

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

CHIPS

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Merger between industry giants

Andermatt Madumbi sees two organisations with a shared vision partnering for a better future. Madumbi Sustainable Agriculture has been committed to serving South African growers with access to biorational solutions.

It is on these solid foundations and through a united goal of influencing food production locally, throughout Africa and across the globe, that Madumbi recently joined forces with Swiss company Andermatt Biocontrol. With more than 30 years in the biological industry and as global leaders in virus technology, Andermatt Biocontrol has an extensive footprint of subsidiaries across the globe.

Michelle Lesur, Andermatt Madumbi CEO, says: "Innovation will continue to be key in our approach to tackling complicated environmental and social challenges both globally and locally. In moving forward, we bring together the precision of the Swiss clock with the heartbeat of the African drum." – *Press release, Andermatt Madumbi*

AI app to include potato diseases

Because potato growers need to identify and manage diseases in their fields, the AI-powered mobile app, PlantVillage Nuru, has been expanded to also include diseases. More than two million farmers in East Africa who depend on potatoes, will be able to point their smartphones at a plant and receive an instant disease diagnosis through the PlantVillage Nuru app.

Initially, the app was designed to be twice as good as extension workers in East Africa in diagnosing cassava diseases and has been a major help to cassava farmers.

With support from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research's (CGIAR) Research Program on Roots, Tubers, and Bananas (RTB) and the CGIAR Platform for Big Data in Agriculture, PlantVillage Nuru has been expanded to include potato late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) and early blight (*Alternaria solani*). – *Potato News Today*

Kenya set to boost potato production

The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) is focussing on a high-quality potato seed production and distribution deal with the Syngenta Foundation, hoping to increase production five-fold, to ten million tons a year.

The deal involves increasing high-quality certified potato seed availability to farmers by 25% through rapid multiplication, increased field seed bulking, and capacity building of commercial seed growers. A key target is increasing local potato sales at high-end chain restaurants in Kenya. – *Fresh Plaza*

Korkom sê dankie

Terence Brown is onlangs tydens Korkom se algemene jaarvergadering vereer vir sy jarelange diens tot Ceres se aartappelbedryf. Brown het 'n passie vir atletiek, maar het vir 46 jaar ook sy ander passie, aartappelproduksie, uitgeleef.

Brown was vir twaalf jaar by die Departement van Landbou, en vir 34 jaar by beide die Aartappelraad, wat later vervang is deur Aartappels Suid-Afrika (ASA), betrokke. Hy was ook vir 26 jaar by Korkom en die Sandveldse Aartappelwekersorganisasie (Sako) betrokke.

Die Korkom-bestuur en -produsente wens hom alle voorspoed toe en is dankbaar vir die insette wat hy oor die jare gelewer het. – *Persverklaring, Korkom*



Pieter du Toit (links), ondervoorsitter van Korkom, en Terence Brown, afgetrede streeksbestuurder van Aartappels SA.



Korkom se sertifikaat van verering vir jarelange diens.

Bright future for fresh produce market

One of South Africa's best established fresh produce markets has received a big investment boost. The Qonce Fresh Produce Market has a 25-year history as a key Eastern Cape agri trade zone. One of the country's leading fresh produce sales organisations, RSA Group, recently invested in the facility (formally known as the King William's Town Fresh Produce Market) with the intention of expanding the scope and quality of its offering.

"The essentials are still very much in place," says Luan Wentzel, managing director, RSA Group Eastern Cape. "The same management team will continue to run the facility. The goal is to build on an already well-established and successful operation to add more business value for producers, buyers and consumers." – *Press release, RSA Group*