

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

CHIPS

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**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

Understanding the seed side of potatoes

By Nomvula Xaba

One of the mandates of Potatoes South Africa's (PSA) transformation division is to ensure that the activities that form part of the Enterprise Development Programme (EDP), upskill producers so that they can run their businesses in a sustainable and profitable manner. The main objective of the programme, however, is to ensure the commercialisation of new era farmers.

For quite some time now, the financial support offered to producers has been originating from the provision of seed, which

accounts for approximately 30% of the production cost. The decision to provide seed support was based on the fact that good quality seed is not easy to find, and generally, when producers are recruited to participate in potato production, they have no knowledge of the technicalities involved or the suppliers of seed.

The right seed at the right time

PSA has taken up the role of ensuring that new era farmers have access to the right seed at the right time. When it comes to the selection of cultivars, PSA only presents the performance of the

different cultivars in the different regions, and the percentage of the different cultivars planted by commercial farmers in the area. The final decision in terms of which cultivar to be planted rests solely with the producer, not PSA.

The transformation division recently collaborated with Wesgrow to provide exposure to all the producers participating in the EDP, to the seed production side of potatoes.

All producers, together with the transformation division, attended a well-conducted information session at Wesgrow in Christiana,



Gerhard Posthumus elaborated on some of the cultivars believed to perform well in the future.

North West, where several topics were covered, including:

- The seed certification process.
- Understanding the different seed generations.
- What to look for when planting potatoes for seed production.
- The requirements of becoming a seed farmer.
- Recommended seed storage.
- A tour of the seed production site.

Upon arrival, the group visited Rascal Seed Research Laboratories which specialises in the production of potato mini tubers. Due to Covid-19 regulations and the strict hygienic standards maintained, producers were not able to visit the greenhouses, but viewed the operations on a pre-recorded video.

The visit to the laboratory provided valuable information. Here, producers learned that mini-tuber production is conducted in insect-proof greenhouses, under the strict regulations of the Seed Potato Certification Scheme.

The greenhouses are climate controlled, making it possible to produce mini tubers all year round and to cater for all the different production regions.

The new varieties are occasionally tested through the trials conducted by PSA in different regions.

First-hand experience

The day included a visit to the Wesgrow trial where Gerhard Posthumus guided producers through the various trials to inspect the performance of the different cultivars. He elaborated on trends they were observing and the cultivars they believe will perform well in future.

The producers also visited two seed farms to observe operations from when seed is brought from the field and taken to the packhouse.

They were given first-hand insight into the grading of seed and the quality control process. The seed farm visits generated great interest from the producers.

The visit concluded with a discussion at the Wesgrow headquarters where producers enjoyed an interactive session with WesGrow officials. Producers mainly enquired about the following:

- The best time to order seed so that it arrives when needed.
- Why seed is occasionally too fresh and has to seat long before planting.
- Whether seed of a specific origin can be ordered.
- The difference in pricing for the different generations.

The visit proved to be very informative for all the producers who attended. PSA hopes that this collaboration with seed suppliers will continue in the future, to provide valuable information in understanding the seed side of potato production. 🌱

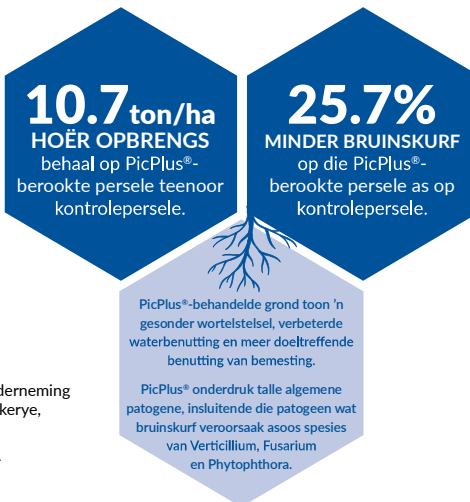
For more information, contact Nomvula Xaba at nomvula@potatoes.co.za.

Bruinskurf- en opbrengsprobleme?

Die aanwending van PicPlus® in die beheer van bruinskurf verhoog nie net die produksie-uitset en winspotensiaal vir boere nie – dit verbeter ook grondgesondheid. PicPlus® het sy waarde bewys in 'n onlangse berokingsproef* waartydens die gebruik van die produk tot 'n beduidende vermindering in bruinskurf en hoër totale opbrengs gelei het, met hoër algehele winste tot gevolg!



In teenstelling met die algemene opvatting, steriliseer beroking met Chloropicrin nie die grond nie - aanvullend tot hul swam- en aalwurmdodende aksie, is ons behandelings ontwerp om die produksie van voordelige mikroörganismes in die grond te stimuleer.



*Aartappelberokingsproef met PicPlus® (Chloropicrin)

Produsent X - Berook 6,5 ha en kontrole 6,5 ha
Berokingsdatum: 21 Oktober 2019
Plantdatum: 11 November 2019
Oesdatum: 30 Maart 2020
Kultivar: Lanorma
Patogeen: Bruinskurf

Draslovka Services RSA

'n DAFF-geakkrediteerde en gelisensieerde grondberokingsonderneming wat in grondberoking vir vrugte-, groente- en bessieplase, kwekerie, gholfbane, sportterreine en meer spesialiseer.

Die eerste grondberokingsonderneming wat 'n lid van SAPCA (South African Pests Control Association) geword het.

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