

# The Rhino 300 from Big solution for the small farmer



**ProAgri**

Du Preez de Villiers



**The councillors of the Rethuseng Co-operation with their brand new Rhino 300 travelling irrigators supplied by Rotrix and Irrigation Unlimited: James Volstruis, Chairman; Tshidi Mampe, Secretary; Justin Simelo, Councillor; Jaco Coetzee, Manager Rotrix; Gregory Favier, Technical Manager Rotrix; Markus Crisp, Co-operation Member; Victoria Stock, Treasurer; and Mister T Tlhaole, Co-operation Member.**

**W**ater is the key to growth and advancement, but only if it can be applied where it is needed.

The 89 year old Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme is an agricultural wonder in its own right with man-made canals criss-crossing the arid Hartswater region to deliver water to every small farmer who wishes to plant crops.

Rotrix has now succeeded in taking this wonder project a step further with perfect water placement on crops.

The Rethuseng Co-operation in the region consists of 127 small farmers who produce almost any conceivable type of crop on their own plots of 7,5 to 9 ha. After all, when a constant supply of water is readily available, you cannot make mistakes.

Recently, the government donated thirty Rotrix Rhino 300 sprayers to the co-operation as part of an empowerment programme to replace their existing sprinkler system.

This enables the farmers to reduce their irrigation time from seven to four days, thereby affording them more time to attend to other important farming activities.

Furthermore, the sprayer can perform its important task right through the night without supervision.

The roads between the patches of land that must be irrigated are rough,



**The only thing that newly planted fields need, is the growth-giving water gently applied by Rhino from Rotrix.**



**Jaco Coetzee trains the members of Rethuseng Co-operation in the finer workings of the Rhino 300 irrigator, so that they can derive the best performance from it.**

therefore the government agent's final reason to decide on Rhino 300 was the irrigator's toughness.

James Volstruis is the chairman of the co-operation and he has been farming for 25 years on his piece of land. He plans to plant barley this season. James is convinced that the Rhino irrigators will work very well as soon as the water pressure from the reservoirs is sufficient. "The irrigators will now also enable us to plant maize," he says, "as every sprayer has a 1 m extension to raise it above the tall maize plants.

Being the biggest irrigator in the Rotrix range, the Rhino 300 irrigates a lane of 300 m long and 50 m wide at a time.

This is how it works: A steel cable is rolled out from the irrigator and attached to a spike at the far end of the field.

On a reel on the irrigator are two water hoses; one 100m long, and the other 50m long. They can be used either together or separately. As soon as the water supply is connected and turned on, the whole irrigator pulls itself forward on the rolled out steel cable at the desired speed towards the opposite end of the field.

The gearbox for the process of reeling in, is driven by a small squirt

of water against a tub wheel. For more speed, a second jet of water can be opened.

This water drive is sufficient to enable the irrigator to roll at a constant speed over hills and dales to thoroughly irrigate two hectares per day.

When the irrigator completes its course, the water hose can be rolled back onto its reel by hand or with a tractor's power take-off or with a 4,1 kW engine.

The wheels of the Rhino 300 can be adjusted to suit any row width, and the front axle is hinged to handle slopes.

The irrigator is supplied with three different spray nozzles for different irrigation needs.

The Rhino 300 needs 3 to 4 bars of pressure and can send 35 000 litres per hour through its galvanized pipes.

Rotrix's Rhino 300 was designed for the small or medium sized farmer who wants to apply water accurately.

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