Mthandazo Mlalazi (Pr.Sci.Nat.)

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PROFILE

I am an experienced researcher with an impressive record on managing agronomic trials. Have over 9 years' experience running agronomic trials where the focus has been screening different fertilizer, biological and biostimulant products. I possess excellent presentation, interpersonal skills and capable of motivating a team. Over the years, I have also mentored interns/newly graduates from universities. I bring forth strong technical skills.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Specialist Agronomist - Omnia Fertilizer a division of Omnia Group (Pty) Ltd

March 2018-Present

- Planning of trials on a variety of crops and fertilizers
- Trial management, design and data collection
- Statistical analysis and interpretation of results
- Writing scientific reports
- Knowledge transfer through reports and presentations at field days, conferences
- Fertilizer recommendations
- Supporting the marketing team and agronomist in improving sales
- Scientific reports and assisting with the strategic planning of the Research & Development Department
- Ensuring that the greenhouse team adhere to SHERQ procedures
- Mentoring and motivating the greenhouse team and interns



Technical Specialist - Omnia Fertilizer a division of Omnia Group (Pty) Ltd

October 2016 - February 2018

Same roles the title changed due to department restructuring.

Agronomic Researcher - Omnia Fertilizer a division of Omnia Group (Pty) Ltd

November 2011 - September 2016

Same roles the title changed due to department restructuring.

Water Use Licence Assessor - Department of Water Affairs

May 2010 - September 2011

- Assess completeness of water use licence applications and conduct site visits
- Liaise with clients and other stakeholders to obtain outstanding information during application assessments
- Assess and comment the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessments) and EMP (Environmental Management Program) documents
- Assess the availability of water, taking into account the yield of the water resource, the Reserve, the National Water Resources Strategy (NWRS), lawful water use, other obligations and restrictions
- Assess water requirements for various activities such as irrigation based on benchmarks and using models like SAPWAT
- Assess the feasibility and the volume of the transfer of surrendered water use entitlements
- Identify possible other water uses not included in an application
- Identify and assess the impact of other factors including the entitlement status of the water uses, government water schemes, agreements, development plans and resource specific policies
- Decide on a recommendation to issue a licence or decline an application
- Draft the part of the licence describing the water resources, properties and water uses
- Provide geohydrological decision support system for impact management of groundwater at catchment level

- Draft licence conditions to control/mitigate the negative impacts of water uses
- Draft the relevant parts of the record of recommendation (RoRs)
- Identify and comment on possible cooperative governance issues relating to a licence application
- Assist with authorisation administration work of the Letsema Project on eradication of water use licence application backlog
- Compile various GIS databases on water use licence applications that are due for review and submission of information such as Integrated Waste Water Management Programme (IWWMP) by clients
- Capture applications in the Water Use Licence Application Tracking System (WULATS)
- Register authorisations on the Water Authorisation Management System (WARMS)

EDUCATION

MSc (Agric) Agronomy (2016)

Thesis: Nitrophosphate as an alternative phosphate fertilizer for acidic sandy soils

BSc Honours in Crop Science (2009)

University of Fort Hare

University of Pretoria

Professionaltraining

BASOS (2012) FERTASA

AVCASA (2015) CropLife

Managing for Results (2014) Maurice Kerrican

Effective Speaking & Presentation Skills (2013) Maurice Kerrican

Project Management (2014) Maurice Kerrican

Creative Negotiation Skills (2018) Maurice Kerrican

Supervisory and Leadership Skills (2013) Ketler Presentations

ISO 45001:2018 Implementation Course (September 2018)

ISO 9001:2015 Implementation Course (October 2018)

ISO 14001:2015 Implementation Course (November 2018)

Publications

MLALAZI M, A'BEAR RM & BORNMAN JJ. 2012. The evaluation of nitrophosphate as a phosphate fertilizer source for the production of high value shallow rooting crops. Omnia Agronomic R&D internal report no. MM-2012-06. The findings were presented at the FSSA Symposium 2012 by Dr Koos Bornman on his topic "The efficacy and application of different fertilizer phosphate sources. Turning old and new bones".

MLALAZI M, MOKOENA TCL, A'BEAR RM & BORNMAN JJ. 2013. The evaluation of nitrophosphate as phosphate fertilizer source for the production of high value shallow rooting crops. Paper presented at the Combined Congress January 2013, Durban.

ROBERTS SC, MLALAZI M, COETZEE PE, A'BEAR RM & BORNMAN JJ. 2014. The efficacy of a South African nitrophosphate in sandy soils as influenced by soil chemistry. Paper presented at the International Fertilizer Society (IFS), Cambridge University, December 2014, UK.

MLALAZI M, EHLERS L, NGOETJANA MH, A'BEAR RM & BORNMAN JJ. 2015. Calcium and nitrate nutrition improve water use efficiency of maize under water deficit conditions. Paper presented at the Combined Congress January 2015, George.

YONKER W, MLALAZI M, OPPERMAN S & NOLAN V 2015. Using the OmniSap[®] tool to determine potassium, calcium and manganese levels in maize. Paper presented at the Combined Congress January 2015, George.

MEMBERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

- 1. Registered Professional Natural Scientist with SACNASP (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions)
- 2. International Fertilizer Society (IFS)
- 3. South African Society of Crop Production (SASCP)

REFERENCES

Megan Lourens

Former General Manager: Agronomic Research & Development

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