

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

# CHIPS

VOL 36 NO 2 • MARCH / APRIL 2022

**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**

Disclaimer: The views and information contained in these news pages do not represent that of Potatoes SA, Plaas Media, or their affiliates.

## China looks at potatoes in rice paddies

With approximately 19% of the global population and just 9% of the world's arable land, China has long sought to improve food production and in recent decades, potatoes have played an increasingly important role.

As farmland is lost to urbanisation and soil degradation threatens yields, the cultivation of potatoes in southern China's rice paddies in winter – when that land might otherwise lie fallow – has the potential to boost food security, farmer incomes and sustainability, according to recent research. A recent article published by the International Potato Center (CIP) found that integrating potato into rice farming systems in southern China, can yield some benefits for smallholder farmers.

In addition to improving food production and incomes, potato-rice rotations can have a lighter environmental footprint than most farming systems, improving soil health and input use efficiency. This happens in part because potato produces more calories on less land and with less water than most staples. – *International Potato Center*

## Europatat celebrates 70th anniversary

In 2022 Europatat, or the European Union (EU) for the Wholesale Trade in Potatoes, is celebrating its 70th anniversary. The association was established on 12 January 1952 in Paris and included members from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Seventy years later, the association has 63 members in 20 countries in the EU and beyond.

To mark this important milestone, Europatat is hosting the Europatat Congress 2022 in Dublin. It will be hosted within the framework of the World Potato Congress. This year's Europatat Congress will take place on 29 to 30 May 2022 at the Royal Dublin Society. – *Europatat*

## Research on potatoes in water-restricted environments

Strong evidence for the value of foliage or canopy temperature (CT) as a key indicator for improving yield predictions for potatoes grown in water-restricted environments gathered in a study by the International Potato Center's (CIP) experts, was recently published in the *Agronomy* journal.

CIP researchers' findings indicate that CT can be reliably used to predict how spud varieties will perform in water-stressed environments – a condition that will become more common under future climate change scenarios.

"Not only can we predict future potato yields better, but using CT in prediction modelling gives us the power of anticipation to improve the management of our resources," says David Ramírez, leader of CIP Crop Ecophysiology and Modelling lab in the crop and systems science division.

The promise of using CT in field trialling of new potato varieties, extends beyond more reliable yield predictions. In this respect, Ramírez also mentioned that this technique would enable farmers to make more informed real-time decisions to improve their water use with irrigation. – *Potato Business*

## US backs biotech potato research for Asia, Africa

Late blight is one of the major potato diseases that can cause crop and income losses for farmers. The United States (US) has pledged funds to address this problem in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya and Nigeria.

The Feed the Future Global Biotech Potato Partnership led by Michigan State University (MSU) aims to bring late blight resistant (LBR) potatoes to the four countries, and possibly to other Feed the Future target countries, through funds provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the next five years.

The award will help bring the LBR potato to the most challenged potato-producing regions and provide millions of farmers with a safe product with the potential to increase yield and lower production costs while contributing to the attainment of food security. – *ISAAA*.

## KFC in Kenya will support local industry

KFC Kenya has initiated plans to source potatoes locally after many Kenyans questioned why the franchise was importing its raw materials. The National Potato Council of Kenya CEO, Wachira Kaguongo, encouraged the franchise to work with Kenyan farmers to meet their needs gap.

Chief executive for KFC East Africa, Jacques Theunissen, explained that some of the corporate rules and procedures don't allow the firm to source the key ingredient locally. "The reason we cannot buy local at the moment is all suppliers need to go through the global QA approval process and we cannot bypass that, even if we run out, to ensure that our food is safe for consumption by our customers," he said. – *Pulse Live*