will support some of our research partners who depend greatly on this funding to augment their programmes. This will greatly reduce the costs to our members, who would otherwise have had to carry those costs themselves.

Similarly, DAFF continues to fund the Sirex Control Programme, through the MoU between FSA and DAFF and which funding also greatly reduces the cost to Industry of this crucial programme. The programme has been shown to save the industry hundreds of millions of rands in losses, annually.

We are also pleased to note that following engagements between FSA and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), they have refined several of their funding instruments, which now offer very competitive funding and which will likely enable Industry to leverage additional, even more attractive financing into the Sector.

The FP&M SETA continues to distinguish itself as one of the lead SETAs in South Africa and they approved a R3-million grant to FSA, to support our growers’ support initiatives.

Unfortunately, from a timber volumes perspective, 2017 offered no relief from the previous two years of lower than anticipated volumes. It is concerning to note that the tonnages in 2017 dropped for the third consecutive year to 15 096 000 tons. This was 262 000 tons lower than in 2016 and 601 000 tons lower than the budgeted tonnage of 15.7 million tons.

This led to a severe cash flow problem for the Association, which necessitated an increase in the levy from R2.14 to R2.50 per ton in June 2017. Had such action not been taken, the Association would have become insolvent within 3 months. It is hoped that this decline will be halted during 2018 but if not, at least the change in FSA’s funding model (discussed in this Report) should protect the Association from the financial strain, which the historical funding model, has regularly placed on it.

I would like to re-iterate what previous chairpersons of FSA have noted; which is that we are most fortunate to have an Association like FSA, which achieves such major gains for the Sector, with such limited human and financial resources. Some of this achievement is only possible because our members also invest their time and intellect into the Association, in serving on its various structures.

FSA is occasionally asked to justify to particular members, the value of the Association and their investment into it. I would urge all members to read this Annual Report, the reports regularly sent out by FSA, the Minutes of our Gencom and Exco meetings, the reports given to the nine FSA Regional Committee meetings and to visit our website.

I would also encourage members, who are able to do so, to participate in the structures of FSA, where those of us who do so, see first-hand the powerful and positive influence FSA has on the environment in which our businesses operate. I do not believe that any members who read FSA’s reports and engage in our structures, would have any difficulty in justifying their investment into the Association.

Thank you to our dedicated team under the leadership of Mike Peter and to our members for their continued financial support and investment of time, without which FSA would be much less effective and much costlier to run.

Thank you to all our partners in the public sector, research and academia, who support the transformation, growth and protection of the Industry through your partnerships with FSA and our members. I wish all our growers and partners in the public and private sectors, the very best for 2018 and we look forward to a greatly improved economic and social outlook for the Industry and for the country.
Basic brilliance

Newly released in South Africa, the STIHL MS 651 professional-grade chainsaw offers excellent value and a robust performance especially for the professional forestry market. Innovative STIHL 2-MIX technology has this machine delivering enhanced 5.0 kW power from a 2-stroke engine with exceptional power-to-weight ratio and fast-rate torque development for a performance designed to tackle the harvesting of heavy timber and destumping. This uncomplicated and sturdy machine offers typical STIHL quality plus cost-effective, simple maintenance. Having been produced for use in the field, focus on comfortable and safe operation is paramount, with reduced weight and superior guiding rigidity for optimal control thanks to the double bumper spike, and the improved anti-vibration system has cut vibrations by around 50%. The standard roller chain catcher is low wearing and the HD2 filter system with radial seal regels even very fine dust for increased periods between cleaning and servicing. Rugged, reliable, simple and cost-effective, with the MS 651 STIHL has produced another winner!

Like any superior item, STIHL products are only available at specialised dealers nationwide, for expert advice and matchless after-sales service.

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Paren Mike Wingfield from the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria has reiterated his warning that pests and diseases will increasingly affect the health and sustainability of plantation forestry.

He was a speaker at the IRG49 Scientific Conference on Wood Protection, recently held in Johannesburg. This was the first time the IRG49 has been held in Africa, and the SA Wood Preservers Association (SAWPA) was the proud host organisation.

In his presentation, Wingfield said that global plantation forestry is dominated by intensively managed stands of Pinus, Populus, Acacia and Eucalyptus species.

"The greater proportion of these plantations has been established in areas where the trees are non-native and have thus been separated from their natural enemies," says Wingfield.

"In all documented cases, these plantations have initially been free of serious pest and disease problems. But as time has passed, their health has been increasingly damaged by such agents."

"In some cases, disease and pest problems have led to entire plantation failure, the closure of major business ventures and timber shortages."

According to Wingfield, pest and disease problems affecting plantation forestry can have one of two conceptually different origins. "They are either accidentally introduced into the areas where the non-native trees have been established, or they are themselves native to these plantation areas."

"In the former case, the pests and pathogens arise through breaches in plant quarantine. They have become uncomfortably common and are closely linked to global trade in wood and plant products."

"The adaptation of native insect pests and pathogens to feed on non-native trees is complex and includes opportunistic organisms typically with wide host ranges as well as highly specialised, host specific insects and pathogens. The latter group have typically undergone host shifts to infect/infest trees on which they would not naturally occur."

"The genetic basis of these changes is poorly understood and deserves more intensive study."

Wingfield added that all indications point to pest and diseases increasingly affecting the health and sustainability of plantation forestry in coming years. "This will be driven by increased movement of people and products globally as well as the growing complexity of controlling the movement of small and difficult to detect organisms that move in concert with trade and travel."

"While quarantine efforts must be encouraged and reinforced, the likely future of plantation forestry will lie squarely in innovative research that will make it possible to grow healthy trees."

"Tools relating to the genetic improvement of trees and those linked to computerisation and information technologies will increasingly be required to enable sustainable forestry."

Wingfield says that there is an urgent need for education and support of researchers able to meet the challenges posed by forest pests and diseases.

"Global collaboration, particularly including research across scientific disciplines will define successful and sustainable forest industries."

"International research networks such as the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) will surely play an important role in reaching the challenges posed by the ever increasing threats to forests due to pests and diseases," he concluded.
Forestry industry launches Code of Good Practice for managing alien and invasive species

Forestry South Africa (FSA) has launched the Code of Good Practice for managing alien and invasive species that occur on adjoining property in collaboration with neighbours, non-governmental organisations and government programmes such as Working for Water (WfW).

Work on the Code began in 2016 and is written as a practical guide for how landowners can manage and control AIS. The Code differentiates between mandatory requirements and voluntary initiatives. The latter encourages forest landowners to voluntarily extend the control of AIS on their own land to that on neighbouring land and beyond.

This voluntary initiative was included as a direct response to the Department of Environmental Affairs' request that the industry take at least some responsibility for the spread of AIS beyond its boundaries. Also, the DEA recognises that existing plantations, which are sustainably managed, pose less of an invasive threat than existing escaped populations of invasive plants, as these are generally not managed by the landowners on whose properties they occur.

Forestry companies and growers spend an estimated R100-million annually in the control of alien and invasive species (AIS) on their land outside the planted area.

WfW was established in 1995 and employs upward of 25000 people each year in an attempt to reduce the density of established AIS by 22% per annum through labour intensive, mechanical and chemical controls. By 2005/6, the programme had spent R3.2-billion, and by extrapolation, by 2017 this figure is likely to be in the region of R6-billion.

The Code of Good Practice proposes that plantation forest landowners voluntarily assist in the control of AIS on adjoining property or properties in collaboration with neighbours, non-governmental organisations, or specific government organisations such as the Working for Water Extended Public Works Programme.

The Code promotes:
- Legal requirements for the control of the spread of plantation species on member’s land
- Voluntary actions by members for the control of AIS on adjoining land
- Good land management actions by landowners to control the spread of AIS.

Legal requirements
Most commercial forest species in South Africa are listed as AIS within regulations published under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004, (Act No. 10 of 2004), and as weeds within regulations published under the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983). Under these Acts, all landowners and not only plantation owners, are legally responsible for controlling the listed AIS and invasive plants and weeds on their own land.

Climate change and the increase in the number and severity of wildfires indicate that a lot more needs to be done to control the fuel load on properties, and especially those with out of control AIS.

Voluntary collaboration
The Code of Good Practice suggests that in the interest of controlling or reducing current infestations outside the forest plantation estate boundary, voluntary information sharing systems and collaboration...
should take place with
• Adjoining landowners
• Government, provincial or municipal alien and invasive species control programmes, such as Working on Fire (WoF) and WfW
• Communities to look at establishing small business operations to assist in the control of AIS.

Good land management
Good land management practices should be part of a management plan with clear objectives that can be monitored and measured in terms of outcomes and progress. Controls include the use of fires during prescribed burning at regular intervals, and correct livestock grazing with the emphasis on stocking rates and rotational grazing.

Best practice
The Code explains that there are specific guidelines for the restoration of sites previously occupied by AIS. It suggests that the focus should be on the establishment of an indigenous grass cover to minimise soil erosion and to implement a controlled fire regime which enhances, to some extent, the return of some biodiversity elements and suppresses re-growth of AIS.

Commercially available species such as *Eragrostis curvula* and their various cultivars can be used as soil cover to the potential for excessive soil loss.

Early detection and response
Early detection and response systems are essential. The Code says new invasive species should be targeted with a strategy to:
• Prevent the spread into new areas
• Eradicate local isolated populations
• Contain the AIS in areas where eradication is not possible
• Protect assets where containment is no longer an option

The South African National Biodiversity Institute has an early detection and rapid response team that is structured around the activities of early detection of plant invasions, identification and verification of the invasive plants, risk assessments and response planning and immediate response action.

AIS control programme
According to an addendum to the Code, an AIS control programme should consist of three phases:
An initial first attempt to control the invasive species infestation. This may be a dense population of the target species, or simply a few scattered plants. Depending on the type of AIS, this may involve obtaining access with the use of chainsaws, brush cutters, fire or slashing. Initial controls are seldom 100% effective, especially in dense infestations.

A follow-up control is the second phase. Access is normally easier than in the initial control and allows for the easy application of herbicides. If a follow-up is not completed timeously within the next growing season, the site can rapidly revert to its original infested state. Follow up operations should be completed before implementing an initial control in another area.

The maintenance control phase is reached when the follow-up control phase can be completed using the formula of one labour unit per hectare per day. Training of people involved in AIS control is necessary to ensure an effective and focussed work force.

The Code of Good Practice ends with the warning that in the future there are likely to be increasing AIS and that the risk is likely to be exacerbated by climate change.
Tanzania invites felling tenders for 3.5-million cubic metres of trees

Tanzania’s Forest Services (TFS) Agency is inviting tenders for logging in an area earmarked for the Stiegler’s Gorge hydropower project in the Selous Game Reserve, a world heritage site.

An advert on the TFS website states “Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Agency intends to sell standing trees with a total volume of 3,495,362.823 m³ in Rufiji District. The trees are sold on “as is, where is” basis and the procuring entity shall have no further liability after sale.”

In an interview with Xinhau News Agency, Dr. Dos Santos Silayo, chief executive of TFS, says “Our intention is to clear the project area before implementation of the project starts.”

Silyo says the government has opened the tender for felling the trees so that they can be used for various purposes rather than destroying them. The successful tenderer will not be allowed to export the logs as per regulation 50 (1) of the Forest Regulations of 2004 unless otherwise permitted subject to applying for and being granted a permit by the minister responsible for natural resources and tourism.

Clearance of the area will pave way for the commencement of the 2,100MW hydropower generation project at the Stiegler’s Gorge in the Selous Game Reserve scheduled to start in July this year. Tanzania, with a population of approximately 54 million, has just 1,500MW of installed grid capacity.

The Stiegler’s Gorge power generation project includes the construction of Tanzania’s largest dam, and is expected to end the country’s power shortage and sustain local industries with electricity while selling the surplus outside the country.

The Stiegler’s Gorge project has been a significant concern for many years due to its potential negative impact on the Selous Game Reserve, a world heritage site renowned for its animal populations and variety of wildlife habitats.
Harvesting under contract for one of the biggest paper and pulp mill operators in the country is no small task and when Imphisi Harvesting needed to repurpose their machinery they looked to something that could handle a lot more capacity, move about on its own steam and handle both skyline and high lead operations, there was only one place to turn: Hintech Manufacturing, the outright leaders in cable yarding.

According to Imphisi Harvesting owner, John Bailey, his company’s association with Hintech goes back as far as the early nineties, when he bought his first machine from them.

“They’ve always given us excellent service and their response times are really good,” says Bailey. “So it makes sense to go with the tried and trusted.”

It just so happened that Bailey had an old URUS II UNI 400 built onto a single diff truck that was pretty worse for wear.

“We decided that instead of buying a new one, we would have this URUS factory refurbished and built onto another, double diff truck.”

The URUS II UNI Skyline truck mount is powered by a Deutz 6 cylinder, and can pull a payload of 2.5 tons uphill/downhill with ease.

So he found a second hand tipper truck, had it fixed up and had Hintech do the rebuild for him, which included reconditioning the winch drums, repairs to the tower, all new pulleys, new safety cage, all new hydraulics and electronics, including a custom chassis for truck mount and a crash screen to protect the truck cab.

Imphisi in for the long haul with URUS II UNI 400 2.5 Cable Yarder
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Powered by: Deutz
Custom Built to Client Spec
The latest iteration of the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) highlights the forestry beneficiation framework and points out the need to strengthen the supply of and access to raw material for the industry.

The dti's regional development programme and the forestry beneficiation framework will address these two major constraints that the industry is facing. The IPAP states that over the past few years, the dti has assisted South African companies to explore opportunities for investments and import of timber from Mozambique.

Through Trade and Investment South Africa (TISA) offices across the African continent, the dti promotes South African investment and exports in a number of jurisdictions.

This includes assisting with strategic timber imports which contribute towards addressing the raw materials shortage for advanced manufacturing.

The IPAP target for this intervention is the development of two business cases during the 2018/19 financial year. It says the key milestone for 2018/19 Q1 – Q2 is an analysis of regional forestry sector opportunities, and the second milestone for Q3 – Q4 is the development of two high-impact regional business cases. The lead government department for the project will be the dti, supported by DAFF, PAMSA, SSA, FSA, Safi, Safo, and the DPE.

IPAP specifies regional development programme for the forestry value chain

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“Safety never takes a day off!”

Hintech also added a completely enclosed cab with windows and a sealable door, which, according to Bailey is a massive improvement on what the industry standard is in terms of safety. The raised operator cabin height makes for better operational viewing when extracting.

The newly rebuilt URUS II UNI 400 has only been on site now for a few weeks, but Bailey says that they are already seeing a massive difference in their harvesting capacity.

"Because this machine can handle higher haulage weights than the URUS I, and because we are able to haul over longer distances, we can now access areas that were previously inaccessible. The machine is also much faster and we are able to get a lot more done in a day."

"In addition, the machine is relatively simple to operate, which makes training of the crew so much easier."

True to form, Hintech takes a proven robust and mechanical approach, minimizing electronics which can prove a headache when production is key in harsh and remote conditions.

According to senior supervisor at Imphisi Harvesting, Vusi Gwebu, the rebuilt URUS II UNI 400 has made a huge difference to the productivity of the team.

"Currently we are able to harvest on average, depending on the terrain and size of timber, between 250 and 400 logs per day at quite a distance," says Gwebu. "It has made all our lives much easier. The machine is easy and comfortable to operate and it has really good safety features built in to ensure that nothing goes wrong.

Hintech offers a complete cable yarding solution with tower yarders suited to application, for skylining and highleading applications.

They are also the leaders in shovel yarder conversions to excavator carriers namely CAT, Hitachi, Hyundai, Doosan, Komatsu, Kobelco and more. ■
There is always something special about a family owned business, largely because they invest in durable relationships with employees, suppliers, and customers, and they are well connected to their local communities.

Situated along the R612 between the N2 and Ixopo, in KZN, Sutherland Seedlings is an example of a family owned business that is able to adapt to its business environment and find innovative solutions to problems facing the industries they work in.

The business was established by Dave Biggs 39 years ago and under his watch it developed a reputation as one of the leading wholesale nurseries in the country, specialising in the supply of quality seedlings and cuttings to the commercial vegetable and forestry industries in South Africa.

Dave’s contribution to the development and growth of the forestry industry and the economy of the communities surrounding the business, inspired his son, Shaun, to study a horticultural degree and join the business in 2008. More recently, Shaun’s brother in law, Phillip Ashton has also joined the team to help achieve their expansion plans.

Like all nurseries supplying a niche market, any threat to the market also impacts on the company. Over the years, the forestry industry has weathered many storms. Its expansion is inhibited by a range of factors such as legislation, land availability and suitability and the increasing impacts of climate change, and Sutherland has contributed significantly to the continued sustainability of forestry.

The people from Sutherland Seedlings keep abreast with these impacts, and work closely with NCT Co-operative, the CSIR, universities and research institutes. Shaun says it is important to ensure that Sutherland Seedlings can offer the best genetic material available to their customers, to maximise yields in the plantation.

Eucalyptus

“We are excited to announce that we have constructed a new E.grandis x E.nitens (GxN) clone production facility, including hedge tunnels for mother plants, rooting tunnels and placing sheds. This is part of our strategy to ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to meet the increasing demand for eucalyptus clones,” explains Shaun.

**Sutherland Seedlings increases production of clones and hybrids**

**Aerial view of Sutherland Seedlings**
The demand from pulp and paper companies for GxN and E.grandis x E.urophylla (GxU) hybrids is picking up and we are working closely with several forestry companies to be able to meet their needs so that silvicultural operations are not delayed”.

Pines
On the pine side, Shaun says the company has constructed a new propagation block so that they can rotate their production of pine seedlings in the nursery, thereby preventing the build-up of soil pathogens.

Wattle
Sutherland Seedlings is working with NCT, researchers and other nurseries to develop new wattle clones that are resistant to wattle rust. “We are trying to isolate disease-tolerant genetic material by identifying genetic variation and tolerance to the disease in the existing breeding populations. The objective is to develop and implement a breeding strategy to manage wattle rust in Acacia mearnsii, including developing tolerant seed sources for the wattle industry,” says Shaun.

Innovation
Shaun believes in questioning the status quo and looking for new, innovative methods that will enhance Sutherland’s customer service. This led him to researching and discovering the Ellepot system. “This is a fully integrated propagation system that uses a range of specialised FSC certified paper pots to grow seedlings and cuttings in. It simplifies the logistics of getting plants from nursery to field, and substantially increases the survival rate of the seedlings. It has the potential to eliminate the need to deliver plastic or polystyrene trays to the customer and the paper pots fully biodegrade in the soil,” he explains.

From an initial purchase of one second hand Ellepot machine for Sutherland Seedlings in 2016 the nursery now has five machines and has completed successful trials using different papers, trays and delivery methods to modify the system for South African silvicultural practices. “The feedback has been encouraging, and this is without a doubt, the way forward for the nursery and forestry industries.”
A
gri SA urges organisations and individuals that
want to comment to the Constitutional Review
Committee, on the expropriation of land without
compensation bill to do so before the deadline
on 31 May.

Forestry South Africa is a member of Agri SA, which is
a federation of agricultural organisations that consists
of nine provincial unions, 25 commodity organisations
and 32 corporate members. Agri SA, through its affiliated
membership represents a diverse grouping of individual
farmers regardless of gender, colour or creed. Agri SA is
committed to the development of agriculture in South Africa.

The organisation explains that the question that needs to
be addressed is “Does section 25 (the property clause)
pose an obstacle to land reform? Is expropriation without
compensation the solution to the lack of progress made
with land reform? What mechanisms are needed to make
land reform happen quickly and sustainably?”

The question is twofold. Firstly, it is about the need, or
otherwise, to amendment section 25. Secondly, it is about
the necessary mechanisms to address land reform
problems and specifically the compensation issue.

In a notice to its members, Agri SA says practical matters
in this regard include the following: “Have land owners
received excessive prices for farms sold to the state?
What are the aspects that cause delays in land reform
transactions and processing of restitution claims? What
alternative approaches could work?”

Agri SA’s position is that:
Section 25 of the Constitution does not pose an obstacle
to land reform but in fact makes provision for land reform.

The fact that section 25(3) of the Constitution requires
fair and equitable compensation to be paid is also not
an obstacle. This was expressly confirmed by the report
compiled by the High-Level Panel on Key Legislation.

The real problems are a lack of and poor implementation
of existing legislation and programmes, inadequate
budgets and corruption.

The private sector can, through partnerships, assist
with implementation and help to ensure that land reform
is sustainable.

The uncertainty created by threats of expropriation without
compensation undermine investors’ confidence in the sector;
Farmers continuously require production capital and use
their title to farms as collateral for this purpose.
There are many transformation projects that are successful.

The correct support and funding models could result in
many more of these projects being launched.

Farmers have for decades ensured food security for South
Africa. However, with regard to the poor, there is a problem
with household food security due to affordability issues.

Large-scale expropriation without compensation will
have a very serious impact on food production and the
economy.

According to the communique, “The introduction of a
general constitutional power to expropriate land without
compensation would render South Africa out of step with
the vast majority of democratic countries.

Indeed, it is doubtful that the Constitutional Court would
have certified section 25 of the final Constitution as being
compliant with Constitutional Principle II had that section
conferred on the State a general power to expropriate
land without compensation.”

FSA agrees with Agri SA that the constitutional
amendments to section 25 should not take place.

“Although constructive and effective debate is crucial to
address the ineffectiveness of the current Land Reform
system, we pledge our support to workable solutions within
the existing constitutional framework and will fight for just
and equitable compensation for our members from whom
land is expropriated in the national public best interest,
and which is a cornerstone of any progressive economy.”

Agri SA proposes:
• Partnership models;
• A Special Purpose Vehicle for implementation;
• Sustainable financing models;
• A Social Accord;
• A right of first refusal; and
• Support for communal farmers.

AgriSA Water Desk
The new AgriSA Water Desk is a one-stop-shop
for its members, where they can get up to
date information and advice on all
things water-related.

The initiative is a response to a host of
external challenges facing agricultural water
users, including severe drought, climate change,
legislation and under-maintained infrastructure.
Dr Rob Davies, the minister of trade and industry, recently released the latest iteration of the eagerly awaited Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) for the period 2018/19 - 2020/21. The document can be downloaded off the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) website and makes interesting reading.

It offers a detailed economic analysis of South Africa and concludes that the current structure of the economy is ill-suited to the creation of large numbers of jobs at appropriate skill levels.

The forestry, timber, pulp, paper and furniture sector is once again highlighted as a key sectoral focus area for 2018/19. The report says this sector has the potential to create more jobs and growth in marginalised areas of South Africa; and it is also emerging as a sustainable future sector incorporating bio-refinery and transformative technologies.

The forestry, timber, pulp, paper and furniture sector is once again highlighted as a key sectoral focus area for 2018/19. The report says this sector has the potential to create more jobs and growth in marginalised areas of South Africa; and it is also emerging as a sustainable future sector incorporating bio-refinery and transformative technologies.

Forestry
It states that the forest-based industries are no longer limited to traditional wood-processing, furniture, pulp, and paper. Through nano-technology and other scientific advances, it has progressed to providing raw material for the clothing and textiles, pharmaceuticals, rheology and food-processing sectors.

IPAP warns that despite its potential, the sector faces major structural challenges around access to raw materials, finance and markets, especially for new applicants, and this has held back development. The regional integration initiative being developed by government is aimed at improving access to both raw materials and markets.

The Africa South of Sahara region is endowed with high quality indigenous forests which, if used properly, could lead to substantial growth in the region’s forestry value chain. It is important to note that most of the logs used for manufacturing go to pulp and paper, due to shorter rotations.

Wood processing
The wood processing sector is comprised of board manufacturers and manufacturers of wood-based products. IPAP states that the sector contributes about R14bn to manufacturing GDP and there have been notable investments in advanced wood-processing technologies, particularly in the board manufacturing industries.

The sawmilling industry is labour intensive and a key contributor to the rural economy. The current level of industry processing recovery rate per log at 49%, needs to be increased to at least 55%. In practice, this means that the sawmilling industry needs much more investment in research and technology to improve the recovery rate and to produce more advanced engineered products, such as cross-laminated timber.

The outputs from sawmills predominantly goes to the construction sector. This is an area where increasing attention should be given to improved product diversity.

Furniture manufacturing
The South African furniture Industry, according to IPAP, is an important sector in the South African economy, considering both its labour-intensiveness and its potential
for the development of SMMEs and improved export capability.

Currently the industry employs approximately 26,400 people, spread over 2,200 registered manufacturing firms. It contributes about 1% to manufacturing GDP and 1.1% to manufacturing employment. The industry’s level of competitiveness has, however, declined over the years. This has been attributed to a skills shortage, declining investment in capital equipment and insufficient research and development.

Although local manufacturers have lost some market share to imports, South Africa’s exports of furniture were worth US$ 4.23 billion in 2016, with seven out of the top ten South African export destination markets being other African countries, namely: Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The top growing export product from 2009 to 2016 was mattresses with springs (60.4%).

Pulp and paper manufacturing

The pulp and paper sector has shown some resilience to global economic pressures and has remained on a positive growth trajectory, with its net positive trade balance rising from R5.26bn in 2010 to R10.7bn in 2016.

There has, however, been a sharp increase in the importation of printing and writing paper grades, where the deficit has grown from negative R2.6bn in 2010 to negative R6.4bn in 2016. The major contributor to the positive trade balance has been dissolved wood pulp, which contributes more than 60% of total exports in the sector.

While this is positive for the economy, IPAP says there may be additional opportunities for further beneficiation of this product locally, which could create additional downstream sub-sectors and reduce South Africa’s dependence on importation of such products. Examples of these products are found in the clothing and textile, bio-based packaging, medical, food and household products sectors.

Sector constraints

The report lists the key constraints across the value chain to be:

- Security of supply of raw material
- Structural market access where there is high market concentration in some subsectors for example, furniture and building construction markets
- Inadequate access to funding and markets and declining competitiveness
- Lack of investment in critical infrastructure and insufficient promotion of timber in the built environment
- In the furniture and wood processing sectors: shortage of skills, ageing machinery, lack of research and development, little design improvement or new product development; poor enforcement of regulatory instruments.

Sector opportunities

IPAP identifies the key opportunities across the value chain to be:

- Bio-refinery and transformative technologies
- Continuous upgrading in the bio-refinery and transformative technologies space is the key to reducing costs and providing continuous product improvements across all value chains. In the forestry sector, transformative technologies promote novel and strategic uses for wood fibre and its many products and derivatives.

- Africa as a strategic market and market diversity
- IPAP states that Africa has vast resources of unique indigenous wood that require a concerted effort at regional level to integrate resources and enhance processing capacity to enable value creation. In the furniture sub-sector, for instance, market development can be linked to regional and international niche market development, with considerable export potential.

- Competitiveness enhancement for specific value chains
- This entails improving access to funding, improved recovery efficiencies, recapitalisation, skills development, industrial financing and public procurement. Streamlined access to funding will lead to industry expansion and the creation of jobs in marginalised industries.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 summarise the opportunities for the major value chains in the sector.
The latest version of the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) specifies the need for market access interventions for the furniture industry in local and regional markets.

The influx of imports, especially from the East, has shrunk the domestic market share of furniture manufacturers, especially at the low end of the market, where small and medium companies operate. Two major challenges facing manufacturers are the high concentration of the furniture retail sector and getting retailers to buy locally produced furniture.

The large retailers, collectively, have 80% of the local market. The rest is shared among independent furniture retailers. This affords the retail sector huge bargaining power with manufacturers, leading to suppressed producer prices and a lack of appetite for new prospective entrants.

The key aims of this intervention are:

• Improving access to markets for locally manufactured products in regional export markets
• Improving local market share in the low-income furniture market, which is currently dominated by cheap imports
• Cluster development in the furniture sector through co-location of companies in the same geographical areas. Furniture incubators will be targeted for the development of product-specific and market-orientated development, to enhance mass production.

The targeted outcome of the intervention is increased local market share and increased exports to regional markets.

Milestone 1: Regional market development

• 2018/19 Q2: Develop regional market and product destination matrix.
• 2018/19 Q3: Review of domestic and regional market opportunities and regulatory frameworks.
• 2018/19 Q4: Development of market access programme to facilitate trade promotion and export promotion activities.

• Lead departments / agencies: the dti, Safi
• Supporting Departments / agencies: DST, DBSD, Sefa, CSIR, export councils, CSIR, FP&MSeta

Milestone 2: Enforcement of local furniture procurement

• 2018/19 Q1: Development of public furniture procurement guidelines.
• 2018/19 Q2-Q4: Implementation of the furniture guidelines.

• Lead departments / agencies: the dti, national treasury
• Supporting departments/agencies: Safi, DPE, public procurement body; IDC, FP&MSeta, Salga.

In 2017, Swedish forest owners’ association Södra, delivered a total of 335GWh of electricity to the national electricity grid, six times more than in 2010. Södra also delivered heat for the district heating requirements of 25,000 homes.

The increase in energy deliveries was enabled by Södra’s investments in its pulp mills over the past few years. According to the company, a total of 335 GWh of electricity was supplied in 2017, equivalent to the annual consumption of 130,000 electric vehicles. A typical electric car model consumes 2kWh of electricity per 10kms and the average annual distance travelled by a passenger car in Sweden is 12,240km.

"Over the past few years, we have invested SEK 6-billion in our pulp mills to increase production, which has also led to the higher generation of green electricity. Sweden’s objective for 2030 is to increase the number of electric cars from 50,000 to 1-million, thereby increasing the amount of electricity required for road transport from approximately 100GWh to 2.5 – 3TWh, explains Henric Dernegård, energy coordinator at Södra.

"The forest industry can make a contribution here, and this is one of many examples of how forests can play a key role in the transition to a bio-economy.”

In addition to green electricity, Södra also delivered 414GWh of heating to district heating networks in 2017, equivalent to the heating requirements of 25,000 homes.

The heating is delivered to nearby communities from Södra’s sawmills at Kinda and Torsås, and to Varberg, Karshamn and Mönsterås from Södra’s three pulp mills.

"Deliveries to district heating networks mainly comprise excess heat from production processes. Our goal is to achieve resource efficiency and create social value by using every part of the tree," says Dernegård.

While Södra has been self-sufficient in green electricity since 2010, efforts are also underway to reduce Södra’s own electricity consumption. One of Södra’s sustainability targets is to reduce electricity and heating consumption by at least 10 percent by 2025.
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• LINEAR SAW
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Forestry South Africa executive director Michael Peter presented an overview of the South African commercial forestry and forestry products industries to the IRG49 scientific conference on wood protection, held recently in Sandton, and hosted by the South African Wood Preservers Association (SAWPA).

Peter noted that South Africa has a total land area of 122.3 ha, and that of that, 68.6% is utilized as grazing, while 13.9% is arable land. Another 9.6% of the land is used for nature conservation and 6.9% is for other uses including residential etc.

Total land utilized for forestry amounts to only 1% of the total land area in the country.

Of the species grown in the commercial forestry sector, pine is at an all time low, occupying 49.8% of the commercial forestry plantations in South Africa. This figure has recently fallen under the 50% mark for the first time ever.

Eucalyptus occupies 71% of commercial forests while wattle occupies around 42%.

The Kwa-Zulu Natal province sports the largest areas under hardwood plantation in the country, with a total hardwood plantation area of 371 034 ha, followed by Mpumalanga, with 193 242 ha under hardwood plantation.

Limpopo, the Eastern Cape and Western Cape have the smallest areas under hardwood plantation with 23 668 ha, 23 408 ha, and 1 559 ha respectively.

Mpumalanga sports the largest area under softwood plantation, coming in at 302 005 ha. The Eastern Cape has 118 000 ha under softwood plantation, followed by Kwa-Zulu Natal with 115 922 ha, the Western Cape with 42 471 ha and Limpopo with 29 417 ha.

The intake of roundwood into processing plants in 2016 amounted to 16.4 million m³, with a rand value of R9 billion. Pulp, paper and board mills use the bulk of the intake, accounting for 68.8% of all processed roundwood.

Sawmills processed 24.6% of roundwood logs, while mining timber mills used only 2.9%.

The country sports a total of 75 sawmills, 35 pole plants, 17 pulp, paper and board mills, 17 mining timber mills, four charcoal plants, two veneer plants, and one match factory.

The value of sales from primary processing plants in 2016 was R25.5 billion, with pulp racking up the highest sales at 56.9%, followed by lumber with 23.4%. Wood chips only accounted for 5.9% of the total amount.

Peter added that the paper and paper packaging sector in South Africa alone accounted for R23.68 billion in 2016, with the total forestry industry contributing R58.2 billion, which amounts to 1.53% of GDP and that the forest sector provides 158 400 jobs in the country.

This amounts to 22% of all jobswhitling the agricultural sector. He also added that the sector provides a valuable contribution to the export market, with total exports in 2016 amounting to R29 billion, a 13% increase from 2015.
But, on the downside, and despite the massive contributions that the sector makes to the economy, there has been precious little development of new commercial forests in South Africa.

Peter sites poor a regulatory environment, insufficient state support for new entrants into the sector, conflicting and investor unfriendly policies such as land expropriation, water use licenses, and high taxes as some of the reasons for this.

He foresees that the decline in feedstock that the country has faced in recent years will continue with many farmers converting to macadamia or avocado for instance, due to the long turnaround time of the forestry sector.

Land reform as well as the threat of pests and diseases also play a part.

According to Peter this will result in continued increase in prices, which will likely result in further consolidation in the processing sub-sectors and increased competition from wood alternatives such as light gauge steel.

On the other hand, companies are being forced to invest more in efficiency with regard to recovery rates in sawn timber, which on average is only about 50%. It may also lead to the rise of new industries, such as bio-based products.

Peter said that political maturation will play a big part in the continued growth of the forestry sector and may lead to more coordinated regulation. He also pointed out that banks are still positive about the forestry sector.

The proposed carbon tax, if implemented will also drive more users toward timber, and the SAFCOL-led timber promotion initiative will help increase the uptake of timber in the built environment and tackle low recovery rates in mills, but points out that this will require a more coordinated strategy among mill operators.
An overview of the wood preservation industry in SA

Bruce Breedt, executive director of the South African Wood Preservers Association delivered a keynote address outlining the wood preservation industry in South Africa, at the IRG49 scientific conference on wood protection held recently in Sandton, Johannesburg, which was hosted by SAWPA.

He started by pointing out that South Africa boasts a total land area of 1.22 million km² or 122 million hectares, of which approximately 1% is cultivated with commercial plantation forests consisting mainly of exotics species, mainly pine, eucalyptus and wattle.

"The commercial forests supply raw material to a diverse forestry sector and industries including paper and pulp, sawmilling, mining timber, poles, charcoal, wood chemicals, fibre and textiles, etc.,” says Breedt.

"Timber preservation in South Africa was first introduced in the early to mid-1900s when the degradation of structural timber by wood destroying insects started occurring in buildings at a scale of economic concern.

"Apart from subterranean termites native to southern Africa, that was also a cause of some of the destruction, further destruction by wood borers and dry-wood termites not native to our shores became an increasing problem, especially around the time of the Second World War."

According to Breedt, the arrival and spread of alien wood destroying agents to our coastal and inland areas lead to the introduction of regulations and standards for the treatment of timber and the use of treated timber in South Africa since 1946.

"Regulations and standards pertaining to the sale and use of treated timber has been in existence since then, although under varying regulating and government authorities,” says Breedt.

"In the early 1960s regulations were also taken up in building regulations and standards, and other regulations related to registration of wood preservatives as agricultural remedies and the use thereof has also become applicable."

According to Breedt, the timber preservation industry as a subsector is a small part of the total forestry sector, and it is estimated that between 1.3 to 1.5 million m³ of timber in total is preservative treated at approximately 115 timber treatment plants spread all over the country, with the majority situated in the commercial plantation forest regions of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo.

The treatment plants produce a limited variety of treated timber products ranging from mostly sawn and machined timber used in construction, landscaping and leisure applications, as well as poles used for utility lines, agricultural purposes, fencing and building and construction etc.

As such the majority of plants fall under the category of treatment plants integrated with Sawmilling or as Wood pole treatment plants.

"Because of the climatic and geographical exposure and end application and market demands and needs, the wood preservatives used in South Africa remain predominantly CCA and Creosote with a very limited volume of timber being treated with other preservatives including waterborne preservatives such as borate and CuAz, and Azole Permethrin based LOSP preservatives,” says Breedt.

"The local timber preservation industry is mostly self-reliant with regards the local supply and manufacture of the two main preservative types, i.e. CCA and Creosote, as well as timber raw material sourced mainly within South Africa and also from Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

"South Africa and its people, in relation to many other countries, do not utilize timber, including preservative treated timber to its fullest potential.

"This can in part be explained because of a culture of steel, concrete, stone, brick and mortar has been deeply entrenched into our societal frame of reference over the last 350 or so years.

"In addition a limited volume of raw material available from the overall local timber resource cultivated is destined for building and construction purposes.”
CHOOSE THE CORRECT PRESERVATIVE TREATED TIMBER FOR YOUR END APPLICATION (H classes)

H2 – Low Hazard: Inside above ground
H3 – Moderate Hazard: Outside above ground
H4 – High Hazard: Outside in ground
H5 – High Hazard: Outside in contact with heavy wet soil or in fresh water
H6 – High Hazard: Prolonged immersion in sea water

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY ASPECT RELATED TO TREATED TIMBER PRODUCTS AND THE CORRECT USE OF TREATED TIMBER, OR WHERE TO CONTACT SAWPA MEMBERS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Tel: 011 974 1061
sawpa@global.co.za
www.sawpa.co.za
Pete lives in Rotorua in New Zealand and makes money out of his woodworking hobby by cutting logs for firewood, making blanks for wood-turning and carving projects, and cutting slabs for benchtops and tables.

He recently contacted Peterson’s sawing expert in Rotorua, Chris Browne, to find out the best way to cut a macrocarpa that has been drying for three and a half years and is nearly one metre wide by 2.5m long. Chris decided to take the opportunity to demonstrate the Peterson dedicated wide slabber (DWS) at Pete’s place.

Cupressus macrocarpa, also known as the Monterey cypress, is a low to medium density softwood. It has a fine grain and machines and sands well to give a high-quality finish.

The Peterson crew of two sawmill operators, Chris and Ash Pari, set up the sawmill over the log in between five and 10 minutes. Chris used a spirit level on the frame ends to ensure that the tracks are parallel and on the same plane. The tracks don’t have to be flat, but they do need to be parallel with one another.

Chris and Ash line up the mill for the first cut. Pete wants the first slab to be a “bit thicker, half an inch”. Chris lowers the single winch, gets Pete’s approval and starts the DWS. He checks each slab before removing it from the mill.

“Give us a hand, this one’s going on the truck,” Pete says. “Let’s stand this one up against the fence.” He has the neighbour’s kid fill up the watering can, so that he can pour water over each slab and view the patterns. The wide slabber chain has fewer teeth than a chainsaw and gives a finish that is finer than that of a bandsaw. “When the slabber’s been over the log, I can clean off the sawdust with water and can see immediately what the slab’s going to look like. That’s a huge advantage. I can show my customers their finished benchtop with just a bit of water,” comments Pete.

Chris and Ash make 12 slabs that will be used for bench tops, table tops and a bar top from the single Macrocarpa log. The Peterson DWS comes complete with its own motor, bar and chain fitted within a large 1.8m production frame. It allows a much faster speed ratio than other slabbers, using a 404 ripping, or multi skip tooth chain. It is consequently easier to push, faster at cutting, uses less fuel, is less likely to burn the bar, and has a longer chain life.

“The DWS is not a swing-mill sawmill like the rest of the range because its sole purpose is to cut logs into high value wide slabs using a chainsaw slabber-style bar,” explains Chris. “There is a misperception that the DWS is not as versatile as the rest of our range of portable sawmills. This is not true. It can easily be set up around a log and works well as long the tracks are parallel to each other and long enough to accommodate the length of the log.

“We have received good feedback about the machine. The big advantage of the machine is its powerful motor and the width of the logs it can cut. The chain and bar system is slower than a bandsaw but makes up for it because the chain lasts a long time and is quick to sharpen,” says Chris.

If you already have a large frame Peterson mill and are wanting to produce slabs commercially, the DWS chainsaw slabber unit can sit on the other end of your existing portable sawmill tracks, (which may be extended); so that you can quickly change from dimensional sawing, to slabbing and back on the same log.

The machine comes standard with an electric winch that allows touch-button control of the track height. This makes for faster resetting and accurate sizing because it is possible to raise and lower the tracks at the same time.

The machine can be upgraded to an automated slabbing machine when it is fitted in the ASM track set-up. Upgrading to automation with the DWS is the most efficient way of getting accurate valuable slabs with minimal effort. Other options include unlimited track extensions and the Peterson’s Hi/Lo track set up that allows the operator to either load logs over the track on the low side or roll logs under the high track, giving versatility for mobile or fixed site applications.

The machine can be fitted with a 404 ripping or double/multi-tooth chain or the giant 404 multi ski-tooth chain. The saw comes with either a 22hp Honda petrol motor, a 27hp Kohler electric motor or it can work at 15kW on three-phase power. The average production is six to 30 slabs per hour, depending on the specifications.
It’s all about confidence
Tried, tested and trusted preservative protection for timber.
Wood-Mizer’s smart log processing (SLP) system is a flexible series of modular units that use thin-kerf blades to deliver better yield and higher profits from low value logs between 100 and 400mm in diameter to increase overall efficiency.

The system was first introduced to the market in 2007. Since then, the solution has found international application in sawmilling markets around the world and in South Africa. Local sawmills that have successfully invested in the SLP system include Spitzkop Sawmill, CRS Timbers and Holkay Sawmill in Mpumalanga.

According to Wood-Mizer, an SLP system installed at a sawmill in the Western Cape in 2015 illustrates the value of the solution. When the system was commissioned in 2015, the sawmill owners had a projected monthly figure of 800 cubic metres into the mill and 400 cubic metres of sawn timber out, with a recovery of 66%.

Current figures for the unit stand at 2250 cubic metres into the mill and 1050 cubic metres of sawn timber out per month. Log diameters vary from 130mm upwards and log lengths between 2.4m and 3m. The SLP system has assist the mill to achieve a recovery of 72%. The owners are confident that output can be expanded further and that the mill will exceed all expectations.

Sawmillers all share the same objective, to produce sawn timber in the most cost effective and efficient way possible and to grow profits.

In a changing forestry environment where small to medium size diameter and low value logs from thinnings operations or the tops of harvested trees are readily available, it is important to maximise the opportunity to process these logs accurately and consistently.

Increased mechanisation that can smooth the flow of logs through the line and reduce the costs of labour, energy, maintenance, and staff training are further opportunities to improve efficiency.

Wood-Mizer says the SLP line has been successfully used in various applications including sawing high quality structural timber and pallet material. It is a diverse line that can be adapted to many different configurations to suit the sawmillers needs.

The SLP line uses Wood-Mizer’s modular system, with many of the machines using the same electrical parts, belts, and bearings, requiring the sawmiller to keep fewer spares on hand.

The advantages of the system include:
• Costs less than similar lines
• Low installation costs
• Modular units that can be expanded to suit the sawmill needs
• Produces more products and less waste
• Lower power consumption
• Inexpensive to maintain
• Uses thin-kerf blades to deliver better log yield than other processing methods
• Blade maintenance is made easy with proprietary blade maintenance equipment

• Includes material handling systems to increase mechanisation and throughput
• Ideal for small to medium sized logs
• Easy to use and low training costs

A typical SLP line consists of the following units:
• A twin vertical saw for primary breakdown to produce a two-sided cant
• A single vertical saw for secondary breakdown to produce third side of three-sided cant
• Re-saw options on both the secondary breakdown and recovery side. Up to six re-saws inline to produce six boards and one slab in one pass
• Edger on recovery to square slab sides and cut boards into final spec boards
• Various log in- and out-feed options to allow for stable and accurate cutting during primary breakdown
• Various material handling options to increase mechanisation and reduce labour costs

Wood-Mizer’s Titan EG800 is a robust, highly productive edger and multi-rip that adds further benefits for sawmillers using the SLP system. The unit can rip material up to 120mm thick and is ideal for small diameter hardwood species.

can increase mill efficiencies

The PROFITABLE way to cut small to medium sized logs

Wood-Mizer Africa (Pty) Ltd
Unit 1, Leader Park, 20 Chantil Street, Stormill Ext. 5, Roodepoort, Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel: +27 (0) 11 473 1313 | enquiries@woodmizer.com | www.woodmizer.com
The finger-joint expert, Weinig Grecon, has launched its new generation of finger jointing systems that provide increased performance, more flexibility and can be customised to meet client needs.

The company always finds new ways to innovate its products without compromising the benefits of non-contact glue application and excellent quality of fingers. "We are well known for our ability to quickly identify new market needs and to produce highly efficient technologies to meet our customers' requests," explains project manager Frank Medicus.

Highly productive top model
The well known PowerJoint 15 range now has a big brother. The new machine has 18 cycles and can process short timber pieces with an input length of 550mm. A pre-alignment, special tandem clamping station and pre-infeed positioning of pieces facilitates the high cycle output of the vertical finger jointed products. The system, which includes automatic feeding and emptying materials handling, was custom made for a client specialising in laminated timber and cross laminated timber (CLT) products.

Innovation for the entire product line
Weinig Grecon's decentralised compact system, known as CF, is revised and optimised. The new model PowerJoint 12 now makes 12 cycles possible, which is an increase of 20% for the construction timber market.

The technicians provided other improvements to the finger jointing line so that larger cross sections can be processed in less time. They also made the clamping patterns of the shaper and the press identical so that the result is an absolutely offset-free product.

PowerJoint 8 H now with scoring units
With the PowerJoint 8 Weinig Grecon already had the quickest system for producing construction industry products that are shaped, glued and pressed in one clamping position for vertical finger joints.

Timber pieces of a maximum width of 300mm are now processed by the system with up to eight cycles per minute. The newly developed PowerJoint 8-H is the first decentralised compact finger jointing line for horizontal finger joints that can be equipped with scoring units.

This system can operate with all three conventional gluing systems; a glue comb, the roller system and the non-contact glue application.

Customers from Austria, Germany and Scandinavia have already expressed their interest in the new generation of the PowerJoint 8-H. It is ideal for log house construction, production of CLT or for window scantlings.
systems from Weinig Grecon

All PowerJoint models are equipped with an automatic dimension adjustment and provided with a distance and time optimised infeed into the press.

Industry 4.0
"We are well positioned for digitisation and as the leading technology partner we support our customers with solutions that are paired to the needs," says product manager Dirk Bartens.

The software module ProLam for construction timber systems offers another possibility for networked production.

This lamella production computer is designed to control the production orders through the finger jointing line and is available in three different configurations.

The reliable ProLam saves time and creates the conditions for a comfortable data exchange with other system components.

Other special features are the innovative operator control by touch screen, the IO link and a comprehensive sensor technology that ranges from alarm functions to production control with evaluation and analysis.
SPAX –
For wood construction

Universal

Construction

Outdoor Decking
Mayr-Melnhof, projects with the Weinig group

MM Richen:
Automated strength grading with certificate
Optimization of glulam production with a new scanner line

Mayr-Melnhof Holz Richen relies on an automated scanning solution from Weinig Luxscan to produce glue laminated timber. The integration of a CombiScan EVO X, an x-ray scanner, into the scanner line last year has provided automated strength grading according to EN 14081.

Mayr-Melnhof Holz Richen processes about 100,000 m³ of wood to glulam products in its factory near Eppingen, Germany. The favorable location within the metropolitan area Heilbronn-Mannheim-Stuttgart makes an efficient supply of customer-specific wood components possible not only in Germany, but also in the adjacent countries.

The brisk demand for such products is seen as a welcome challenge in Richen, Germany. ‘We can put our goods together within two to three days, and also partly laminate them,’ says Martin Rupp, Project and Quality Manager at Mayr-Melnhof Holz Richen. Around 100 employees process the semi-finished product which comes from the companies’ own sawmills.

Strength Grading at 180 m/min
To guarantee a high quality of the product, the glulam manufacturer kept searching for an established solution. Now, one has been found. The new heart of the production process is the sorting and optimizing line from Weinig Luxscan, a company based in Foetz, Luxembourg. The line’s speed of 180 m/min is very impressive. However, it was not just the high sorting speed that was crucial for the investment. A Weinig Luxscan scanner was delivered together with other products from the wide portfolio of the Weinig Group to complete the line, which can be customized to different customers’ needs.

The complimentary mechanization was supplied and installed by Weinig Dimter. The sorting process starts with CombiScan EVO X, an x-ray scanner which detects density differences in the wood – possible without even checking the external appearance of the boards. A new addition at Weinig Luxscan is the certification for strength grading. Jörn Dittgen, Regional Sales Manager at Weinig Luxscan, explains: ‘Since the end of 2017 the CombiScan EVO X has been certified in accordance to the norm EN 14081 for mechanical strength grading of timber with a load-bearing function.’

As well as strength grading, the CombiScan EVO X is equipped with four-sided laser and color sensors which can detect typical wood characteristics for optical sorting. Cracks, resin pockets, knots, discolorations and edge defects are reliably captured and then evaluated...
from page 31
Automated strength grading with Weinig Luxscan

in the optimization software. The detection of defects is preprogrammed and customers can define and modify their quality classifications using the special software as they need. The newly installed line is complemented by shape measurement using a ShapeScan and a marking station which can print cut and quality markings for further processing of the sorted boards.

The optimizer result is then transferred allowing the OptiCut 450 Quantum, supplied by Weinig Dimter, located in Illertissen, Germany to cut the required lengths and qualities. The OptiCut 450 Quantum can process the pieces at up to 415 m/minute and can accelerate between cuts at up to 50m/s². This is helped by specially coated infeed rollers for maximum grip. The saw also controls the overall line using the OptiCom software packet.

After the OptiCut the optimized pieces are transferred to the finger jointing line, model Turbo-LH (long timber), supplied by Weinig Grecon in Alfeld. The timber pieces are automatically aligned in a package and are transferred to the shaper combination where the timber pieces are profiled. Following this, the timber pieces are transported into an endless cycle press where the lamellas are pressed and cut to length by a flying cross cut saw. The machine has been operated in this factory since 1998 and has been upgraded regularly so that the line is always state of the art.

MM Reuthe: Fully automatic production line

This plant in Reuthe is one of the leading industrial producers of glulam beams, formwork panels and beams. In 2016 the company decided to build a new production line for I-beams and for lamellas used in the glulam-beam production, designed by Weinig Concept. Due to the reliable quality of the line installed in the above mentioned factory, Mayr Melnhof invested in a finger jointing line, a Turbo-S 3000, made by Weinig Grecon, Germany. The cut material is also aligned in packages on two automatic packaging units used as a feeding unit for the Turbo-S 3000. This model is the fastest package finger jointing line used for processing long timber pieces.

Ingoing lengths up to 3.000 mm are finger jointed with a capacity of up to 5.5 packages per minute. The hardener and the melamine glue are applied separately on the front ends of the timber packages. The Turbo-S 3000 is the first package finger jointing line which is equipped with a continuous press, model DKK 60 (6 t pressing force). The pressing cycle is carried out without any interruption of the through feed. A flying cross cut saw cuts the final lengths from an endless ribbon at a speed of up to 160 m/min.
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<td>Ekamant</td>
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<td>Busch</td>
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<td>Norwood</td>
<td>With over 50 patents, the outcome of Norwood’s innovation is band sawmills that are dramatically more productive, profitable and affordable than any other, and yet are so easy to use, even first-timers can be milling like old-time sawyers in no time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centlube</td>
<td>Centlube is a major player in the manufacturing, distribution, sales and marketing of lubricating products in South Africa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacci</td>
<td>Bacci’s new line of machines has a wide range of applications, spanning from chair manufacturing to tables, doors and furniture components in general, right to the manufacturing of elements in plastic, aluminum and composite materials.</td>
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<td>A full range of wood finishes are available with a bespoke colour-matching service for paint, stains and tinted lacquers. To compliment the one-stop-shop for coatings, Morrells also offer our sprayshop brand of spray equipment and consumables for professional wood finishers.</td>
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<td>Omal</td>
<td>Omal is a leader in innovative and robust solutions for drilling and dowels/hardware insertion for cabinets, windows and doors industry.</td>
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<td>Corrusafe</td>
<td>Corrusafe manufactures and supply innovative packaging to a wide range of industries.</td>
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<td>PGBison</td>
<td>PG Bison one of the largest manufacturers of wood based board and decorative panel products.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elvolac</td>
<td>Technipaint specialises in the supply and manufacture of paints to the manufacturing industry. Under the Elvolac brand Technipaint successfully manufactures and distributes a wide range of different industrial standard products.</td>
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One of the latest innovations that will make its South African debut at Austro’s in-house show in July will be a new polyurethane (PUR) adhesive from Kleiberit.

The German adhesive specialist will demonstrate its new Kleiberit 707.6.40, which will be shown alongside demonstrations of EVA hotmelts and examples of Kleiberit’s unique hot coating process. The adhesive the company’s latest high performance PUR and has been specially designed with the small to medium sized manufacturer in mind.

Austro is a leading machinery and material suppliers and will be holding its biennial in-house show at its hub Roodepoort, Johannesburg. Expecting to attract more than 2500 manufacturing professionals from the furniture, aluminium, packaging, steel and glass industries, the distributor’s principals will be on hand to showcase the latest technologies and software to enter the market.

Bradly Larkan, Kleiberit’s general manager for the UK, Ireland and South Africa explains, “Our latest offering has simplified PUR application. You no longer need to go to great lengths to keep your PUR away from moisture and there is no need to remove all applicators at the end of each shift. Instead, you can simply turn your machine off and go home, safe in the knowledge that you can re-melt your glue the next day and still get the same high performance you’ve come to expect from a polyurethane.”

Unlike traditional PUR technology, which needs to be kept away from moisture in order for it not to cure or cross-link when not in use, Kleiberit’s 707.6.40 adhesive can be left overnight and re-melted the next day, making it both economical and practical for smaller workshops.

As well as significantly reducing wastage, Kleiberit 707.6.40 helps increase the lifespan of the melting unit and roller applicators, as they don’t have to be removed and refitted for cleaning as regularly. It also saves the grind and time associated with end-of-shift clean-down of the edgebander.

Bradly explains, “To break this down further, if your company works a five-shift week, Kleiberit’s latest offering will save you 10 shut down and cleaning operations, as 707.6.40 requires just one cleanup at the end of the week. The potential saving is huge, making this technology ideal for those looking a cost effective solution to running PUR.”

Bradly adds, “We’ve chosen Austro’s in-house show event to launch our new 707.6.40 adhesive because our partnership brings a lot of value to our brand in the South African market. We also work closely with Biesse and as such, our technology is interlinked. Working with the exclusive distributor of Biesse in South Africa is the perfect fit for us and we’re looking forward to demonstrating our products at the show.”

Austro’s, CEO, Trevor Williams concludes, “We are planning a truly interactive show that will be the first of its type on the African continent, if not the Southern hemisphere. With support from Kleiberit and all our principals, we’re confident the show will be a great source of information for our customers and an opportunity for them to explore our product offering further.”
New Trends require New Solutions! Specific adhesives for extreme demands

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www.kleiberit.com
Asax Agencies is proud to announce that they have been appointed the regional agent for the Casadei-Busellato range of machines.

The names Casadei and Busellato are not new in our market, and over the years these machines have been in demand from woodworking and furniture manufacturing companies in South Africa.

Coinciding with the decision by the Casadei-Busellato owners to select Asax Agencies to supply and service their machines, is the release of new innovations and technologies from the company that Asax is ready to offer and support.

These include enhancements to its wide range of classic and special machines and the CNC working centres.

The ABC of woodworking: Asax joins forces with Casadei-Busellato

A

sax Agencies represents the popular range of Casadei-Busellato edge banding machines.
In the basic range, the new panel saw SC40P with electronic control FOX 100 is now available. This controls manage the blade tilting and lifting and the motorised guide that moves the sliding table on a ball bearing screw.

The AXO300 beam saw in the company’s special machines range, has an international reputation for high performance thanks to the increased speed of the saw carriage and pushing unit.

New options available for the extremely competitive machine include a saw carriage with independent saw blade and scoring blade raise, optimised raise of the blade, a device for making grooves and slots, and post-forming. The AXO 300 can also be equipped with a labelling machine and the Perfect optimiser Plus unit.

The special machines range would not be complete without the company’s Casadei edge banding machines. The Flexa 507 and 607 edge banders are the top of the range with their high and adjustable feeding speeds.

The Flexa 507 is a reliable and versatile workhorse for edging without compromise. The automatic machine is flexible and the XE version can be equipped with a controlled axis. The high feed speed makes the Flexa 507 an extremely versatile addition to any board processing line.

The Flexa 607 provides excellent performance for larger, high volume manufacturers. The belt pressure unit, gluing capacity of 15x60mm, reverse rotation of the glue spreading roller from the control panel and the adjustable feed speed up to 22m/min. are the main features of the Flexa 607.

Another unit in the special category is the Libra 55 calibrating sanding machine. It is the ideal choice for high production capacity companies that need precision and a consistently excellent finish.

The 2.62mm belt length allows an efficient cooling and extended life of the abrasive belt, and this is one of the reasons for the quality of the finish. It is available with a touch screen control FOX 1000 S interface that manages all machine’s functions.

When it comes to CNC machines, the latest offering from Casadei-Busellato is the Jet Optima T5 CNC working centre. It is equipped with the Jet Fast automatic positioning system that increases its flexibility and productivity. The high speed allows movement of the panel supports, vacuum cups and clamps.

It is a flexible and reliable working centre for machining of panels and solid wood, with a working area in Y of 1900mm. With the versatility of processing offered by the 5 axis Jet 5, the Jet Optima T5 is the ideal machine for modern artisan companies, that require different and fast processing without losing high quality.

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**ASAX Agencies**

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The Casadei-Busellato CNC working centre was on show at Xylexpo.
Shamrock Handling Concepts is one of the foremost forklift suppliers in the South African materials handling industry and has made quite a name for itself by supplying only the most reliable and trusted name brands in the world.

The company was established in 1994 and quickly cemented a name for itself within the industry with its flagship product, Moffett Forklifts, widely recognised as the top truck mounted forklift brand globally.

In 2001, the company started their association with Combilift, a new entrant into the forklift manufacturing market, which quickly established itself as a company on the forefront of innovation. Their range of multidirectional forklifts, ideal for working in narrow isles and with long or bulky loads quickly took hold in the local market.

The company made another major breakthrough in 2005 when they were awarded distributorship in the Southern African region for the Agrimac range of 4x4 forklifts.

The company was recently acquired by the Capital Equipment Group of Invicta Holdings Limited, and it was announced that the company would retain its corporate identity as Shamrock Handling Concepts under the continued leadership of longtime managing director, Marius Schutte.

Shamrock’s already impressive network of offices and sub-dealerships servicing the entire South Africa as well as neighbouring countries with both complete machines as well as parts will be greatly enhanced by Criterion Equipment’s broad distribution network, excellent reputation within the industry, as well as a broader customer and product base.

Combilift
Combilift has, in the past 20 years proven itself to be one of the biggest innovative forces in the materials handling industry. Their groundbreaking C-series of four-way internal combustion, electric, and LPG driven narrow aisle forklifts was a world first and it remains a very popular choice for operators that need to handle long and bulky loads in confined spaces.

The C-series is very diverse, offering a range of lift models sporting capacities ranging from 2,500kg to 12,000kg, with lift heights of up to 7.5 meters.

The company also offers a diverse range of lifting machinery, from stand up lifters, to straddle carriers.

HIAB Moffett Forklifts
Moffett has been manufacturing truck mounted forklifts for over 50 years and in that time has earned its reputation at the top global truck mounted forklift producer.

The company has been instrumental in transforming the way that materials are being distributed on a global scale and is known for creating unique solutions to logistics challenges across a range of industries.

Top shelf lifting equipment with Shamrock
The company maintains excellent quality standards, to such an extent that the first Moffett forklift sold in South Africa over 20 years ago is still going strong and in daily use.

Agrimac
The Agrimac sets the global benchmark in rough terrain forklifts with a wide range of application driven solutions.

The Agrimac range of forklifts offer exactly what one would expect of a rough terrain forklift, boasting four wheel drive, strong and reliable German engines, high ground clearance, tilting cabs for ease of maintenance.

Agrimac four by four forklifts are ideally suited to any off-road or rough terrain environments including farms, mines, or construction sites.
Irish firm Combilift has over the past 20 years revolutionised the forklift and lifting vehicles market with their innovative solutions.

Their invention of a lifting vehicle specifically designed for longer loads was a game changer within the industry, and especially for the timber, plastic piping, and steel industries, resulting in exports of more than 38,000 units to more than 85 countries to date.

According to Combilift MD Martin McVicar, he, and longtime friend, Robert Moffett, saw a need in the lifting machinery market for a product that could handle longer and ungainly loads in confined spaces, and immediately set out to design and build the first internal combustion powered multidirectional forklift ever.

McVicar adds that they managed to sell their first machine before it was even completed, to a business acquaintance who had happened to visit one day and ask what it was they were building.

That machine is in use to this day, 20 years later.

Over the years many more innovations followed, and the company was able to remain at the forefront of development within the industry, with their speciality according to McVicar being the identification and solving of problems within the lifting machinery industry.

Combilift at the forefront of lifting innovation

Combilift launched their brand new 50 million Euro production plant in Monaghan, Ireland, in April.
Today Combilift ships both standard line machines and custom designed and built machines to customers all over the world, although they cannot help but bring up the fact that, while they are very export focused, their main market remains in Ireland.

The company celebrated the 20th anniversary of that first machine during April with the launch of their brand new 50 million Euro world headquarters and manufacturing facility in the town of Monaghan, in Monaghan County, Ireland in April, inviting press and clients from all over the world to attend.

Between McVicar and Moffett, both highly experienced and widely respected engineers, they have since the establishment of the company in 1998 grown it into the largest global producer of multi-directional forklifts and the acknowledged leader in long load handling solutions.
To such an extent that the company today employs around 500 people at their brand new 46 500 square metre facility in Monaghan.

According to Heather Humphreys, Irish Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, who also happens to be a Monaghan local, the unveiling of the new Combilift facility is a very proud moment for Monaghan, as well as for Ireland.

“Combilift has through the years made a huge impact, not only in their field of business, but in promoting Ireland, promoting education through bursaries and learnerships, and creating sustainable jobs.

“Their passion for innovation has also placed Ireland squarely on the map within the materials handling industry, with 7% of their annual income being dedicated solely to research and development.”

Humphreys stressed that it is through companies like Combilift that Ireland has been able to reduce unemployment in the country to under six percent.

A tour of the new Combilift facility only served to boost my esteem of the company, as their entire layout and set-up is geared not only toward innovation, but to efficiency.

To the extent that the company even uses biomass from old pallets and wood waste, including some trees from a plantation on their premises, to generate heat for their drying equipment.

The company also made use of the opportunity to introduce a revolutionary new machine designed specifically for the loading of long material into shipping containers.

Their research and development spaces, off limits for the most part, drew a lot of curiosity from the gathered journalists, clients, and potential clients.
SBD steps in to help the Mr Fix It team with hands-on training and tools

For more than 175 years Stanley Black & Decker has worked hand-in-hand with tradesmen by providing a range of innovative products that offer solutions to every available challenge.

Now the world’s largest tooling company is lending a helping hand to community members in need, by teaming up with the Daily Sun’s Mr Fix It team, comprising trusty toolsmiths Warren van Niekerk and Rudzani Ratshikakala.

The Mr Fix it team responds to SMS requests from Daily Sun readers who can’t afford their own repairs to leaking toilets, broken taps and tiles, damaged roofs and other basic household maintenance. The team receives about 7900 requests for assistance a year, but, until now, depended solely on the sales of the newspaper to keep running.

In recognition of their noble work, Stanley Black & Decker has partnered with the two-man team and provided tools, overalls and practical training on a range of Stanley hand and power tools.

Stanley Black & Decker’s Training Manager, Jansen van der Westhuizen, and Product Trainer, Enrico Toorn took the Mr Fix It team through a practical session to demonstrate the best use and application of a variety of top-quality Stanley hand and power tools.

“The Stanley brand is a perfect match for Mr Fix It as the Stanley hand and power tool range provides a variety of tool options to meet the needs of every user. The training we offered Mr Fix It will help them understand the tools, know how they work and know exactly how to use them,” says Jansen van der Westhuizen.

The team at Stanley Black & Decker offers training to companies and individuals and the company is in the process of building a high-tech experience centre which will allow them to showcase a variety of tools in different settings, such as kitchen, garage and garden.

The Mr Fix It team responded with enthusiasm to the tools and training provided.
Living Space Boards is a family owned up-and-coming small business that is putting the big and well-established businesses to shame with their service with an edge on value.

“The feedback we get from all our customers is that we give them what they cannot get anywhere else: one-on-one service, the call back when promised, informed answers for all their questions, and friendly and excellent service delivery,” explains Melanie Walker, the MD of Living Space Boards.

“It does not matter what time of day we arrive, the moment we walk through the door there is someone ready to assist you,” comments Gavin Ryder of Kurve Designs, one of Living Space’s growing number of repeat clients. “They don’t differentiate between our small custom-design shop, and their larger customers who are looking for high volumes of boards.”

Living Space Boards was established in 2013 when Melanie joined forces with her husband Rodwell to service a need and gap they identified in the wholesale boards market in Cape Town. In a very short period their reputation for quality and quick turn-around times spread by word of mouth and the business began to grow. There are five full time employees in the company: Sales consultant Natasha Jacobs, foreman and edge bander operator Henry Arendse, panel saw operator Bay Ndzala, panel saw assistant Dola Lubabalo and the driver, Allister Adams.

The company provides a professional board upgrading and cut-and-edge service to shop fitters, kitchen and cabinet manufacturers, building contractors and sub-contractors, government tenders, installers, and furniture makers.

But that is not all, Rodwell is a qualified and experienced cabinetmaker, which allows Living Space to offer value adding services like tongue and groove shaker doors, double-ups, finger grips, glass doors, rail and style products, hardware, pre-drilled cabinetry and design and installations.

“Our customers are our first priority and we all work hard to ensure that the factory is operating smoothly and producing the high-quality board components they expect,” comments Melanie. “Our competitive advantage is our technical and product knowledge, personalised service and ability to communicate with our clients to give them what they need.

“Unlike some of our competitors, when a customer places an order we can tell them exactly when it will be ready. We have excellent lead times of between two and four days for most orders because we are hands-on, plan well and know the progress of every order at all times,” explains Rodwell.

The Walkers say the biggest problem facing any company is cash-flow. Their entrepreneurial journey is based on careful planning and service innovation.

“Rodwell and I are both risk averse and we do not want to fall into the trap of having to service loans while the business is in its infancy. Our philosophy is to always build good relationships with our suppliers and we do this by paying all our accounts before the due date.”

The factory is presently equipped with an Altendorf panel saw and a Smartek edge bander. Rodwell says most clients cannot believe that the excellent quality of the edged boards they receive are produced by these two machines. “Quality is
dependent on how you run your business,” he says. “We are a small company and invite our customers to come into the factory to see how and where we work. As far as possible we control our dust levels and ensure that the machines are well maintained at all times.”

Rodwell explains that the biggest factor contributing to the quality of their products is the technical skills of the machine operators. Mxolisi ‘Boy’ Ndzala is the Altendorf operator who produces melamine or glossy boards with no obvious right or wrong face. Henry Arendse, who has recently been appointed factory foreman, is an expert on the edge-bandier and the finish he produces with this small machine is comparable with machines that cost twice the price.

Living Space Boards is slowly but surely expanding its activities, and places great store on its responsibilities to its employees and long-term relationships with suppliers and customers. “Personalised service, unsurpassed technical know-how, quality products and short lead times are some to the important reasons why the customers who use our cut and edge and other value-adding services keep coming back for more,” Rodwell comments.
The Agro-Processing Support Scheme (APSS) aims to stimulate investment by South African agro-processing / beneficiation (agri-business) enterprises, and the window for applications is open until 30 June 2018.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the assistance will achieve some of the following:
• Increased capacity
• Employment creation
• Modernised machinery and equipment
• Competitiveness and productivity improvement
• Broadening participation.

The APSS is targeted at five key identified focus areas
• Food and beverage value addition and processing
• Furniture manufacturing
• Fibre processing
• Feed production
• Fertilizer production.

The Interpretation of the focus areas within each sector will be at the discretion of the dti. Agro-processing / beneficiation activities will be considered based on economic impact in terms of job creation, geographic spread and strengthening supply chains.

Tafadzwa Nyanzunda, the director: Forestry Based Industries in the Agro-processing Chief Directorate of the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti), says the
scheme offers a 20% to a 30% cost-sharing grant to a maximum of R20-million over a two-year investment period.

The last claim must be submitted within six months after the final approved milestone.

She explains that the dti may consider an additional 10% grant for projects that meet all economic benefit criteria, such as employment, transformation, geographic spread, and local procurement.

The project / business must exhibit economic merit in terms of sustainability. The maximum approved grant may be utilised on a combination of investment costs provided the applicant has a sound business case for the proposed investment activities.

An applicant must submit the following information for a period of at least three years for the project:
- a completed application form
- business plan with detailed agro-processing / beneficiation activities,
- budget plans
- projected income statement and balance sheet

Nyanzunda explains that existing businesses should submit:
- the latest financial statements, reviewed by an independent external auditor or accredited person and the statements may not be older than 18 months.
- The approved entity may not reduce its employment levels from the average employment levels for a 12-month period prior to the date of application, and these employment levels should be maintained for the duration of the incentive period/ agreement.

The application must be submitted within the designated application window period, prior to the start of processing / beneficiation or undertaking activities being applied for. Any assets bought and taken into commercial use, or competitiveness improvement costs incurred before applying for the incentive do not qualify.

The minimum qualifying investment size, including competitiveness improvement cost, will be at least R1-million.

For more information contact Suzan Chiloane at the dti and the online application can be accessed via the dti’s website, www.thedti.gov.za.

"The Agro-Processing Support Scheme (APSS) aims to stimulate investment by South African agro-processing / beneficiation (agri-business) enterprises, and the window for applications is open until 30 June 2018"
HDS Mbombela revels in retail success

Moving your business into a new area completely surrounded by the opposition takes guts, but for the team at Home Decor Solutions (HDS) Mbombela, it has turned out to be precisely the right move.

Part of The FX Group’s retail division, which to date consists of 28 stores country wide, HDS Mbombela has been operational in the Nelspruit area for a number of years, having first opened its doors in 2011.

According to store manager Wycliff Nyarota, who, in 2014, joined the store as manager after working his way up through the ranks within HDS, the move earlier this year was a strategic one that placed the company right in the middle of the busy light industrial area of the town, with great visibility and exposure to passing traffic and walk-in clients.

“The fact that we are literally surrounded by the competition was not too much of a bother as we quickly settled in and found our footing. We knew that our competitive pricing and our excellent service would ensure that our existing clients would still opt to use us, and the strategically placed new premises would help us secure new clients.”

And to show their confidence in the move, The FX Group decided to upgrade all the machinery at HDS Mbombela to brand new FOMA Southern Africa machines.

The new machinery consists of a pre-milling and corner rounding high speed edgebander as well as a brand new panel saw, both sporting full dust extraction systems, which according to Nyarota, has propelled HDS Mbombela’s already impressive cut and edge division to new heights in terms of quality, lead times and capacity.

“These machines have really given us the edge over the competition,” says Nyarota, adding that they are now able to not only improve their lead times, but they are also able to take on much more work secure in the knowledge that they have the tools at hand to take on any job.

“The other advantage is that we are one of the only businesses in our sector that have these tools on hand. In most cases, clients would have to purchase boards and then take them to a third party to get them cut and edged, while we are able to supply client with the board that they require and do the cutting and edging for them in-house.”
According to Nyarota a large part of the success of the HDS brand, is the training regimen installed throughout the retail division by The FX Group. "I must say that we have a really competent team who know these machines in and out.

"They receive excellent training not only on the operation, but also on the upkeep of the machines, as well as regular in-house training provided by the management team during their regular shop visits.

"In addition, the trained operators pass on those skills as each operator has an apprentice that then learns from the operator."

In addition to the full range of FX Group board products, which includes white melamine - a very popular product in Mbombela, a wide range of other colours, including Cherry Royal, Burgandy Mahogany, chip board, plywood, MDF board and foils as well as a diverse array of The FX Group’s very popular UV gloss board range, HDS Mbombela also carries all the most popular related products including Bisonboard, Supawood and Formica.

The shop also stocks a wide array of supplementary products including table legs, sofa legs, adhesives, paints, sinks, wicker and chrome baskets, fittings, hinges and much more.

"The idea is that we are a one stop cabinet maker shop," says Nyarota. "We stock everything you need for your project under one roof."

The HDS concept has proven to be a very successful one for The FX Group, with 28 stores currently operational and another three planned for this year.
SawStop has gone from strength to strength in South Africa since Vermont Sales introduced it back in 2016. It has now earned its place as the preferred table saw in the country due to its unique and technically advanced features that only appear on the SawStop units.

“SawStop minimizes these injuries by stopping the blade within 5 milliseconds of contact. That is ten times faster than a car’s airbag being activated or ten times faster than your reflexes can respond to danger,” says Greg de Villiers Sales Manager Vermont Sales.

The blade carries a small electrical signal, which the safety system continually monitors. When skin makes contact on the blade, the signal changes because the human body is conductive. The change to the signal activates the safety system. An aluminium brake springs into the spinning blade, stopping it.

The blade’s angular momentum drives it beneath the table, removing the risk of subsequent contact and power to the motor is automatically shut off.

Hobbyists, contractors, cabinet makers, DIY’ers, celebrities and educators choose SawStop every day. It’s the no-compromise SawStop engineering that makes them choose these saws. The safety comes first, and is followed by unmatched quality, precision, and meticulous engineering. SawStop saws are built to last, built to cut, and built to protect.
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N & D, under the leadership of Donald Fuchs Jnr has been making significant strides into the local machine market with its superior range of Nanxing machines.

The company has recently completed the successful installation of a brand new Nanxing NPG 380 FG beamsaw at Pretoria-based cut and edge operation, Twig-it, much to the delight of owner Clayton Nortje.

Nortje is no stranger to the Nanxing range of machines as he had, on a previous occasion, bought a Nanxing edgebander from N&D, and he was so impressed with the machine during the nearly four years that he has had it in operation, that when the time came to upgrade to a beamsaw, Nanxing was the obvious choice.

“I had previously purchased a Nanxing edgebander and I could not be happier with the product,” says Nortje. “Compared to the German edgebander that I had bought about a year earlier, the Nanxing held its own quite convincingly.

“The main difference I have found is that if something small goes wrong with the German machine, it is a nightmare to have it fixed, mostly due to the astronomical costs involved, whereas with the Nanxing this was not ever a problem. If something does go wrong it is quite easy, and more importantly, affordable to fix.”

Based partly on the excellent results he has had working with the Nanxing edgebander, and partly on the astronomical cost of a new German or Italian machine, which would have easily cost him an additional R700 000, Nortje decided to go with a Nanxing beamsaw and after five months of operation, he has not looked back.

I could not be happier,” he says. “I managed to completely replace my two old upright panelsaws with this one machine and even though it is still early days, I am thoroughly impressed. It is easy to operate and easy to maintain. It has given me the ability to take on more work as our production capacity has increased significantly.”

And increased it has. To the extent that Nortje decided to also buy another Nanxing edgabander.

With regard to the installation of the beamsaw, Nortje says he could not have hoped for better service.

“The N&D team was very accommodating,” he says. “I had orders that needed to be filled and we could not afford for production to stand still for a week, which is how long it generally takes for such an installation.”
“Donald Jnr understood completely and he had his entire team here over a weekend to install the machine. It was delivered on Friday and up and running smoothly by Monday morning. One cannot ask for better service than that.”

The Nanxing NPG 380 FG beamsaw features a maximum cutting length of 3800mm, with maximum cutting thickness of 120mm. The main saw diameter is 460mm with a rotation speed of 3910rpm, while the scoring saw diameter is 180mm with a rotation speed of 4150rpm.

The machine features an airfloat working table to prevent scratches on panels, as well as two side aligners to ensure cutting precision.

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A cabinetmaker with a passion for his craft and machines

Bernd Schulz, an experienced and highly qualified German cabinet maker, established his small furniture design and manufacturing business 49 years ago at 13A Nieuw Meester Lane near parliament in the Cape Town city centre.

Sadly, after 40 years, Schulz had to vacate the building so that it could be demolished and replaced, and for nearly 10 years BM Schulz & NF Lock Cabinetmakers has been operating from premises in Paarden Eiland.

A visit to the factory is like a walk into a past era when the machines were all painted green and a craftsman took pride in keeping his work space clean and all hand tools and power tools neatly stowed on their shelf or trolley or in a cupboard.

The workshop is well equipped with every machine needed to produce solid wood furniture, intricate joinery projects, built in cupboards, complete kitchens, jewellery stores and other shop fitting projects.

Taking pride of place in the factory is the Altendorf panel saw. Schulz bought the machine brand new in 1984 for the princely sum of R9000, which he had to pay off monthly. It was hugely expensive at the time if you consider that in 1986 the price of one litre of petrol was 37 cents.

“I believe in using the best equipment to get the job done and for me the best panel saw at the time, and today, is the Altendorf,” explains Schulz. “Since the machine was commissioned in 1984 the only non-maintenance related items we have had trouble with was a small electrical problem a few weeks ago, and we had to replace the ruler strip on the rip fence. The belt for the main blade has been replaced but, astonishingly, the belt for the scorer blade has never been changed.”

Claus Brummer of CPB Woodworking Machinery, previously worked for the company that supplied the machine to

The official plate on the Altendorf panel saw is proof that it is a machine that can stand the test of work and time.
Schulz in 1984. He proudly pointed out the official plate on the Altendorf that states the year and model of the machine. They also sold Schulz the Holzher vertical panel saw and Blaich edgebander, and they are still operating in the factory. Brummer has maintained a friendly and professional relationship with Schulz over the years. “Our relationship has lasted so long because Bernd is a very honourable and honest man and you know where you stand with him. It does help that we are both German-speaking and share a love for woodworking,” explains Brummer.

When asked whether there are any major mechanical differences between the machines designed and manufactured today and those made more than 30 years ago, Brummer explained that the main difference lies in the sliding table. In the 80s the roller carriage ran on phenolic prism runner strips. The modern machines use a rod and wheels guidance system. The biggest change when it comes to modern panel saws, as is the case with all machines, lies in the machine controls. Moving parts like the rise and fall and angle adjustments of the sawblades are no longer performed manually because they are now computer numerically controlled (CNC).

Names like Wadkin, Robinson and Altendorf are legendary in the woodworking industry. In fact, the sliding table saw was invented 112 years ago by Wilhelm Altendorf. In 1956 his sons, Kurt and Willy Altendorf, decided to concentrate solely on manufacturing sliding table saws featuring the “Altendorf system”. Thus, Altendorf became a specialist, and the stage was set for its sliding table saws to begin their conquest of the world. Over 150,000 of these sliding table saws are in use in carpentry and joinery workshops, and in the woodworking, metalworking and plastics-processing industries.

Schulz says he is frustrated by the lack of technical knowledge and ability in the South African industry. “You know a true cabinet maker when you can give him or her a detailed drawing and they can plan and make the product from scratch to the highest quality standards with no help. “It is frustrating to meet people who claim they are cabinet makers but they have no skills. A cabinet maker is a specialist, not someone who can assemble boxes to make kitchen cabinets,” he explains.

Schulz and Brummer agree that the machines have lasted because they are well looked after, regularly serviced and only operated by skilled people.
The Department of Trade and Industry (the dti), South African Furniture Initiative (SAFI), Proudly South African, and their partners, invite South African designers to participate in the Furniture Design Competition.

There are two categories:
• Student category for design students registered at South African educational institutions
• Established furniture designers / manufacturers category.

The aim of the competition is to raise and nurture design capabilities in the country, raise the image of the South African furniture manufacturing Industry, and to advance local industry through the introduction of new products.

The dti and its partners, are inviting South African design students, professional furniture designers and manufacturers to submit entries for household furniture under the theme “LivingSpace”. The furniture must respond to peoples changing lifestyles and the way people live and use their spaces.

The furniture piece must provide solution to these constantly changing needs and include storage for the household. The submitted pieces must also reflect the latest furniture trends, with different textures, colours and shapes.

The designed object should:
• Promote innovation
• Promote the use of wood
• Be a movable piece (not attached to the wall);
• Appeal to the export market;
• Promote the use of local inputs such as wood, textiles, prints etc;
• Fit into a space not bigger than 3x2 square meters
• Have a target market in mind, which must be explained in the concept document.

Compulsory information to submit:
• A technical drawing that includes the final product dimensions and 3D drawings
• The design must be 3D printable.
• description of materials and inputs to be used in production. The use of local inputs is encouraged.
• The design must be accompanied by a description of the design, also explaining the concept and motivation behind the design.
• Brief copy of your CV

Important Dates
• Entries close on 31 August 2018
• Finalists will be contacted telephonically and electronically.
• Finalists products will be exhibited at the chosen exhibition in February/March 2019
• Winners will be announced at the exhibition.

Prizes
Prizes include:
• One-year internship for the winning student
• An opportunity to participate and exhibit at the Inspire Expo for the winning manufacturer
• Software prizes
• Profiling of winners in relevant publications & Media exposure
• Design tools

Conditions of entry include:
• Registration is free
• Only new concepts are eligible
• The competition is ONLY opened to students registered with South African academic institution and locally based manufacturers.
• Designers or design teams may enter products.
• The names of all individuals involved in the design must be disclosed.
• If the design has been patented or registered as a design, a copy of the first page of all registration certificates must be submitted with the entry.
• The entry form must be completed in full and all the compulsory documents must be submitted before the closing date.
• Entries that do not comply with these requirements will be disqualified.
• the dti and its partners will not be held accountable for product performance

For entry form, entry details, and the full terms and conditions of the competition, please visit the dti website: www.thedti.gov.za/furnituredesigncompetition
OR contact the dti on 012 394 1260 / 1128,
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REM is South Africa’s fastest growing wood working, panel processing machine specialists. They will be showcasing their range of Lamello wood joining machines with a special guest appearance from Marco Ress, international demonstrator for Lamello Switzerland. Lamello is famous for manufacturing a joining system that saves time and money with outstanding results. Marco’s focus will be on demonstrating wood joining using the Lamello P-system. This will include use of the Zeta P-2 biscuit jointer together with connectors Clamex-P, Tenso-P and Divario-P. More specifically, this system can be applied to kitchen fitting and any situation that requires the joining of panels, installing worktops and more. In short, the P-system is precise and quick to set up with the final fittings either visible or barely visible. Their TopSolid Team will be there to reveal TopSolid Wood, the only integrated CAD/CAM software package specially developed to meet the needs of the wood industry. TopSolid WoodCam is a CAM solution with automatic geometry recognition for machining operations. REM will also have some surprise machines on display so don’t miss their stand.
SAND MASTER

The highly robust Junior R1 offers all the features you would expect from a state-of-the-art edge sanding machine.

A solid cast iron sanding unit equipped with a powerful motor ensures maximum sanding performance.

The spring-action, height-adjustable work table ensures optimum belt utilisation and safe working.

You also have the option of upgrading the device with a belt oscillator, a continuous-swivel unit, a veneer sanding unit and an additional table for sanding work on the pulley.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY ASPECT RELATED TO TREATED TIMBER PRODUCTS AND THE CORRECT USE OF TREATED TIMBER, OR WHERE TO CONTACT SAWPA MEMBERS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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SAWPA is a non-profit association formed in 1980 by the South African preservative treated timber industry, primarily to promote timber treatment and preservative treated timber products. Our objectives are defined as the promotion of the preservative treatment of timber and the use of preservative treated timber products, the establishment of SAWPA as a centre for consumer information and technical enquiries, and a mouthpiece for its member on all issues that impact the industry e.g. standards and regulations etc. The Association is active and with its physical location in the SAFCA building, is positioned to cooperate with other associations in promoting the overall use of timber. The members of SAWPA are primarily preservative treatment plants, wood preservative chemical manufacturers, distributors and merchants of preservative treated timber, and other related stakeholders.

SYSTAINER SA

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The only monthly magazine that focuses on the forestry, timber transport, sawmilling, woodworking and furniture manufacturing industries in Southern Africa. We publish information on the companies, personalities, equipment and equipment suppliers, associations and institutions in this sector.

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