

# Farmsecure leads SA agri science revolution

Freshplaza.com reports that agricultural science service provider Farmsecure Agri Science (FAS) has strengthened its position in South Africa's deciduous and table grape industries through the absorption of, and merging with soil science consulting firm Agricultural Consultants International (ACI), and the acquisition of the research and development company ExperiCo.

"Sustainability starts with good advice and we have been working very hard to establish ourselves as the leading innovative and scientific service provider and independent consulting company to the agricultural sector," says James Moore, general manager of FAS.

"FAS' primary focus is to empower farmers with agricultural knowledge and precision farming skills through the latest available global technologies, science, research, skills and experience available in the industry. The aim is to achieve input efficiency while achieving exceptional quality and yields," Moore says, adding that Farmsecure Agri Science aims to make a meaningful contribution to securing the world's food supply by creating sustainability and profitability in agriculture. "With ACI's decision to join the Farmsecure Group, FAS' [consulting service now includes] soil chemistry, pedology (soil study), soil physics and soil biology, as well as horticultural services," says Tienie du Preez, founding member of ACI, who heads FAS's Horticultural Division.

In addition to Du Preez, who has vast knowledge of international fruit production, the FAS team includes respected South African fruit specialists, such as citrus crop expert Dr Graham Barry, pome fruit expert Erik Conradie and table grape expert Lionel van Schalkwyk. "Modern day fruit farming demands a focused approach in farming and responding to the individual needs of growers," says Du Preez. "This is underlined on a daily basis in our conversations with growers and we are [...] helping our clients to improve their individual profitability and sustainability." In the process, FAS broadens its information base, solving various growers' problems without compromising its integrity or losing focus on the problems in hand, Du Preez said.

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