AHUACATL: A COMPREHENSIVE NURSERY SOFTWARE MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

E.Ernst and A. Ernst

Allesbeste Nursery, P.O. Box 91, Tzaneen, 0850, Republic of South Africa. E-mail: edrean@allesbeste.com. Website: http://www.allesbeste.com

A nursery management software package, appropriately named "Ahuacatl", has been developed specifically for use in avocado nurseries out of the need that exists for the computerisation and automation of management processes in avocado nurseries. The software supports the implementation of the Micro Cloning technique, as developed by and implemented in Allesbeste Nursery, and has been used extensively as management tool in the nursery since 1999 throughout the development phase. It has not only proven its worth as an effective management solution, but has also evolved to address the needs specific to avocado nursery management.

The software package consists of the following fully integrated modules:
- Client database
    - Client contact information
    - Client farm/block information
    - Communication with client
- Stock database
    - Mother tree information
    - Seedlings
    - Nurse grafting
    - Cultivar grafting
    - Etiolation
    - Rooting
    - Planting out
    - Plant stock control
- Ordering and delivery
    - Enquiries
    - New orders
    - Allocation of plants to orders
    - Delivery
- Effectivity monitoring and reporting

The software has now entered the BETA stage in its development cycle and is ready to be production tested by other nurseries. Information obtained from these nurseries will be used to determine if further enhancement of the software is needed before official public release.