

## **PROFILE: PROF. HERMAN VAN SCHALKWYK**

Prof. Herman van Schalkwyk (45), Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University, is a well-known academic and prominent agricultural economist who has distinguished himself in several fields.

Prior to his appointment as rector, he was Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agriculture Sciences at the University of the Free State. In 1990 he obtained his BCom degree at the University of Pretoria, after which he obtained his Honours degree and MCom cum laude (1992). In 1995 he also obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics at the UP. Prof Van Schalkwyk started lecturing at the UP in 1993 after working at Standard Bank for two years as agricultural economist. He accepted an associate professorship at the University of the Free State in 1996. Two years later he became full professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics. In 2003 he was appointed as the dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agriculture Sciences.

Prof. Van Schalkwyk is a highly esteemed academic. Amongst others 70 publications have appeared in various scientific journals and 117 research and project reports came from his pen. He delivered more than 75 papers at local conferences and 38 internationally. Furthermore, he acted as promoter for 24 PhD students and study leader for 32 Master's students.

His involvement in many provincial and national institutions is highly acclaimed. Amongst others, he was appointed member of the National Agriculture Marketing Council by the Minister of Agriculture in 2007 and in 2008 as deputy chairperson of the Board of the Land Bank.

He also acted as chairperson of the Board of the Land Bank for a period of 18 months. Prof Van Schalkwyk acts often as a consultant for the World Bank and other South African institutions as well as a specialist in Agricultural and related court cases.

He is a popular speaker and guest of honour at agricultural congresses and workshops and scores of articles for the popular media have flowed from his pen. He was recently named as National Agriculturalist of the Year for 2011 of South Africa by Agricultural Writers SA.

Prof Van Schalkwyk is also the editor and co-author of a new book called: *Unlocking markets to smallholders: The case of South Africa, which was published by the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands.*

As native of the Eastern Free State he likes spending his leisure periods with his wife, Rélyne and three sons of school-going age on their family farm.