



Media Release

For Immediate Release

To: All Media

Date: 16 February 2024

Attention: News Editors / Agricultural writers

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL MANGO CULTIVAR DAY – THE LAUNCH OF FOUR NEW CULTIVARS

The Agricultural Research Council's Mango Cultivar Day scheduled for February 28, 2024, in Ha-Masia, Limpopo, is an exciting event that highlights the organisation's efforts in mango breeding and the introduction of four new cultivars.

The initiative by the ARC-Tropical & Subtropical Crops research institute not only focuses on improving traits such as increased yields, but also addresses global food security concerns.

The four new cultivars emerging from ongoing research showcase improved features, including enhanced fruit performance in different climatic areas. These cultivars are not only beneficial for the South African mango industry, but also contribute to global efforts to combat food insecurity as the world's population continues to grow.

The emphasis on excellent cold storage performance is noteworthy, as it helps to minimise spoilage and food waste while preserving the quality of the mango fruit. The Mango Cultivar Day provides a platform for attendees to explore the distinctive flavours, textures, and features of these cultivars, creating awareness about the diversity of mango cultivars available to growers.

The event goes beyond showcasing cultivars; it incorporates post-harvest handling and agro-processing, promoting the application of technology to produce value-added products. The exhibition of products like dried mango, mango roll, atchar, jam and chutney all made from mango fruit, adds an interactive and informative dimension to the event.

The overarching goal of the Mango Cultivar Day is to unite various stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, policymakers, and mango enthusiasts. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the event creates a platform for discussions on best practices, challenges, and opportunities in mango cultivation. Importantly, it also serves as an avenue to showcase ongoing research and innovations to previously disadvantaged communities and small-scale farmers, encouraging their participation in the mainstream economy.

The inclusion of science experts who will share knowledge on different cultivars and their resilience to changing climate conditions in South Africa aligns with the ARC's objective to eradicate poverty through scientific solutions. This is especially significant in engaging small-holder farmers and providing them with the tools and information necessary for success in mango cultivation.

Overall, the Mango Cultivar Day is a comprehensive event that not only introduces new cultivars but also promotes sustainable and inclusive practices in mango cultivation, benefiting both the industry and the broader community.

Issued by:

ARC Marketing and Communications

Event details are as follows:

Date : Wednesday, 28 February 2024

Time : 10:00-14:00

Venue : Masia Community Centre

Issued by:

ARC Marketing and Communications

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Notes to the Editors

About the Agricultural Research Council

The Agricultural Research Council is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation in support of the agricultural sector. The ARC provides diagnostic, laboratory, analytical, agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation and advisory services, food processing technology services as well as various surveys and training interventions. For more information visit the ARC website at: www.arc.agric.za.