

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

# CHIPS

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# Resilience is the name of the game

**N**umerous times over the past number of years, we have heard media statements commenting on the resilience of agriculture in South Africa. These statements are based on a number of aspects, among which the fact that producers in our country are pretty much left to their own devices, with little to no support from government, and having to combat challenges ranging from climate conditions to land issues and a lack of support structures.

While this may ring true to a large extent, South Africa has been blessed with strong commodity and producer organisations that have always put the interests of their members, the producers, first. In the case of Potatoes SA (PSA), this does not only reflect in the organisation's ability to represent its members' interests at high level – it mostly shines through in the way in which technical information transfer takes place.

## A dynamic industry indeed

In this issue of *CHIPS*, Dr Fienie Niederwieser once again shines the spotlight on how important research

is for continued potato production. This time, she refers specifically to cultivar trials and their ultimate goal, namely, to provide potato producers with well researched information and data regarding the most suitable potato cultivars for their unique areas and conditions. This of course ties in with the ultimate aim of all producers in South Africa, namely, to produce sustainably and profitably, and ensure food security.

Working through this issue and especially after working on Dr Niederwieser's, I was once again reminded of how dynamic our agricultural industry truly is. And that the word 'resilience' describes the entire industry and not only the producers. Not a single cog in the wheel has ever stopped turning, despite the challenges and hurdles alluded to earlier in this piece. And even more praiseworthy is the way in which each and every role-player fulfils his or her task – with passion and dedication for the greater good.

Enjoy this issue of *CHIPS*, which once again shows how an industry can come together to make many things possible – from sound, scientifically based potato production to true transformation and empowerment. The take-home message is one that has been quoted countless times before, but it never gets old – the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts.

*Lynette Louw, editor*  
[lynette@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:lynette@plaasmedia.co.za)

### Contributors in this issue

**Potatoes SA:** Willie Jacobs, Dr Fienie Niederwieser, Janó Bezuidenhout, FP Coetzee, Pieter van Zyl, Phindiwe Nkosi, Chantel du Raan, Louis Pretorius, Enrike Verster, Herman Haak, Nomvula Xaba, Santa Bronkhorst.

**Other contributors:** Dr K Pofu, ARC-VIMP and the University of Limpopo, Prof P Mashela, University of Limpopo, Dr M Marais, ARC-PHP, Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, Roleen la Grange and Desireé van Heerden, CropLife SA, Izak Cronjé, producer, Christo Besten, LWO Employers Organisation, VDT Attorneys.

### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

#### Executive editor

Hanrie Greebe  
076 116 7206  
[hanrie@potatoes.co.za](mailto:hanrie@potatoes.co.za)

#### Editor

Lynette Louw  
084 580 5120  
[lynette@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:lynette@plaasmedia.co.za)

#### Publisher

Plaas Media (Pty) Ltd  
217 Clifton Ave, Lyttelton, Centurion  
Private Bag X2010, Lyttelton, 0140  
Tel: 012 664 4793  
[www.plaasmedia.com](http://www.plaasmedia.com)

#### Deputy editor

Jayne du Plooy  
[jayne@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:jayne@plaasmedia.co.za)

#### Sub-editors

May Nel  
[may@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:may@plaasmedia.co.za)

Lize du Toit  
[lize@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:lize@plaasmedia.co.za)

#### Layout & design

Annemie Visser  
[annemie@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:annemie@plaasmedia.co.za)

#### Sales manager & accounts

Marné Anderson  
072 639 1805  
[marne@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:marne@plaasmedia.co.za)

#### Advertising

Karin Changuion-Duffy  
082 376 6396  
[karin@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:karin@plaasmedia.co.za)

Susan Steyn  
082 657 1262  
[susan@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:susan@plaasmedia.co.za)

Esmarie Moodie  
076 330 0745  
[esmarie@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:esmarie@plaasmedia.co.za)

Rowena Simmons  
079 568 6025  
[rowena@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:rowena@plaasmedia.co.za)

Juan de Villiers  
060 508 3188  
[juan@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:juan@plaasmedia.co.za)

#### Subscriptions

Beauty Mthombeni  
064 890 6941  
[beauty@plaasmedia.co.za](mailto:beauty@plaasmedia.co.za)

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012 349 1906  
6 De Havilland Crescent,  
Persequor Techno Park,  
Persequor Park, Pretoria  
[www.potatoes.co.za](http://www.potatoes.co.za)