2024 Bayer Seed Potato Grower: Here are the finalists!

By Sanette Thiart, managing director, Potato Certification Service

Celebrating a job well done is one of life's most rewarding aspects. The achievement of the finalists in the Bayer Seed Potato Grower of the Year Award is even more remarkable once one understands the challenges seed potato growers face daily.

For these growers, a small everyday victory is when a seed crop is successfully certified. However, in the case of the finalists who meticulously oversee every aspect of seed potato production, ensuring excellence down to the finest detail, their consistent performance has elevated them to the ranks of the top three seed potato growers in the country. This achievement is based on certification data collected over the past three years, emphasising the importance of sustained excellence in seed potato production.

The team at the Potato Certification Service (PCS) values excellence. Therefore it is a great privilege to partner with Bayer in recognising the outstanding achievements of these finalists.

The evaluation team's farm visits serve as a final scrutiny of aspects such as sustainable farming practices and technology, to name a few. This year's team comprised Wilbri Vorster, go-to-market lead Africa, and André van Schalkwyk, go-to-market manager South Africa at Bayer Horticulture, Willie Jacobs, CEO of Potatoes South Africa (PSA), advocate Les Kügel, executive chairperson of the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes and PCS, Sanette Thiart, managing director, and André Wessels, technical manager at PCS.

B 054 | Sirkel-N-Landgoed

Rudi Heinlein, Baltimore, Limpopo, Wesgrow Potatoes

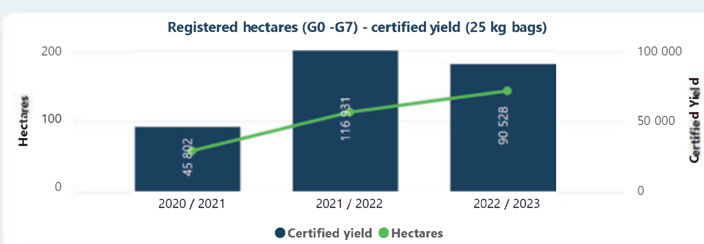
Sirkel-N-Landgoed plant sedert 2014 aartappelmoere. Sedertdien het hulle beslis hul erns met moerproduksie bewys. Ten spyte van die hoë siektedruk-omgewing waarin hulle geleë is, het Sirkel-N-Landgoed daarin geslaag om in 2019 onder die Top 10-moerkwekers te wees, in 2022 as die wenner aangewys te word, en vanjaar is hulle weer 'n finalis. Dit is knap gedaan!

Tydens die besoek het dit duidelik geblyk dat hierdie 'n baie

Top Seed Potato Grower | B 054 - Sirkel-N-Landgoed Finalist | 2024

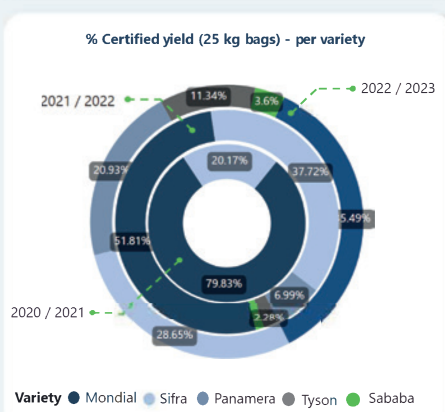
Rudi Heinlein

50	Registrations
304	Hectares
253 261	Bags certified
5	Varieties



Registered hectares (G0-G7) - per season - certified yield (25 kg bags)

Season	Hectares	25 kg bags	Bags/ha
2020 / 2021	53.000	45 802	864.19
2021 / 2022	109.500	116 931	1 067.86
2022 / 2023	141.000	90 528	642.04
Total	**303.500**	**253 261**	**834.47**

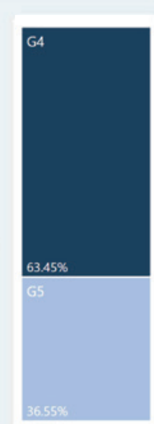


Certified yield (25 kg bags) - per variety

Season	Mondial	Sifra	Panamera	Tyson	Sababa
2020 / 2021	36 563	9 239			
2021 / 2022	60 584	44 108	8 174	2 663	1 402
2022 / 2023	25 936	32 125	18 945	10 266	3 256
Total	**123 083**	**85 472**	**27 119**	**12 929**	**4 658**

Certified yield (25 kg bags) - per generation

Season	G4	G5	Total
2020 / 2021	38 028	7 774	**45 802**
2021 / 2022	57 090	59 841	**116 931**
2022 / 2023	65 566	24 962	**90 528**
Total	**160 684**	**92 577**	**253 261**



professionele besigheid is wat ook groot waarde aan familie heg. Aandag word geskenk aan uitstekende beheer, goeie organisasie en die uitvoering van prosesse. So word seker gemaak dat daar aan alle aspekte van moerproduksie en sertifisering voldoen word, asook aan al die aspekte van die ander boerdery-vertakkings. Daarvan getuig hulle Global Gap-akkreditasie en prestasie aan die moerproduksie-kant.

Abrie van Schalkwyk, die produksiebestuurder, oorsien die proses van opwarming van die aartappelmoere met uitlaai uit koelopberging. Hierdie proses is deur die jare tot in die kleinste besonderhede verfyn ten einde die beste gehalte aartappelmoer te kan sertifiseer. In reaksie op 'n vraag oor die gebruik van optiese kameras,

Aartappelmoere word opgewarm met uitlaai.

was Abrie se antwoord: "Jy kan nie hierdie twee voete en oë in die land of stoor vervang nie!" Die toewyding van die personeelkorps was deurgaans duidelik.

Ek glo 'n deel van Sirkel-N se sukses is dat hulle moere met uitlaai uit die koelkamer, in sakke verpak

Elite gesertifiseerde G4-aartappelmoere (Foto: Magic Photography)

en gesertifiseer word. G4- en G5-aartappelmoere word geproduseer en groot waarde word geheg aan die verkryging van Elite-sertifisering. Vir Rudi is gehalte ononderhandelbaar. "Dit wat jy op die sak sê, moet in die sak wees."

Baie geluk aan Rudi as visionêre leier van hierdie besigheid en sy toegewyde span onder die bekwame en waaksame leiding van Abrie. Julle is waardige ambassadeurs van die Aartappelmoersertifiseringskema.

Van links is Nikus, Gerhard en Rudi Heinlein van Sirkel-N-Landgoed, Sanette Thiart van die Aartappelsertifiseringsdiens (ASD), André van Schalkwyk van Bayer, André Wessels en Johandré Breitenbach van die ASD, en Willie Jacobs van Aartappels SA.

D 204 | Henbrie Boerdery

Wynand Human, Douglas, Noord-Kaap, GWK Bpk

Henbrie Boerdery is 'n professionele besigheid wat, benewens aartappelmoerproduksie vir GWK, ook met wild, uie, pekanneute, mielies, koring en lusern boer. Uit die staanspoor is dit duidelik dat Wynand Human elke aspek van sy boerdery in randwaarde evalueer en sodoende uitbou en verbeter, om optimale opbrengs en verdienste op elke aspek te verseker. Die boerdery maak van gevorderde tegnologie gebruik om hierdie visie te ondersteun.

Agter van links is Sanette Thiart van die ASD, André van Schalkwyk van Bayer en Willie Jacobs van Aartappels SA, saam met Wynand Human en Lutz Hellmuth van Henbrie Boerdery en André Wessels van die ASD. Voor van links is Wilbri Vorster van Bayer, Leon Zietsman van die ASD, en Nelius Becker van Henbrie Boerdery. (Foto: Magic Photography)

Top Seed Potato Grower | D 204 - Henbrie Boerdery

Finalist | 2024

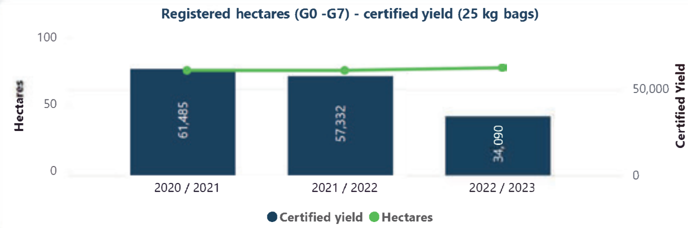
Wynand Human

29
Registrations

227
Hectares

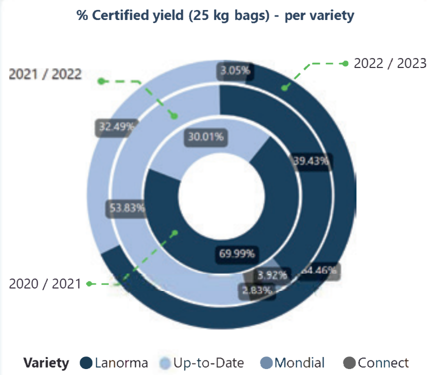
152,907
Bags certified

4
Varieties



Registered hectares (G0-G7) - per season - certified yield (25 kg bags)

Season	Hectares	25 kg bags	Bags/ha
2020 / 2021	75.000	61,485	819.80
2021 / 2022	75.000	57,332	764.43
2022 / 2023	77.000	34,090	442.73
Total	**227.000**	**152,907**	**673.60**



Certified yield (25 kg bags) - per variety

Season	Lanorma	Up-to-Date	Mondial	Connect
2020 / 2021	43,035	18,450		
2021 / 2022	22,607	30,860	2,245	1,620
2022 / 2023	21,975	11,075	1,040	
Total	**87,617**	**60,385**	**3,285**	**1,620**

Certified yield (25 kg bags) - per generation

Season	G3	G4	G5	Total
2020 / 2021	43,035	12,150	6,300	**61,485**
2021 / 2022	45,155	8,177	4,000	**57,332**
2022 / 2023	30,675	3,415		**34,090**
Total	**118,865**	**23,742**	**10,300**	**152,907**

Wynand bereken sy insetkoste tans op R350 000/ha, wat dieselfde as die grondkoste is. Die hele besigheid word met eie kapitaal bestuur. So 'n skuldvrye besigheid verg uiteraard baie spesifieke en gedissiplineerde bestuur van die kontantvloei. Hulle wek ook hulle eie elektrisiteit op om sodoende selfvoorsienend te wees.

Wynand het die jaar na hy sy skoolloopbaan voltooi het, in Amerika gaan boer en toe teruggekeer na Suid-Afrika waar hy en sy pa 30 ha aartappels geplant het. Die boerdery het tans 250 ha onder besproeiing vir die rotasiegewasse, asook 150 ha pekanneute. Familie en sy twee seuns se toekoms is vir hom baie belangrik. Dit het onder meer daartoe gelei dat die boerdery se naam onlangs van 'WJ Human' verander is na 'Henbrie Boerdery', ter ere van sy twee seuns, Hencoe en Abrie. Die seuns word van kleins af geleer om soos entrepreneurs te dink.

Al die eenhede op die plaas word gekarteer om sodoende die gronde voor plant reg te stel. Gedurende die seisoen word deurgaans van genormaliseerde verskil plantegroei-indeks (GVPI)-satellietbeelde gebruik gemaak om aanpassings te maak en sodoende optimale produksie te verseker. Kameras is oor die hele plaas versprei en in die pakstore geïnstalleer, sodat alle aspekte van die besigheid op groot skerms gemonitor kan word.

Wynand Human is een van die min moerprodusente wat nog die Up-to-Date variëteit produseer. Hy plant dit slegs op nuwe grond en maak die loof op 95 ton/ha dood, anders raak die aartappels misvorm.

Gedurende die seisoen word bespuiting met 'n hoogloopspuit toegedien en Lutz Hellmuth van Henbrie Boerdery is self verantwoordelik vir die uitmeet van die chemiese middels. (Foto: Magic Photography)

Wynand het 'n uiters professionele bestuurspan wat vir die operasionele uitrol van al die boerdery-aspekte verantwoordelik is. Lutz Hellmuth is nie net die produksiebestuurder nie, maar ook 'n Novon Protecta-agent wat die besigheid met weldeurdagte en tydige spuitprogramme bystaan. So word die fitosanitêre aspekte van moerproduksie doeltreffend bestuur.

Suiwering word deur 'n span van agt arbeiders behartig en hulle word jaarliks deur GWK opgelei en opgeskerp. Hulle maak seker dat enige siek plante knol en al uit die land verwyder word.

Wynand is een van die min moerprodusente wat nog die Up-to-Date variëteit produseer. Hy plant dit slegs op nuwe grond en maak die loof op 95 ton/ha dood, anders raak die aartappels misvorm. Baie geluk aan Wynand en sy span met hul puik besigheid en die goeie gehalte aartappelmoere wat geproduseer word!

Top Seed Potato Grower | L 026 - Carbrecht (Pty) Ltd

Finalist | 2024

Rob Carroll

296	Registrations
525	Hectares
1,201,328	Bags certified
15	Varieties

Registered hectares (G0-G7) - per season - certified yield (25 kg bags)

Season	Hectares	25 kg bags	Bags/ha
2020 / 2021	174.560	406,970	2,331.40
2021 / 2022	176.892	414,735	2,344.57
2022 / 2023	173.800	379,623	2,184.25
Total	**525.252**	**1,201,328**	**2,287.15**

Certified yeld (25 kg bags) - per variety

Season	Sifra	Panamera	Mondial	Innovator	Tyson	Allison	Sababa	Taurus	Avalanche	Royal	Alverstone Russet	Savanna	Valor	Up-to-Date	Monica Russet
2020 / 2021	193,575	134,731	61,816	2,375	4,824	1,710	4,785	498		2,656					
2021 / 2022	162,434	128,382	38,471	29,250	32,163	14,863	3,957	5,215							
2022 / 2023	130,889	44,395	91,639	70,300	29,848	2,462		1,186	6,090		1,186	719	620	208	81
Total	**486,898**	**307,508**	**191,926**	**101,925**	**66,835**	**19,035**	**8,742**	**6,899**	**6,090**	**2,656**	**1,186**	**719**	**620**	**208**	**81**

Certified yield (25 kg bags) - per generation

Season	G1	G2	G3	G4
2020 / 2021	91,158	305,331	2,656	7,825
2021 / 2022	85,847	324,953		3,935
2022 / 2023	71,303	226,626	74,857	6,837
Total	**248,308**	**856,910**	**77,513**	**18,597**

L 026 | Carbrecht (Pty) Ltd

Rob Carroll, Tosca, North West, Wesgrow Potatoes

The Carrolls – Carel and his son, Rob, and daughter, Trish – went into a very successful partnership with Frans Engelbrecht in 2012. Since then, they have grown to the extent that Carbrecht qualified as one of the Top 10 seed potato growers of 2019 and was also one of the finalists in 2022. They take pride in the fact that most of the country's seed potatoes originated from their farm.

Frans Engelbrecht, Trish van der Westhuizen, Carel and Rob Carroll from Carbrecht. (Photograph: Magic Photography)

Carbrecht's roguing team ensures that any diseased plant or off-type is removed throughout the season.

Pieter Leibbrandt, a PCS certification official, explains the scheme requirements in terms of isolation and separation of the different varieties planted on the same unit. Some 296 units were registered throughout the review.

Wilbri Vorster from PCS noted: "Carbrecht is a family business in a very isolated part of the country. The business does a fantastic job under difficult circumstances, showcasing the resilience required of a successful grower in South Africa."

Being so isolated in North West, right next to the Botswana border, contributes to the success of growing Wesgrow's early-generation seed potatoes.

Carbrecht planted 15 varieties during the review period. The importance of maintaining varietal identity and purity in such a big early-generation production business is immense. To ensure the highest quality of early-generating seed potatoes supplied to Wesgrow's value chain, they adhere to an eight- to ten-year rotation schedule. To ensure that seed health and purity are maintained, Wesgrow's requirements for optimal seed potato production are followed to the letter, and includes rigorous volunteer control.

Carbrecht's spray programme focusses on prevention and is religiously applied to limit infection from viruses, fungi and bacteria. In addition, proper nematode control is non-negotiable.

Given the remote and isolated location of the farm, it is quite impressive that approximately 14 trucks per day deliver seed potatoes directly to growers in season. This is a winning team that believes in what they do. Congratulations on your consistent sterling performance!

The Bayer Seed Potato Grower of 2024 will be announced during the gala dinner to be held on 17 July 2024 at Century City Conference Centre in Cape Town. For more information, email Sanette Thiart at Sanette@potatocertification.co.za or visit *www.potatocertification.co.za*.

Mondstuk van die Suid-Afrikaanse aartappelbedryf • Mouthpiece of the South African potato industry

CHIPS

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