

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

CHIPS

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**BASELINE AND MARKET
DYNAMICS FOR THE
COMING SEASON**

Growing tomorrow's
producers, today

**OOS-VRYSTAATSE
DROËLANDKULTIVARPROEF
OP WARDEN 2019/2020**

Importation of French
fries takes a nosedive

Waarde van navorsing
oor blaarsiektebeheer

There are a great many things we can be thankful for this year, one of them being agriculture's excellent performance in 2020, while many other industries suffered. There are several reasons for this, one being the resilience and can-do attitude of our producers. Their hard work and focus paid off, and their contribution towards our failing economy is praiseworthy.

But as in all good stories, there are unsung heroes and in agriculture, these are often the commodity organisations. Very few people know or realise how much hard work is done behind the scenes to enable farmers to produce successfully. As Potatoes SA's (PSA) director for the southern region, DC Schellingerhout, rightly points out in this issue of *CHIPS*: Once you realise what your levies are used for, you can only be amazed at the value being added to the life and work of producers.

Take PSA as a shining example:

The generation of market information and trends, research into diseases and potato varieties, bursaries given to deserving students, consumer projects encouraging the public to buy and eat potatoes, as well as projects allowing us to empower producers and create a brighter future – what would



farmers have done without the enormous amount of work performed diligently and passionately by PSA's employees? This all means that potato producers in South Africa really don't have to shoot in the dark. Their organisation is paving the way for them.

Kraakvars leesstof vir jōu genot

Dit is dan inderdaad ook 'n plesier om te werk aan 'n tydskrif soos *CHIPS*, waarin hierdie harde werk gestalte kry in die vorm van artikels waarin 'n magdom bewese inligting oorgedra word. Dis 'n moet-lees publikasie en die Maart/April-uitgawe getuig hiervan.

Van markinligting en die jongste proewe, tot navorsing oor *Alternaria* en die Potato Nation-webwerf se nuwe baadjie – harde werk en deursettingsvermoë is hier in woorde omgesit en verewig, sodat aartappelprodusente hulself met nuwe inligting kan verryk en nog 'n ding of twee in die boerdery-gereedskapkis kan laai.

Hierdie uitgawe lui ook twee splinternuwe artikelreekse in: FP Coetzee en Pieter van Zyl se reeks oor verpakkingstendense by aartappels op varsproduktemarkte, en drs Freddie Denner en Fienie Niederwieser se reeks, getiteld "Wat op aarde?", wat belooft om lekker-lees-inligting oor interessante en ongewone verskynsels aan ons lesers oor te dra.

Maak seker jy lees hierdie uitgawe van hoek tot kant deur, en geniet maande en jare se werk wat in 'n maklik verteerbare vorm aan jou oorgedra word

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Ander bydraers: Divan van der Westhuizen en Marion Delpoort van BFAP; James Arathoon, Archana Nunkumar, Taslos Magubane en Morgan Naidoo van die KwaZulu-Natalse Departement van Landbou en Plattelandse Ontwikkeling; produsente Jako Nel en Stefan Lategan; prof Martin Steyn en Tlotlisang Nkhase van die Universiteit van Pretoria; CropLife SA; dr Elsie Cruywagen van die LNR-VIMP; dr Freddie Denner van UPL; Stephan Pietersen van Work Accident Support; en Ansofie van der Walt van die LWO Werkgewersorganisasie.

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