

6 May 2011

Media release

Contact: Vivian Claassen, communications manager | Tel 082 828 1267 | Vivian.Claassen@nwu.ac.za

For immediate release

Manufacturers welcome learning experience at ExtruAfrica

Food and feed manufacturers from South Africa and other African countries recently had the opportunity to attend ExtruAfrica, an extrusion technology workshop and seminar held at the Zebula Golf Estate & Spa in Bela-Bela.

ExtruAfrica, the first of its kind to be held in Africa, was organised by the Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing (CoE) at the North-West University's (NWU) Potchefstroom Campus to provide a platform for individuals and companies to learn about extrusion. The title of this workshop was "Applications of Food Extrusion in Africa".

The CoE was established in March 2009 with the support of the Department of Trade and Industry to align to the government's national objectives which are inter alia poverty alleviation, job creation, economic growth, increased manufacturing output, international competitiveness, affordable food supply and security, capacity building and development, empowerment and localisation. In the Centre's strive to support these objectives, a practical workshop and seminar was arranged to provide a learning and development opportunity to role players in extrusion.

Extrusion is a processing process used in the food, feed, plastic, powder paint and compounding industries. The workshop brought together academics, industry, government and an international expert, Dr Mian Riaz, a world renowned extrusion expert from the Texas A & M University in the USA, to investigate the business opportunities of extrusion technology and share technical knowledge and experiences.

"Extrusion technology, used as a cooking process, is particularly suitable for Africa as it is a relatively inexpensive, energy-efficient and easily operated method to produce a wide range of animal feeds. It is also environmentally-friendly as it produces minimal waste products." said Prof LJ Grobler, Head of the CoE at the NWU.

"There are endless opportunities in extrusion technology – quality food for the hungry, saving energy through pre-cooking foods, as well as job creation through establishing new food manufacturing plants." This was the opinion of Mr Loni Mamatela, the Industrial Development Corporation's (IDC) Regional Manager of the Limpopo Province.

Dr. Mian Riaz, the main speaker at the seminar, said that extrusion technology can be applied in different environments and can process a variety of unique products by using one machine. Hereby sometimes underutilised ingredients can be used before it goes to waste. Small extrusion plants can be erected close to the places where raw products, such as maize or wheat, are produced. T

Supported by:

Mrs Nomfuneko Majaja, Chief Director of Advanced Manufacturing at the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) said that ExtrAfrica is a good interaction initiative to show the possibilities of extrusion. "One computer-controlled machine is needed to start a plant. Such plants can be established in rural areas and will bring investment. This can help communities to become involved in manufacturing."

"The extrusion workshop provided a much needed learning and networking opportunity to role players in the food and feed processing industry. Industry is always looking for new ideas. This workshop provided ideas in terms of technology that can add value, how to obtain financing and the practical aspects of starting food manufacturing plants', said Prof. Herman van Schalkwyk, rector of the Potchefstroom Campus of the NWU and well-known agriculturist economist. "In terms of the current political environment, we are looking for incentives and ways to create jobs. South Africa has the technology available that can move us forward in creating jobs", Van Schalkwyk added.

During ExtrAfrica, practical demonstrations allowed delegates to see, feel, touch, smell and taste the breakfast cereal, puffed chips and dog food that were extruded. The delegates also experienced firsthand how easily an extrusion machine is operated with only one operator. The setup of an extruder and the different types of screw-configuration on the shafts were explained while delegates' questions could be answered by the experts.

One-day practical seminars on extrusion are planned in different provinces between August and October 2011 and February to April 2012. These seminars will be organised by the NWU, in conjunction with the provincial Invest-offices, the IDC and the dti. Further, a three-day-seminar and conference is already in the planning stages for July 2012.

For more information please contact Prof. LJ Grobler at the e-mail address lj.grobler@nwu.ac.za or tel 018 299 1329. You can also visit the websites www.dticoe.org.za and www.extrAfrica.org.za

Note to editors

The Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing offers industry a one-stop service to provide expertise and guidance from the business conceptualisation stage, product development, plant establishment, technology development, training, right through to on-going maintenance and support.

The CoE's main objective is to render services to the manufacturing industry in South Africa to be able to become more competitive locally as well as internationally.

Captions

Photo 1: Speakers involved in the ExtrAfrica workshop: Danie Vorster, Manager of CFAM Technologies Pty. Ltd., Dr Mian Riaz, Professor at the Texas A & M University in the USA, Dr Julius Nyalunga, Director, Skills for Economy at the dti, Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West Univeristy and Prof. LJ Grobler, Head of the Centre for Advanced Manufacturing at the North-West University.

Photo 2: An example of feed pellets produced using extrusion technology.

More information

www.dticoe.co.za | www.extrAfrica.org.za

Supported by:



Photo 1



Photo 2



Supported by:

