

Dr Elly Nederhoff

This prestigious biennial award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the protected cropping industry through research.

Elly is renown for her very practical and clear explanations that are detailed and easy to understand.

Here she talks about her academic history, world travels and desire to find work and move to Australia.

Profile

I am a researcher and consultant for horticulture with a passion for plants and greenhouse technology.

Born and bred in The Netherlands, glasshouse horticulture was in my backyard. My university training focused on plant science and control technique. As a junior researcher I investigated CO2 enrichment, (which earned me a PhD degree) as well as greenhouse control, energy efficiency, light utilisation, artificial light and air pollutants from CO2 enrichment.

In 1995 we immigrated to New Zealand and I got a research position involving hydroponics, water use efficiency and water treatment.

Meanwhile I started my own consultancy business, Crophouse Ltd, which became full-time in 2000. I enjoy analysing, troubleshooting and problem-solving, and I apply



these skills towards research, data analysis, reporting, feasibility studies or being an expert witness in disputes.

Since 2000 I've done over 150 projects, spread over various countries. Common themes were tomatoes, climate control, CO2 and energy. I've accomplished expert investigations into crop damage caused by various mishaps; done desk studies to find solutions, and computer studies to calculate technical feasibility.

My clients are increasingly all over the world, but thanks to internet, I do a lot from my office in Palmerston North (New Zealand and I travel when needed.

I stay up-to-date with the latest greenhouse technology through annual trips to the Netherlands, where I work regularly for a Dutch research institute.

The Australian greenhouse industry is dynamic and innovative and therefore very interesting for me and I am keen to be part of these developments.

Currently my husband (he's in IT) and I are exploring options for moving to Australia, particularly Victoria where two of our children live.

Unfortunately we don't qualify for immigration, unless one of us finds an employer willing to support a skilled-worker visa application. I welcome any suggestions!

In the meantime I would like to continue with project work for Australian clients from my New Zealand base, making trips across the Tasman every few months.

I heard that this year's PCA conference was a fantastic event. Regrettably I missed it, as I was in the Netherlands for two months, working on a solar energy project (yes, Holland does have sunshine!).

To my utter surprise, I received the PCA '2013 Researcher of the Year Award'. Colleague and fellow Kiwi Dr Mike Nichols presented me with the trophy after returning to New Zealand. I'd like to sincerely thank the PCA and particularly those who supported me!

Elly Nederhoff

elly@crophouse.co.nz www.crophouse.co.nz

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