

**DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE INSTITUUT  
VAN LANDBOU-INGENIEURS**



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE  
OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS**

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## *Newsletter Feb 2006*

### **CPD Newsflash – what is happening?**

CPD implementation started on 1 January 2006 and through the last four news bulletins of 2005 SAIAE members received all the details of what it entails. The bulletins are on our website at [www.saili.co.za](http://www.saili.co.za) if anyone needs a refresher. The latest newsflash is that members attending branch meetings will be able to claim their attendance as part of CPD points with the Institute determining how many points per meeting that is in turn dictated by the nature and length of the meeting.

### **Council news for 2006**

The council has decided to request each council member one personal contribution for 2006. Members can thus look forward to learn more from (and about) each member during the course of 2006.

The annual questionnaire about the Institute should have reached every member by now. I urge you to complete it as diligently as possible and return it to us asap to enable the Council to make informed decisions on how to invest their effort in the profession during 2006.

### **Practical Philosophy and Agricultural Engineering in 2006**

The interesting thing about money, judging by what most people say about it, is that there is too little of it, they don't have enough of it, they owe too much, or things cost too much. What I think is interesting about money is that it is a precisely calibrated barometer that clearly shows what the priorities are of those who make the decisions about how to spend it. This metric applies across all currencies throughout history.

Another interesting phenomenon is how the highly specialized nature of things in today's world causes us to think of events as singularly isolated happenings. In reality, all events consist of a cause, the actual event, and its effect. To truly understand the significance of an event,

we must be able to ascertain its entire continuum – Wayne Ruga, Founder, President, and CEO of The Centre for Health Design, Martinez, California.

The same point (on money) is true for the nature in which the agricultural environment developed. Understanding this point is crucial to guiding a project toward its most successful resolution. It is not a question of how much or how little, rather it is a question of what is available on what matters most. It is therefore crucial for agricultural engineers to identify what matters most (to the client) within the framework of the local culture in order to be successful.

Agricultural Engineers in my mind are par excellence people that need to stand with both feet on the ground and in their quest to understand the whole continuum have to work with many different occupations. They need to be both holistic as well as focused on minor details that can influence the whole economic feasibility of a project. On top of that they cannot afford to make a mistake, or the project will not work.

Now that is one hell of an occupation that pulls its weight to make the wheels of the economy turn. I am proud to be one of the Agricultural Engineering fraternity and I wish every SAIAE member a wonderful 2006 and good luck with turning the wheels of our country's economy.

Louis Lagrange  
President: SAIAE