



# Emerging Farmers and Agro Processing Conference 2020

26<sup>th</sup> ~ 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Protea Hotel, Fire & Ice, Menlyn, Pretoria

## Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on the Development in food technology and processing units in food industry

The agriculture sector in South Africa is experiencing rapid changes driven by new technologies, and providing very promising forecasts for the future as it will enable this primary sector to move to the next level of farm productivity and profitability in fact the future is already here

With the recent Developments in managing the pandemic, Agriculture is facing many pressures and issues from climate change, increasing population, over development and for the South African farming Industry the unknown changes the 4IR transformation will bring. Managing these changes needs to be well planned for given that they affect issues of food security and agriculture (crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and Hydroponics/aquaculture) structure.

Empire Conferencing agriculture events connect key agricultural professionals –ranging from small farmers to large scale farming enterprises – to industry experts, leading global equipment and machinery suppliers, seed and agrochemical producers, irrigation and water management specialists, as well as financial institutions and insurance providers, as well as key government and union officials. The renowned Agro Smart Conference is focused on improved Agri -transformation, sustainability and decisive utilisation of tried strategies to adapt to the recent changes with minimum impact on food security and agriculture growth is essential, critical resources need to be carefully managed and monitored and ecosystems need to be supported to permit a continued sustainable future.

The South African Smart Agri-food sector has a number of competitive advantages, making it both an important trading partner and a viable investment destination. A world-class infrastructure, counter-seasonality to Europe, vast biodiversity and marine resources, and competitive input costs, make the country a major player in the world's markets.

This exciting programme emphasizes on trends and developments in the various topics related to Agro Food Engineering, Food Technology, Food Industry, Precision Agriculture, and combines different areas, stimulating the exchange of ideas and enabling participants to grasp the latest developments and ideas in different areas of Food Technology and Agro processing. It will serve as a great platform to improve your knowledge and skills in this field through the various research experience and presentations.

## Speakers:

	<b>Christo Van Reeder</b> Deputy Executive Director, AgriSA, South Africa		<b>Dr. Mary-Jane Thaela Chimuka</b> Manager Animal Production Institute Pretoria		<b>Arie van Ravenswaay</b> Assistant Director Innovation		<b>Dr Wilma Van Staden</b> Post Doc Research Associate, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University in South Africa
	<b>Marius Jacobs</b> CEO, Agriverge, South Africa		<b>Theminkosi Semwayo</b> Senior Consultant, Ontolligent		<b>Venky Ramachandran</b> Principal, Gigyasa Consulting		<b>Henk van Stande</b> Principal Technical Manager, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
	<b>Shingie Dube</b> Economist, Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development, SA		<b>Stephanie Van der Walt</b> General Manager, Fruit Industry Desk, Agricultural Business Chamber Agbiz		<b>Simba Chimhandamba</b> Managing Director Urban Grown		<b>Nonny Chimhandamba</b> Managing Director Urban Grown
	<b>Gcina P. Dlamini</b> Director, STIN		<b>Petunia Setumo</b> Industry Affairs Manager, Fruit South Africa		<b>Alec Azar</b> General Manager, Agricultural technical Support, Landbank		

## Speakers from



Kindly find the attached COVID19 protocol in the link down below

<https://clean.marriott.com/>

# Who should attend?

- Directors
- Managers
- Field Officers
- Farmers Organisations and Unions
- Heads of Retail Finance
- Agribusiness Professionals
- Agricultural Researchers
- Policy Makers
- Brand Managers
- Researchers
- Academia
- Farming cooperatives members
- Directors and Managers of Agricultural Produce Retailing
- Private Sector Value Chain or Multi Stakeholder Associations
- Farming Implements Manufacturers
- Agricultural and Economic Analysts
- Rural Development Officials
- Young Farmers and Entrepreneurs

Dear delegate

Agro-processing is one of the key industries within the Agricultural Sector, spanning the processing of Vegetables, Freshwater Aquaculture and Mariculture, Exotic and Indigenous Meat, nuts, herbs and fruit. It also involves the production and export of deciduous fruit and wine; confectionary manufacturing and export; and the processing of natural fibres from cotton, hemp, sisal, kenaf, pineapple and so on. Below is what the DTI has coined on the importance of Agro processing.

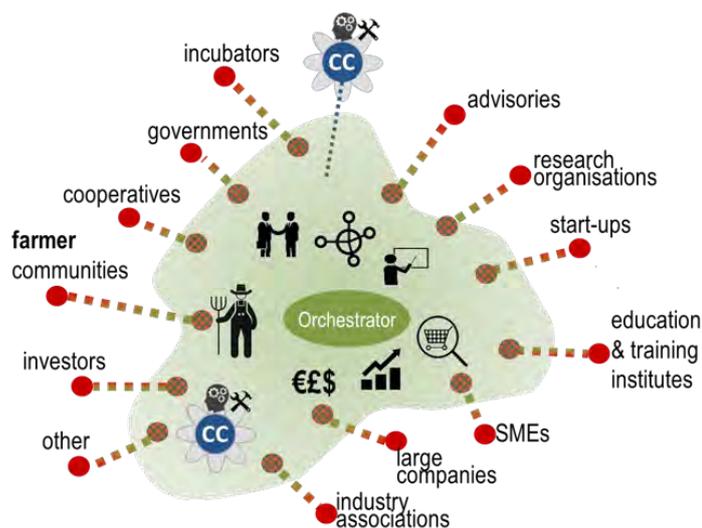
"South Africa's agro-processing sector has the potential to become an industrial impetus that can create jobs and answer some of the country's macro-economic questions, such as trade deficit generated by too many imports against low export volumes."

SMART Agro Processing Africa will not only offer participants a unique opportunity to head start their agro-business agenda but also provide a platform to grasp the potential of newly available technology and products with live site tours and farm adventures. It will also look into funding, empowerment and the future of agro processing in Africa.

Come, join us and meet our well-known researchers and delegates as they share their innovative research and vast experience through their fabulous presentations from top notch speakers from the African continent.

Kind regards

*Empire Training*



## Highlights

- Government incentives and initiatives in South Africa
- Case Studies and Success Stories
- Latest Agro Tech developments
- Rural Farmers Development
- African Agro Initiatives and bringing the youth on board
- Funding

## Tracks

- **Agri-food Precision Agriculture** Technology
- **Emerging Farmers** and youth inclusion
- **Agri Farming support** including Extension workers
- **Financing of Agricultural** Farm work in a changing Environment

## WHY AGROPROCESSING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

### Handling Agro-Processing as a critical Part of the Agricultural Value Chain

Just as a clogged water pipe impedes the free flow of water and applies pressure backwards in the pipe, the absence of agro-processing in agricultural value chains retards the flow of value in the agricultural economy. Home grown produce is sold with limited value addition and retailers stock imported processed products because local processing is either absent or sub-par. Supply side limitations also exist as rational farmers tend to produce what they believe they can sell and may have no incentive to increase production without added demand from the agro-processing sector.

### Developing Agro-Processing to Promote inclusive growth

CREATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH Nonfarm industries, such as trading, transport, and agro-processing, "contribute at least as much as growth in agriculture toward reducing poverty" because the investment in agro-processing produces a significant multiplier effect along the supply chain. The investment generates demand for packaging, transportation, and agricultural products, which in turn generates demand for associated agricultural inputs (such as fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, farm equipment, and so on). In turn, this creates employment along the entire value chain, both on and off the farm. Research indicates that for every job created in processing, an additional 2.8 jobs are created in the economy. As women often dominate employment in agro-processing, accelerating this sector can significantly impact women's economic empowerment. In Senegal, women constitute about 80 percent of the workers involved in agro-processing activities.

### Managing your Agro-Processing to Reduce Postharvest Losses

A growing agro-processing industry can greatly reduce post-harvest losses by transforming perishable produce into more shelf stable differentiated products. Farmers often lose between 20 and 80 percent of their yields post-harvest. Demand from agro-processors would offer a ready market—and thus income—for these yields that would otherwise go to waste.

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## Day one - 26th November 2020

**08:00-08:20** Conference Organisers remarks

Meet and greet session

Welcome of delegates and Introduction

Meet and greet session Traditional Vs Technology

**08:20 -08:30** Address: Smart Agro is helping promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all in South Africa

**08:30 -09:15** Keynote address: Harvesting the Huge potential' in SA's agro-processing industry Post Covid Era

**Mr. Christo Van Reeder, Deputy Executive Director, AgriSA, South Africa**

*Christo van der Rhee is a former teacher and school principal and has vast experience in the following spheres of training and policy development: Basic Education, Small Business Development and Agricultural Development. He holds a Higher Diploma in Teaching, BA Degree (UWC), Senior Management Development Programme (USB), BAHons in Public and Development Management (US) and a MPA (US). He is currently responsible for Agri SA's agricultural transformation programme, national drought relief programme, Agri-Phakisa programme, Agri-BEE programme and other agri-development programmes. He also served as chairperson of the AgriSeta. Currently he serves on the AgriSeta Board as well as the National Human Resources Council.*

**09:15-10:00** Keynote: The impact of Covid on agriculture and food security:

Transitioning to E-Learning to capacitate Agricultural Extension Officers for Sustainable Agriculture as 4IR closes

**Dr Wilma Van Staden, Post Doc Research Associate, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University in South Africa**

*Dr. Wilma van Staden is a Research Associate at the Environmental Learning Research Centre at Rhodes University. She has a PhD in Environmental Education and a MSc in Environmental Management focused ecology. Her passion is Sustainable Agricultural development and food security projects aligned with smart innovations within the agricultural learning system. She is also an E-Learning and Online Course Developer specialising in Sustainable Development. She has designed and developed Online Courses for Agricultural Trainers and Trainers of Educators. Her focus is Informative Learning through technology towards sustainable learning.*

**10:00-10:15** Break

**10:15 -11:00** Sustainable Agroprocessing Work Continuous Improvement and Innovation (CI & I) for Agricultural Extension Officers

**Dr. Mary -Jane Thaela Chimuka, Senior Researcher Aquaculture Unit, Animal Production, Agricultural Research Council**

*Dr. Mary Jane -Thaelo Chimuka is the founder of an aquaculture programme at Agricultural Research Council (ARC). She is managing the aquaculture unit based at the Animal Production Institute in Pretoria. In her 19 years' experience and expertise in Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Programme for farmers in South Africa, she has been involved in Mentorship, Development and Technology transfer programmes, project planning, management and implementation, community mobilization, identification and evaluation of opportunities, liaison with local government and community structures with regard to site selection and identification of small-scale farmers, development of least cost feed formulation and production systems for application by small-farmers, supply of fingerlings feeds and equipment, provision of extension and support services, provision of training courses and material for small-scale farmers, co-ordination of marketing amongst small-scale farmers..*

**11:00-11:30** Technology: Govt

**Arie van Ravenswaay, Assistant Director: Innovation**

*Digital technology opens vast untapped potential for farmers, investors, and entrepreneurs to improve efficiency of food production and consumption in Africa. From precision farming to an efficient food supply chain, technology could bring major economic, social, and environmental benefits. Indeed, the sheer optimism across the start-up ecosystem is that extreme hunger can be cured in Africa, in this generation, by significantly transforming the industry that employs most of its citizens.*

Panel on AgroProcessing

Part 1

**11:30-12:15** Digitisation of Farming Operations – FarmTech vs Operations Tech

**Mr. Marius Jacobs, CEO, Agriverge, South Africa**

*Marius Jacobs is the CEO of AGRIVERGE that provides technology solutions that help you manage your Farm Operations. The organisation also offers BCS Connect which focuses on Satellite Connectivity and Agri Operations IoT Technology. They have a National footprint of Channel partners with field service capability.*

**12:15-13:00** How is Digital and Data Science Transforming Agriculture and What does this Mean for the Farmer Today? What is The Art of the Possible?

**Theminkosi Semwayo, CEO, Ontelligent**

*Theminkosi holds a Bachelors degree in Economics & Geography, and a Master of Science degree in Geographic Information Systems. He is a PhD candidate carrying out research in knowledge and innovation engineering. This background accords him the necessary skills to participate comfortably in a wide range of interdisciplinary projects. He has used these skills to add value to various interdisciplinary innovation programmes. His working career to date has seen him participating in national and global development projects, covering aspects of strategy design, spatial analysis and planning using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing. He has also participated in one global GIS based environmental management project covering four continents. In using Systems thinking, fore sighting, GIS, and Innovation Systems development techniques, he has utilized facilitated*

Part 2

Panel opened for Questions and Answers

**13:00-14:00** Networking Over Lunch

**14:00-14:45** Technology in Agro 4.0 will take care of farmer's welfare

**Venky Ramachandran, Principal, Gigyasa Consulting**

*Venky Ramachandran offers consulting services in four broad domains: 1) Agritech: Helping agritech founders build better platforms to solve challenging problems in agriculture. He also assists in Product Management by Helping product founders shape products better and make faster progress.*

**14:45-15:30** Developments in Aquaponics as a Technology for Precision Agriculture

**Mr. Henk van Stander, Principal Technical Manager, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa**

*Henk Stander is currently the Principal Technical Manager from the Aquaculture Division within the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Stellenbosch. Henk has been working at the Aquaculture Division for the past 22 years and he generated a lot of valuable experience in different fields on Aquaculture over the years. He holds a Master's degree in Animal Production (MPhil) Aquaculture. He has also followed several International Aquaculture Training courses over the years*

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# AGENDA

in countries like the USA, China, Switzerland, Ghana, Kenya and the Philippines. Henk is the current Vice-Chairman of the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa and a member of the Steering Committee for the African Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society.

**15:30-16:15** The Technological Developments in Fruit Processing

**Mrs. Shingie Dube, Economist, Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development, South Africa**

Shingi is an experienced Economist with working experience in the Agricultural and research industry. She is skilled in data analysis, coordinating and managing research projects in agriculture and agro-processing in South Africa and the Southern African region. She has a Master of Philosophy in Economics from University of Oslo (UiO).

**16:15-16:30** Summary of conference

**16:30** and End of day one

## Day 2 - 27th November 2020

**08:00-08:30** Registrations Conference Organisers remarks  
Meet and greet session

**08:30-09:00** Recap and summary of Day 1

**09:00-09:45** Agriculture 4.0 the future of Farming Technology  
**Andreas Boon, Crop Protection Development Lead, Syngenta**

**09:45- 10:15** Key note address: Dealing with Increased regulation of agro-food system: policy uncertainty

Climate change, water availability and droughts

**Stephanie Van der Walt, General Manager, Fruit Industry Desk, Agricultural Business Chamber Agbiz**

Stephanie has extensive experience in offering Legal Services Management as well as overseeing legislative compliance, corporate governance and legal advice pertaining to agricultural export promotion, value chain efficiency, equitable market access and sustainability of the agricultural sector, both domestically and abroad.

She is currently Manager of the Fruit Industry Desk serves the interests of South Africa's fruit exporting sector through strategic engagement with government departments and cooperation with key role-players in the agribusiness as well as wider private sector.

**10:15-10:30** Networking over Midmorning Tea  
Emerging Farmers panel

**10:30-11:15** Case study: Finding your niche from Urban Grown perspective-Start-Up Agro-Processors

**Nonny and Simba Chimhandamba, Managing Director, Urban Grown**

Urban Grown Based in Diepsloot and Pretoria Rural, who are dedicated to growing the best fresh produce in the city using both tunnel farming and open land farming, we have since expanded onto a larger scale on our owned 23Ha Farm (open-field) . We also have an Agro-processing arm, which processes fruit and vegetable produce into numerous value-added and convenient lines for retail and hospitality. We currently supply the City Lodge Hotel Group ,Pick n Pay DC ,In2Foods DC, Food Lovers Markets DC and Bidfood DC.

**11:15 -12:00** Challenges Facing Start-Up Agro-Processors  
**Gcina P. Dlamini, Director, STIN**

Finance PANEL DISCUSSION  
Investor Panel Discussion :

**12:00 -12:45** Investor Panel: Could COVID-19's Constraints be a hidden opportunity for Investors and Start-Ups?

**Mr. Julius Ramohlabi, Musweli, Manager for Developing Agriculture, Senwes**

**12:45 -13:30** How Agrismart Is Impacting on Investing In Sustainable Agriculture including Sustainable Development goals (SDGS)

**Petunia Setumo, Industry Affairs Manager, Fruit South Africa**

As an Agricultural Economist in a Financial Sector, Petunia is responsible for extensive and intensive research in the general agricultural business environment both globally and on the domestic front. She provides daily market insights on major field crops, livestock and horticultural commodities traded on different platforms. Not only are these insights distributed to clients as a value add, but also feed into credit process to assess Agric clients, in executive meetings and forums for strategic decision making and planning purposes, budget process & feasibility studies to guide the frontline in terms of strategic Agri-subsectors to expose the business to. Her passion lies in research on a broad spectrum of industry affairs and continued pursuit of innovative ways of data interpretation/presentation and use thereof. I hold a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Limpopo and have 8 years' experience in the field. I grew up in Limpopo in a Rural area of Ga-Matlala and that is where my passion for the sector stems from.

**13:30 -14:30** Networking over Lunch

Alec hails from the Free state, Province. He has a combined 28 years of experience in Agriculture Finance ranging from exposure to the various dimensions of Wholesale and Retail Banking. He is currently the General Manager for Agricultural Economics at Land Bank.

**14:30 -15:15** Alec Azar, General Manager, Agricultural technical Support, Landbank  
Discussion includes:

Investor Panel: Could COVID-19's Constraints be a hidden opportunity for Investors and Start-Ups?

- How are investors positioning themselves to brace against a downturn? As the market shifts, what realignment are we likely to see in the funding landscape and how will this impact risk tolerances across different categories of investment?
- What is happening to valuations? Is this part of the general downward trend that the industry has been experiencing and an opportunity for the market to regulate itself? How do you continue to fund companies that have longer development cycles? What belt tightening are we seeing to extend the runway for portfolio companies?

**15:15-15:30** Interaction and Questions

**15:30-16:15** Analysis of the evolution from open-field to protected cultivation to survive the economical restraints caused by the COVID pandemic

- Exploring different Strategies growers can initiate to be better equipped
- Ways utilise precision Ag-tech tools for further improving their profitability in the future
- Examining cost reduction initiatives to best adapt for survival  
Gerhard Smit, Commercial Director, Rijkzwaan

**15:45-16:00** Summary and close of Conference Webinar

**16:00** END OF CONFERENCE WEBINAR

organised by





26th ~ 27th November 2020  
Protea Hotel, Fire & Ice, Menlyn, Pretoria

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### DELEGATE ATTENDANCE FORM

NOTE: Please provide information as you wish it to appear on your name badge and on the official participant database

Title	Delegate Name & Surname	Position	Email	Phone

## FEE/ DELEGATE

Yes. [I / We] will attend the event

Normal Rate:

**R4,999.00** Excluding VAT

Per Delegate

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