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**Cover image**

Cover image generated by AI (ChatGPT 4.5) to illustrate this edition's theme - one generation working to feed the next. Only through our efforts in science and technology can we meet challenges like climate change and make food production more efficient and sustainable for future generations.

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# Feed the future

I was vaguely aware of the recent devastating drought faced by many countries in southern Africa, but until compiling this issue, I did not realise the severity or the extent of the situation. The drought, coupled with rising poverty due to economic vulnerabilities, and especially since the aid freeze by US president Donald Trump, has caused a true hunger crisis on the continent.

In this edition, we highlight and explore the pressing challenges of food security and poverty, particularly spotlighting the current crisis gripping southern Africa. As climate change intensifies and humanitarian emergencies deepen, the need for sustainable and innovative solutions has never been more critical.

Throughout these pages, we not only highlight the severity of the problems faced but also delve into how science and research are shedding light on innovative food security, conservation and sustainability solutions that

can offer practical, impactful responses. From inland fisheries, using worms for pest control, and the legacy of agricultural research to improve crops and citrus, to innovative models for conservation agriculture, we hope to inspire other researchers to join the fight against food insecurity, poverty and hunger.

As climate change deepens, these challenges will likely also grow in intensity. Join us as we examine both the realities of the present and the possibilities that science holds for tomorrow.

Warm regards,



**Fanie (RS) van Rooyen (Editor)**

Kgaolong ye, re lebelela mathata a poelo ya dijo le bodiidi Afrika, re totobatsa komelelo le mathata a thušo Borwa bja Afrika. Re hlahloba ka moo saense le nyakišišo di ka hlagišago diharollo tša bohlale le tša go tšwela pele go lwantšha tlala le bodiidi. Go tloga mošomong wa dihlapa ka meetseng a ka gare ga naga, diboko tša go laola dikhunkhwane, le diphatišišo tša temo tšeo di ka thušago go kaonafatša dibjalo, re holofela go tutuetša banya-khutathekniki go tšenela ntwā ya go lwantšha tlala le bodiidi. Ka phetoho ya boso e gola, mathata a a tla okešega. Tlang re hlahlobe ditiragalo tša lehono le menyetla ya kamoso ka thušo ya saense.

Translated into North Sotho by Prof. Walter Matli