

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

CHIPS

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**SUCCESSFUL 2024 CONGRESS
PAVES THE WAY FOR 2025**

**COMPETITION COMMISSION ON
FRESH PRODUCE MARKETS**

**Potato waste:
Quantity, value, causes**

**Physiological disorders
in potato tubers**

**Potato cultivation
and climate change**

Let's talk about drip on potato

Although drip irrigation is not yet widely practised in potato production, its adoption is steadily increasing along with knowledge of its successful application. Netafim is driving this process, which is why the company's business units worldwide have been actively involved in potato drip irrigation trials for some time.

In order to support potato producers in their drive for increased sustainability, it is necessary that all role-players acquire extensive knowledge regarding product application, irrigation, fertigation management, and many other relevant aspects. This includes knowledge regarding the use of machinery for the layout and retrieval of driplines, and recycling solutions for used driplines.

Transforming potato production

Our team had the privilege of attending the 2024 Potatoes SA Congress and Seed Potato Grower's Forum. "It was an excellent experience, and I was especially inspired by the high level of research being conducted in the industry," said Charl van Reenen, agronomy manager at Netafim South Africa. "We were welcomed into discussions

and immediately encouraged by the industry's willingness to engage in conversation. I realised just how dynamic the potato industry is."

The industry has made significant progress in adapting to current conditions and increasing sustainability. However, there is considerable room for improvement regarding the water and energy efficiency of commercial potato production in South Africa. Challenges such as increased heat stress due to erratic climate conditions, greater disease pressure, and water scarcity need to be addressed. Drip irrigation can serve as a bridge to help producers navigate these challenges.

A good investment

While the high initial cost of drip irrigation is a concern, experience and user feedback indicate that the initial investment, though substantial, is quickly offset by long-term savings from reduced water and fertiliser usage, increased yields, and lower disease incidence, making it a profitable investment.

Drip irrigation offers more than just reduced water usage. By prioritising efficiency and precision, it has the potential to transform potato production into a sustainable and profitable enterprise, ensuring



Charl van Reenen, agronomy manager at Netafim SA, and Jovan Erasmus, agronomist at Netafim SA, at the Netafim stand at the 2024 Potatoes SA Congress and Seed Potato Grower's Forum.

that potato producers meet growing demand while advancing sustainability efforts.

We encourage the industry to consult with our experts to learn more about the potential impact that drip irrigation can have on your farm.



Boost yield and overcome challenges in the field with precise water and nutrient delivery.



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