



What our users have to say about ESO

Teddy Mnisi from Limpopo Province, who is primarily involved in animal production extension, writes that ESO has given him the opportunity to assist farmers in the way he has always wanted to do, as it has given him the tools to solve problems immediately or at least to have information on hand that allows him to make on the spot decisions.

Teddy's letter (edited) reads as follows:

"I really love this program for you just tap in to harness comprehensive information in a few seconds. I'm telling you, the dignity of Agric officials is completely restored. Come farmers green book, come whatsoever we are more than ready to advice all the way, with this achievement all things are simple and enjoyable."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

Benjamin Franklin



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www.newsletter.esuite.co.za

THE ESO PICTORIAL GUIDES

The plant production pictorials are hand-held guides which provide support to farmers and assists extension officers in giving simple instructions to their farmers

In the developing world and especially in Africa, famine and malnutrition are serious problems. It is globally the most important contributing risk factor for illness and death. To combat hunger and achieve food security under the current food situation and nutritional problems in Africa, a holistic and integrated approach to development Agriculture can be helpful. Agriculture is the sole source for food, an important job provider, and a highly instrumental component in the clothing industry. As a result, there is a dire need to equip extension officers and farmers with production guides and farming techniques in order to satisfy everyone's need to eat, grow and live healthy.

ESO is actively providing solutions to this problem by developing a simple and very user-friendly tool - plant production pictorial guides - which are printable A4 size documents providing both extension officers and farmers with easy but elaborate and sequential plant production techniques. As the saying goes "a picture paints a thousand words". The plant production pictorials are hand-held guides providing support to farmers and assists extension officers in giving simple instructions to their farmers in order for them to reach their goal of "extending their knowledge to

farmers" in a simple and straightforward manner.

The pictorial guides illustrate the most important basic steps required by farmers to reach optimum crop production yields. Easy plant production steps are explained in the language that they can easily understand. It takes the farmer through a step-by-step production cycle of a crop, starting with the brief description of a crop, how and when to prepare the soil, recommended fertilizer rates and irrigation methods, pest and disease control and finally when and how to harvest. In each step, important details are shown in pictorial format; even the most abstract agricultural concepts are demonstrated in a more simplified manner.

The ESO strongly supports the ideology and the concept of using demonstration as an imperative teaching method for extension officers - "teach by showing, learn by doing". The pictorial guides explicitly re-affirm the information that the extension officers have read from ESO, in order for them to simulate and transfer that knowledge gathered in a more simplified and realistic manner to the farmer.

Matsunke Malefane

Navigating through the internet and all of its wonders can become quite a task and extremely time consuming when the need for intensive research is required. Here are some very useful keyboard shortcuts that will speed the process up: CTRL + C are used for copying selected text and CTRL + V is used for pasting any text that has been copied. This is very useful as it allows one to duplicate any text to any location. Finding information on pages with large amounts of information can easily be facilitated by pressing CTRL + F; one will then notice that a small search



box pops up. Enter a word like "castration" and the browser will go through the opened web page and search for the text entered. Other helpful short cuts include the CTRL + P function used for printing; CTRL + TAB to switch between the tabs in your browser; and F11 to view the web page in full screen. These shortcut keys will also stand you in good stead when researching through Extension Suite Online. No matter how much you use the internet, shortcut keys will always be able to make your job easier.

TOP EXTENSION SUITE ONLINE USER FOR FEBRUARY 2011

By monitoring daily utilisation of all users in the nine provinces it is possible to select the country's top user monthly and ultimately the national winner (for the Grand Prize!) on an annual basis.

Congratulations to South Africa's top ESO user for February 2011!!!

Jabu Baloyi (Limpopo)



Jabu Petunia Baloyi

During March, we had the opportunity to ask Jabu a few questions on her usage of ESO:

Q: What are your responsibilities at the department?
I currently work in advising farmers on business plans, market information and assisting farmers in their applications for funding.

Q: How long have you been working for the department?
Before I started at the department of agriculture in Limpopo I was employed at the department of education, but I have been working at the department of agriculture for 4 years now.

Q: How often do you make use of ESO?
I spend time on Extension Suite Online at least once or twice a week when I am at the office.

Q: What do you use ESO for the most?

As mentioned earlier I assist farmers on the financial side, therefore I mostly collect market data, information on enterprise budgets on both plant and animal production.

Q: How does ESO influence your relationship with farmers or clients?

I can now supply the farmers that I serve with more accurate information; Extension Suite Online has made quite a difference.

Q: Would you recommend ESO to your colleagues?

Yes, I definitely recommend ESO to my colleagues.

Q: What have you learned from ESO?

Before I started using Extension Suite Online my enterprise budgets definitely were not up to scratch and my knowledge were only theoretical, Extension Suite Online became the mentor I never had.

Q: Do you have any tips to other users regarding Extension Suite Online?

Use Extension Suite Online more regularly and get to know the system.

Q: How would you describe Extension Suite Online as an Extension tool?

I will describe Extension Suite Online in two words, fabulous and excellent.

Q: Does Extension Suite Online make the execution of your duties easier?

Yes it has, and therefore once again I recommend ESO to all my colleagues.

Utilisation Reports

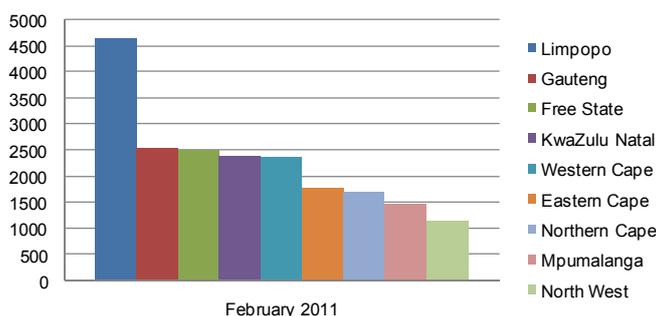
The recent increases in the number of account activations by registered ESO users show that it is now possible that the set target of 80% activation of accounts is a realistic goal for the immediate future.

Provincial ESO Systems Administrators and management are reminded that not only Extensionists have an interest in utilising ESO but that economists, researchers, training personnel, and others should be registered and encouraged to use ESO. This will hopefully result in specialists contributing to the improvement and expansion of ESO in their respective fields of expertise.

Lastly, the increases in the monthly points rating of the top ESO users is an encouraging sign as it indicates more extensive usage of the system by individual users.

Piet van Zyl

PROVINCIAL TOP USAGE



PROVINCE	NAME
Limpopo	Jabu Petunia Baloyi
Gauteng	Lesego Phakedi
Free State	Matumelo Rantai
KwaZulu Natal	Musawenkosi Blose
Western Cape	Dudley Adolph
Eastern Cape	Bonisiwe Patience Mbanjwa
Northern Cape	Oitsing Ernest
Mpumalanga	Mpho Mafune
North West	Manoahedile Solomon