

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

CHIPS

VOL 35 NO 05 • SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021

**MANAGING CRISES THROUGH
PUBLIC RELATIONS:
LAPSE IN ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES**

Empangeni farmers get
the know-how

Span weerdata in vir
besproeiingskedulering

**SANDVELD-KULTIVARPROEF
ONDER BESPROEING OP
AURORA IN 2020/2021**

Kultivars wat op
varsproduktemarkte presteer

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World's first potato-based plant milk

Based in Sweden, the newly launched vegan dairy brand, Dug, developed the world's first potato-based plant milk. According to the start-up, it doesn't only foam like real dairy – it is far more sustainable, even when compared to competitor plant-based milk on the market.

Using a base of potatoes, the formulation contains pea protein, maltodextrin, chicory fibre, rapeseed oil and natural flavourings. Dug is also fortified with vitamins including Vitamin D, Vitamin B12 and folic acid.

The brand's potato milk boasts an impressively low carbon footprint, estimated at around 0.27 t to 0.31 kg of CO₂e/kg. It also uses up far less land, requiring half the amount needed to produce oats. In terms of water use, production of Dug requires 56 times less water than almond milk. – *Potato Business*

Potatoes offer higher quality diet for teens

A recent study conducted among children aged nine to 18 years has suggested that eating potatoes can be an effective strategy to moderately improve intake of key shortfall nutrients. Compared to no potato consumption, results showed that eating potatoes in any form (baked, boiled, mashed, in mixed dishes and fried) was associated with higher intakes of several essential nutrients, including dietary fibre and potassium – two nutrients of public health concern – and improved nutrient adequacy.

"Given their popularity, more than half (56%) of those surveyed reported eating some form of potatoes, as there are opportunities to lean into these findings to make it easier for young people to find, cook and enjoy potatoes as part of a healthy dietary pattern," says Victor Fulgoni, co-author of the study. – *Potato News Today*

Amylose – potatoes' secret to lower GI

A combined team of six scientists from Montana State University and North Dakota State University recently published a paper with a promising conclusion regarding the consumption of potatoes with higher concentrations of amylose.

New nutrition data suggests that consumption of potatoes with higher concentrations of amylose, could result in a lower glycemic index (GI) and could be expected to offer health benefits to people who have prediabetes, diabetes and/or obesity.

Most commercially produced potatoes have a high content of highly branched amylopectin starch, which generally results in a high GI. Some potato cultivars with lower rapidly digestible amylopectin levels have previously been identified and are commercially available in niche markets in some countries, but are relatively unavailable in the United States and Latin America. – *Potato Business*

RNA manipulations could boost yield

Manipulating RNA could allow plants to yield dramatically more crops, as well as increase drought tolerance, says a group of scientists from the University of Chicago, Peking University and Guizhou University.

With initial tests, adding a gene encoding for a protein called FTO to both rice and potato plants, increased their yield by 50% in field tests. The plants grew significantly larger, produced longer root systems and were better able to tolerate drought stress. Analysis also showed that the plants had increased their rate of photosynthesis. – *UChicago News*

'Kragspan' now even more powerful

The IntelliGro/VKB 'Kragspan', which was launched in the 2020/2021 season for summer row crops, introduced its commercial offer for the 2021/2022 season during an online event.

The offer, which has been extended to Limpopo and now includes crop solutions for potatoes, addresses the critical factors of cost-effectiveness and product availability. The commercial offer allows producers access to crop-specific solutions that are aimed at optimising yield and maximising profit, which is supported by a highly beneficial commercial offer.

Key aspects of the various commercial offers for both summer row crops and potatoes include discounts on DEKALB seed, Multi Green fertiliser and IntelliGro crop solutions, as well as a period of up to six months in which no interest is levied on accounts with VKB. – *Press release, IntelliGro*



From the left are Johan Nienaber (regional director, IntelliGro), Junior Ferreira (producer), Janet Lawless (IntelliGro), Francois Swanepoel (VKB), Izak Dreyer (producer) and Niel Kruger (marketing director, IntelliGro).