

Nuus/News

PROF GEORGE A ZENTMYER VISITS SAAGA

The greatest authority on *Phytophthora* root rot of avocado visited the avocado industry in February. Prof George Zentmyer spent 10 days with research workers and avocado growers to advise us on *Phytophthora* root rot which is undoubtedly the biggest threat facing the industry. This historical visit was made possible through close collaboration between the director for the Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Research Institute and SAAGA. The financial contribution made by SAAGA amounts to R5000 and without this contribution the visit would almost certainly not have taken place.

Dr Zentmyer is Professor of Plant Pathology at Riverside, University of California. He has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences recently in recognition of these valuable contributions to the science of plant pathology, particularly in studies on *Phytophthora*, root diseases, soil fungicides and chemotherapy.

We are reaping the benefits of Prof Zentmyer's work since the introduction of *Phytophthora* resistant rootstocks. It took him more than 26 years to collect, screen and develop resistant rootstocks. Only Prof Zentmyer knows how much toil, sweat and frustration it took to produce a rootstock that can be called resistant. While we in South Africa gratefully acknowledge the considerable contributions made by him, we hope that he will continue until he has found the ultimate solution to *Phytophthora*.