



proSET (Professionals in science, engineering and technology) is a sector of the NSTF representing more than 40 professional and learned societies. This section shares news about [members](#)\* and introduces new members of the [proSET sector](#). \*Note that this page will be updated on the new NSTF website to be launched soon. In the meantime visit the [current members](#) page of the website for the full list of members, including proSET members.

- **Green and Blue Drop reports available on WISA website**

Both the 2022 Green Drop Report and 2022 Blue Drop Progress Report are available on the website of the [Water Institute of Southern Africa](#). Click [here](#) to download the reports.

- **SASRI mechanisation reports available**

The [South African Sugarcane Research Institute](#) (SASRI) estimates that mechanisation accounts for about 50% of the total cost of sugarcane production, even when cane is cut manually. With agricultural profit margins decreasing continuously, it is crucial that every effort is made to use farm machinery as efficiently as possible. Small savings on production costs can translate into large increases in net profit.

To assist sugarcane farmers make informed decisions based on realistic costs of various operations, SASRI publishes details on mechanisation costs annually. The 2022 edition of these [Mechanisation Reports](#) is now available.

- **Winners of SANBI 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Day announced**

Biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back better and stronger. It underpins as a solution to several development challenges including health issues, nature-based solutions to climate change, food, and water security, sustainable livelihoods. On 29 and 30 March 2022 the [South African National Biodiversity Institute](#) (SANBI) hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Day under the theme 'being part of the solution for biodiversity'.

The first prize winner was a PhD student Francois Becker from the University of Witwatersrand, his topic was "Calls of the desert: Unexpected age and diversity of barking geckos". Second prize winner was Devon Main, a PhD student from the University of Johannesburg. His topic was "Transformed habitats drive the evolution of bigger hands and feet in eastern dwarf chameleons (Bradypodion ventral)". [Read more](#).

- **South African Institute of Physics news**

The [South African Institute of Physics](#) (SAIP) is inviting interested stakeholders and members of the physics community to present one-hour talks at this year's webinar series. During 2022 the SAIP will commemorate two important events: The International Year of Basic Science for Sustainable Development ([IYBSSD](#)) and [100 Years of Physics in Africa - "Past, Present and the Future"](#) This initiative is prompted by the 100th year anniversary of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). [Read more](#).

- Read the [Statement](#) of the SAIP on the crisis in Ukraine.

- **IITPSA President's Awards for 2021**

The [Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa](#) (IITPSA) President's Awards have recognised South African IT industry leading lights for over 40 years, acknowledging their

professional excellence and setting them as examples of what the country's IT professionals are capable of. The 2021 awards, themed "Excellence in the New Normal", acknowledged the important role IT professionals play in helping the world to adapt to a changed environment.

The Awards winners, announced during a virtual ceremony on 12 April 2022, recognised achievers who have collectively demonstrated excellence in IT for over a century. Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg and winner of over 45 accolades, was named IT Personality of the year. [Read more](#).

- **SAICE calling for nominations for Awards**

The [South African Institution of Civil Engineering](#) (SAICE) is calling for nominations for their People and Projects as well as the Institutional Awards. The Awards submission process has been moved online. You can submit your entry by [clicking here](#). The submission deadline is 5 May 2022.

- **First Grassroots of 2022 now available**

The first issue of [Grassroots](#) in 2022 is now available. *Grassroots* is the newsletter of the [Grassland Society of Southern Africa](#) (GSSA) and the subscription is free. Read about the protection needed for SA's endangered wetlands; how grasslands changed our climate, and more.

- **SAAFOST expert workshop**

The [South African Association for Food Science and Technology](#) (SAAFOST) expert workshop on wholegrain, multigrain and wheat-free baking products will take place in Pretoria on 26 May 2022. Opportunities for locally available cereals and pulses will be discussed.