

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

# CHIPS

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**LIMPOPO-KULTIVARPROEF  
ONDER BESPROEING  
OP DENDRON IN 2021**

**Kultivarprestasie op  
varsproduktemarkte**

**DIE AARTAPPELBLAARMYNER:  
BEHEEROPSIES  
TEEN DIE PAPIES**

**A diversified approach  
for greater liquidity**

**#PassThePotato:  
Giving back is good business**

# Climate change and food security: Potatoes up for the challenge!

**C**limate change is here to stay, and whether we are interested in the science behind it or not, it does affect us all. The term 'climate change' conjures up images of heat waves, thirst and desert landscapes. However, the concept is far more encompassing and its consequences far reaching.

Essentially, climate change means that dry periods will become drier and wet periods will become wetter. It is the intensity of climate factors that will increase. While this might still seem manageable to a normal household, the situation on the farm is very different and this is where the greatest concern lies – being able to produce food under hugely challenging climate conditions. As it stands now, an estimated 821 million people are undernourished, and 151 million children under five years of age are stunted. Imagine the impact in a truly food-insecure world.

## Arm yourself with information

Working through this issue of *CHIPS*, I was once again reminded

of how important it is to farm crop varieties that are adapted to their environments and can withstand what nature throws at them. Worldwide, a body of researchers are studying ways in which potatoes can thrive in water-restricted environments, how rice paddies in China can be utilised for potato production, and how late blight can be combatted through resistant varieties. The list goes on.

Here at home, our researchers are constantly exploring new, more resistant cultivars that can withstand natural enemies and eventually be prepared for consumption in different ways.

Climate change, in my mind, hovers around the concepts of either too much or too little. Too much rain (flooding) equals drowned vegetation, excessive run-off, soil erosion and rotting crops. Too little rain (i.e., too much heat or drought) equals dry spells, dead vegetation, infertile soil and failing crops. Both have the same outcome – no food.

The content in this issue of *CHIPS* was specially written and compiled to equip our country's potato producers, big and small, with the knowledge necessary to produce the best potatoes under all circumstances. Everything written here is the culmination of someone's hard work and it needs to be celebrated and thoroughly absorbed in the face of the climate challenge that looms. Be sure to read every page.



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