

# SA Strawberry Growers' Association

Dept. of Agriculture Minor crop Workshop



# The SA Strawberry Industry

- Total of approximately 500 ha under production
- Increasing amount of 'out-of-soil' production
- Total production estimated at 12-15 000t annually
- Exports once again on the rise
- Large employer of labour



# Crop Protection spend (chemicals only)

- Estimated average spend of R42 000/ha
- Total spend at least R21m

# Crop Protection Chemicals - Progress

- 2012

12 chemicals applied for under the Pesticide Initiative Program (PIP) 1 & 2 program, and by the end of the year 4 had been registered

- 2017

32 chemicals have been registered for use on strawberries with a number of additional chemicals in the pipeline for registration



# Current status

- 32 pesticides now registered for use on strawberries
  - 16 Fungicides
  - 8 Insecticides
  - 7 Biologicals
  - 1 Nematicide
  
- Comprehensive list available



# Industry Issues

- Chemical company fatigue
  - High cost, **lack of industry statistics** and small size of the strawberry industry
- Further registrations will have to be SASGA funded
  - Chemical Co's seem willing to participate if this is the case
- Diverse production areas – similar pests. Registration requires trials in at least 3 different regions is costly



# Main pests/diseases

- Red Spider mite
- American Bollworm
- Thrips/leaf minor
- White fly
  
- Botrytis
- Mildews
  
- Soil fumigants



# Critical gaps

- Still insufficient number of registered chemicals
- GlobalGAP compliance difficult
- Discord between EU MRL's and those of SA in certain cases
- Affects PHI
- Small industry therefore Chemical Company apathy
- Residual trials in at least 3 regions - expensive
- Need to explore more options regarding Predatory controls
- Effective replacement for MB still an issue (worldwide)
- Still lengthy process to register a chemical





# What we're doing about it

- Grower alignment (with the Association)
- Interaction with Chemical Companies
- Partial self-funding of residual costs
- Providing trial sites and pay costs
- Own Plant Certification Scheme



# Conclusion

- Good progress has been made
- Need to work more closely with similar Growers' Associations
- Access to funding to assist with registrations?
- Industry large employer of unskilled labour – vital in our economy
- Export growth = industry growth

