Subtrop se navorsers | *Subtrop's researchers*

Christo Human now ...

Christo Human then ...

PLANT BREEDER
Christo Human

- **Employer and position/s:** ARC-ITSC, Chief Research Technician in Plant Breeding division. Appointed: May 1975.
- **Main research focus/es:** Responsible for mango genebank, breeding and evaluation, co-worker on breeding and evaluation of citrus and guavas and pruning of citrus.
- **Current research project/s for or relating to SUBTROP:** Evaluation of promising mango selections in different climatic regions.
- **Interests etc.:** Married to Iris (for 36 years), three daughters, four grandsons. Watching sport, running, camping, holidaying (eating milk tart at a road stall in the Karoo!).

NEW TECHNICAL ADVISOR AND AREA COORDINATOR
- Northern KZN

Hi, I am Frans-Jaques Landman and started working at Subtrop at the beginning of October 2016. I am from Grabouw/Stellenbosch and have moved to Mtunzini with my lovely wife Anèl to start a new adventure with you all reading this.

I studied BSc Nature Conservation and Ecology at the University of Stellenbosch (hopefully still standing). I completed three extra majors which included soil science, entomology and plant pathology. I have a keen interest in farming and always want to help in finding bigger and better solutions to greater profits and more sustainable practices. I am looking forward to all the new and exciting challenges that await.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or just want to chat. Looking forward to meeting you and becoming part of the Subtrop family. (I enjoy a good braai.)

Kind regards
Jaques Landman (072 355 4433) ❖

Jaques is responsible for the area in KwaZulu-Natal north of the N3.

Agric Apps

Elsje Joubert
SUBTROP

CANOPY COVER
Fruit tree growers are increasingly using drones to monitor in and around their orchards. Water and nutrient requirements are coupled with the farmer's tree size or farm area coverage. The application can be used to calculate the percentage canopy cover of an orchard. At the same time, the application logs the coordinates of the site. A colour sensitive scale is used to 'train' the application. The coordinate and percentage cover data is stored on the farmer's device in a text file. The file can easily be viewed in MS Excel, MS Word, Notepad or similar programmes.

FIELD AREA MEASURE
Measure the total field area (in ha) and perimeter (in km) or distance from a satellite Google Maps view of the farm. Simply switch on the location service before using the application to find a farm easily.

SOIL INFO
This application provides free access to soil data. When the farmer queries his or her soil data, the application reads the location from the farmer's device GPS. The farmer is provided with a soil classification and characteristic prediction from the site location, physical- and chemical soil properties, soil water information, macronutrients, climatic data and an overview map. Available layers: soil organic carbon (g/kg), soil pH, texture fractions (%), bulk density (kg/m³), cation-exchange capacity (cmol/kg) of the fine earth fraction, coarse fragments (%), FAO World Reference Base soil classes and USDA Soil Taxonomy suborders.

NUTRIENT FLASHCARDS
Very informative flashcards for Soil Nutrient Antagonisms, Stimulation, Functions, Deficiency Symptoms, Availability Factors and a list of Sensitive Crops. No internet connection is required to use this application.

WHATSAPP MESSENGER
On-farm safety is an ongoing concern. The WhatsApp Messenger enables group communications where photos, voice notes and videos can increase community awareness and prevent crime or theft. The application should be used with caution or its function will be lost through the lack of participation. Use this app to your advantage and to gain important information. ❖