

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

CHIPS

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**OOS-VRYSTAATSE STANDPROEF
ONDER AANVULLENDE
BESPROEIING 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

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US potato exports continue to improve

Exports of frozen potato products in the United States (US) increased by 30% for July to September 2021 compared to 2020. This was led by a 63% increase to Mexico, continuing exceptionally strong sales to this market throughout 2021. Exports to Canada and Central America were up 52% and 55%, respectively, with all countries in Central America posting growth.

Exports to Asian markets were up 18%, led by increases of 28% to China and 176% to the Philippines. Both markets were severely impacted by Covid-19, resulting in serious declines in 2020. Exports to Japan were up 14%, but due to problems with shipping and tight US supplies, restaurant chains in Japan are switching to products from Canada.

The only two markets to decline were Korea, down 14%, and Taiwan, down 3%. Both countries had limited impacts from Covid-19, with exports remaining strong in 2020. – *Potato Grower*

Water rights case heads to Concourt

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has filed an appeal to the Constitutional Court against a recent decision by the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA), which held that water rights holders are entitled to transfer such rights. The ruling held that trading in such rights is not unlawful.

The SCA judgement followed three appeals in the Lötter, Wiid and South African Association of Water Users Associations cases relating to the correctness of a circular by the DWS in January 2018, in which the DWS determined that water use entitlements could not be transferred.

"The decision of the DWS to appeal to the Constitutional Court is not entirely unsurprising, given the fact that the SCA itself was divided on the matter," says Janse Rabie, head of Agri SA's Natural Resources Centre of Excellence. – *Press release, Agri SA*

PSA positive about process against dumping

The International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (Itac) has initiated its own investigation into the alleged dumping of frozen potato chips from Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany onto the South African market. This is part of the process of renewing anti-dumping duties.

The commission failed to complete a sunset review application to retain anti-dumping duties for another five years in the prescribed time. This led to the dumping of cheap imported frozen chips in the local market.

Willie Jacobs, chief executive officer of Potatoes SA, says they are excited that Itac has been quick to take control of the situation. He says this is a positive indication as Itac is prioritising the renewal process. – *Ursula Human, CHIPS*

SABI elects youngest ever president

Michael Esmeraldo, Netafim South Africa's sales manager for the northern regions of the country, was elected as president of the South African Irrigation Institute (SABI). "We are incredibly proud of Michael and wish him well as president of SABI," says Etienne Erasmus, MD of Netafim South Africa and past president of SABI.

At 30, Michael is the youngest ever president of SABI. "I want to encourage younger players in the irrigation industry to be actively involved in organised industry activities. I also want to make young people who are still considering their career options aware of the many amazing opportunities in the irrigation industry.

"My message to the irrigation industry is to stay positive. We can and have a responsibility to make a massive impact in the agricultural industry and the country." – *Press release, Netafim SA*



Michael Esmeraldo.

CIP conserves potato genetics in cryobank

The International Potato Center (CIP) is conserving the future of potato genetic diversity in the world's largest potato cryobank and setting new standards to transform the way other priority clonal crops are safely stored. Like potato, many priority food security crops are clonal crops, meaning they cannot be conserved by seed.

One way is by conserving them as in vitro plantlets. The CIP maintains the world's most diverse in vitro collection in its gene bank. In addition to its in vitro collection, CIP has built the world's largest and most diverse potato cryobank collection where 3 600 accessions are held in safe long-term storage.

Cryopreservation uses liquid nitrogen to rapidly freeze tiny tissue samples taken from sterile in vitro plantlets. Once frozen, the samples can stay suspended in time until they are needed. – *Potato Grower*