

## **Pro forma for Agriculturist of the Year 2026**

The award for Agriculturist of the Year rotates annually between scientist, economist, and extension/ agronomist of the year. This change was brought in to allow for a more fair way of acknowledging the diverse fields and work that falls into the category of agriculturist. To be considered for Agriculturist of the Year 2026, the candidate must be an economist.

### **The guidelines for economists are as follows:**

- Agricultural economists are found in various areas of the agriculture sector, including government, research institutions, international organisations, consulting firms, industry organisations, universities and agribusinesses. They can pursue roles as researchers, policy analysts, consultants, professors, or industry advisors and analysts.
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### **When doing the nomination, take the following into consideration:**

- The focus is on the essence, principles, value systems and life ethics of the person.
- Give attention to the results of the candidate's work and value that the work has for the agriculture sector. Also refer to the candidate's reputation in the industry – locally as well as internationally.
- Look at the entire work history of the candidate.
- It is important the person is still actively involved in the industry.
- The nomination must list all achievements and contributions of the candidate throughout his/her career.

The nomination can be done by providing the information in 1- 3 pages per point/division. You can use bullet points and include links to substantiate your point.

### **The following must accompany the nomination:**

- At least 10 good quality photos of the nominated person in his/her working environment. One of these must be a good head and shoulder photo of the nominated candidate.
- Include the full home and work address, email, and cell number.
- A 300-word summary of the candidate's nomination.

## **The criteria for adjudication**

**Important: These criteria must be used and followed when doing the nomination.**

The total score: 110

### **1. The candidate (10 points)**

Give a full description of the nominee and his/her work environment during his/her career. Emphasis must be placed on qualifications and the fields of his/her expertise.

### **2. Value to the farmer and agriculture (50 points)**

Describe the manner in which he/she shares his/her knowledge with industry and farmers.

- How does this knowledge precipitate in a practical way?
- How valuable is this knowledge to the broader industry but also to farmers and how does it enable them to farm better and more sustainably?
- What is the effect of his/her research (as researcher) on agriculture?
- In what way does this add value to agriculture, industry, or the organisation the farmer is involved with?
- How does the person share his/her knowledge?
- Is this a person that will be contacted to give his/her opinion on a subject?
- Is this person an opinion leader?

In other words, what is the impact factor of the candidate?

### **3. Adaptation to change (20 points)**

Describe how the candidate keeps abreast of the changing economic and agriculture environment and adapt his/her research thereto.

- How relevant is the candidate concerning the daily challenges?
- How does the candidate make use of modern technologies to acquire information and also to part with information?
- Describe the candidate's view with regard to sustainability?
- How does the candidate adapt to changes on a global level?

#### **4. Acknowledgement (5 points)**

Describe the candidate's achievements as well as the acknowledgement he/she enjoys at local and/or international level.

- What is his/her international status?
- Describe the work candidate's achievements i.e. studies, projects, consultancies etc..
- Describe the acknowledgement he/she enjoys within the specific agriculture sector he/she is working, but also at local and/or international level.
- List acknowledgements and prizes.
- List where the candidate gave talks on local and international platforms (congresses, farmers' days, and seminars).
- Is this a person that the media of industry will consult for information/opinions?

#### **5. Economic value (20 points)**

Describe the candidate's contribution towards adding economic value to his/her specific industry or field.

- Does the work add/contribute towards better profitability? Does it save the farmer money?
- Does the work add value and contribute towards improved processes on-farm?
- Does the work add/contribute towards better productivity?

#### **6. Contribution towards transformation (5 points)**

Describe the candidate's contribution towards transformation in the industry.

- Does the person share his/her information on a broad level within the sector – from entry level across the field including new entrants and large commercial agriculture.
  - Can also refer to articles written to bring about transformation or addressing all levels of production.