Annelie Kruger, a technician at the Directorate: Animal Sciences (RTDS), was awarded a special trophy prize for Best Animal Lecture at the 34th Annual Congress of the South African Society for Agricultural Technologists (SASAT) held in Upington in September 2016. She delivered a presentation on some of the innovations she observed during her official visit to Western Australia. Some of these animal management and data collection interventions are under consideration for implementation at the Western Cape Department of Agriculture’s Research Farms.

Plot du Toit also presented her experience from the trip to Western Australia, focussing primarily on improving the accuracy and precision of research data collection.

Resia Swart chaired a paper session at the congress and presented a poster titled “Comparing the effect of age and dietary energy contents on the carcass composition of Boer goats”.

Nkululeko Mnisi delivered a presentation titled “Evaluation of carob pod meal as an alternative energy source for dairy cattle”.

All the poster and platform presentations made by the technicians from the Directorate Animal Sciences were well received. The research technicians’ annual attendance of SASAT provides them with a valuable opportunity for networking and exposes them to work done by other institutions in the research environment. The technicians from the Directorate Animal Sciences have a history of outstanding performance at SASAT and do an excellent job of representing the Department in this arena with their contributions.

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