

InnoVation SYMPOSIUM

Evolve | Innovate | Enable

23 & 24
July 2025

VENUE: CSIR - Pretoria

Bookings now open for the
Innovation Symposium!

The Symposium will explore
the next chapter of South
Africa's potato industry.

Let us explore exciting research and ideas to
evolve, innovate, and enable the industry's
growth - building on strengths of the past,
with new insights and a renewed sense of
purpose for the future.

Accommodation:

We've secured special reduced rates for
The Potatoes SA Innovation Symposium at
the venues below:

City Lodge Lynnwood: 012 471 0300
Town Lodge Menlo Park: 012 348 2711

Please quote Potatoes SA when making your
reservation. For enquiries, please contact
lethea@first-choice.co.za or download our
App from the QR code to register!



JOHN DEERE



UPL



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www.potatoes.co.za

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PROGRAMME Day 1: 23 July 2025

SESSION 1: EVOLVE - Potatoes and its role in evolving the future of South African Agriculture

Welcome
Potato Certification 30 Years
Evolve, Innovate and Adapt
Innovation in South African Agriculture
Bio Innovation and TIA
Tea Break

SESSION 2: EVOLVE - Potatoes value creation

Overview of potato waste in South Africa
Extracting the goodness from potatoes
Potatoes, bugs and chicken feed
Some magic potato innovations
Potato evolution as a food
Lunch

SESSION 3: ENABLE - Potato evolution as a food

Biosecurity: Lessons from other industries
Pepper Ringspot Virus: Lessons learnt
Using data to model cultivar selection
Evolving diseases
Intelligent potato management
Cropping systems and crop health
Recap
Tea Break

SESSION 4: INNOVATE - Innovation in infrastructure

Lessons from water scarce countries
Irrigation scheduling
Impact of cultivation on soil health
Innovations in agronomy: Panel discussion
John Deere Introduction
John Deere Network Evening



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PROGRAMME Day 2: 24 July 2025

SESSION 5: INNOVATE - Measurement of the Biome

What can we measure?
Biological improvement in rotation systems
Nematodes and soil health dynamics
Soilborne diseases and soil health dynamics
Soil physical improvement in rotation systems
Improving the Potato Biome
Tea Break

SESSION 6: EVOLVE - Affordability & Quality

Nutrition and quality
Economy of potatoes
Crop health and the interaction between nutrition and environment
Quality is determined in the field
Working towards quality and affordability with the new rules of engagement
Lunch

SESSION 7: ENABLE - Enabling the Future of Farming

Crop protection vs crop health
Smart Spud
Regulatory environment
Take home lessons
Enabling the future of potatoes
Tea Break

SESSION 8: Potato Industry Forum

The role of the Potato Industry Forum (PIF)
PIF Financial Report
Potato outlook
Market & research overview
Transformation as a vehicle to introduce innovation
General
Carbon farming
Conclusion
UPL Evening



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