

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

CHIPS

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**OOS-VRYSTAATSE STANDPROEF
ONDER AANVULLENDE
BESPROEING IN REITZ**

**THE POTATO LEAF MINER:
ORIGIN OF THE FIRST FLY
INFESTATIONS OF THE SEASON**

Tegnologiese ontwikkeling: | Effect of fungicide application | Engagement with New Era
Gebruik van QR-kodes | on potato cultivars at Cedara | farmers in Limpopo

A potato-perfect 2022

The year 2021 is behind us and ended on a good note, with a relatively normal December compared to 2020. This is certainly something to be thankful for. All endings precede new beginnings, and every new year brings with it new hope, revised challenges, and fresh resolutions.

I am sure everyone will share in my wish that 2022 will be better than the previous two years, and that things will be looking up for all of us.

Of course, it isn't enough to accept that a new year means a new beginning. A new year doesn't automatically present us with perfect conditions for new projects. It is, after all, just a number that has changed on the calendar and a clock that keeps ticking.

It is the act of beginning with something, that creates perfect conditions for it to grow and flourish. Don't wait for the calendar to change its digits.

PSA is raring to go

In the potato industry, it is certainly going to be a busy year and Potatoes SA (PSA) is getting ready to continue giving effect to its numerous cultivar trials,

marketing efforts, transformation projects and plans to improve communication with producers.

This first issue of *CHIPS* in 2022 is a loaded plate of fries – from the very first article on PSA's information days to the latest market information and updates on transformation successes.

The research and technical section in this issue sets the table for a number of challenges that potato producers will have to face this year, notably that of the devastating effects of the potato leaf miner and potato early die complex. In addition, there is the fine balance between too much rain and too little rain – both harmful in their own way and something that producers cannot control, other than sharpening their management tools.

It is in our power

Whatever the case, we cannot predict the future and beyond; we can only plan, manage to the best of our ability, and live our best life. It is in our power, for instance, to pre-empt and plan. It is in our power to overcome challenges and learn from them, rather than dwell on them and allow them to misguide our lives. It is in our power to stop saying "why me?" and replace it with "why not me?".

It is in our power to be alive and well today, rather than being fatalistic about tomorrow. May 2022 bring good fortune to those who work hard at making good fortune a reality.

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