

# CLIMATE SMART HORTICULTURE 4.0 & GREENHOUSE TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE + EDU TOUR 2023



## TRENDING

- **Current Status and Future Outlook** of Horticulture in Africa
- **Precise horticulture** - Technological innovation and data are vital in helping the food supply chain adapt to the sustainability challenge, from farm level right through to the consumer. Innovation can help businesses support commitment to net zero; make food production smarter maximise supply chain efficiency - creating a food system that is better for both people and planet
- **Horticulture 4.0 Shaping the Future of Smart Farming** - The use of Robotics and AI for Greenhouse Horticulture
- **Smart Irrigation Practices** for climate change adoption and food security
- **Undercover Horti Farming** - the solution to climate change
- **Africa's next big trend; Floating Solar : The most practical Green Technology**
- **Breeding and genetics** - Tissue Propagation of plants
- **The future of horticulture (4.0)** Sustainable Growing for climate change mitigation Biodiversity, soil and balancing of greenhouse gases  
Plant protection, post-harvest and food processing

## PARTICIPATING COMPANIES



<p><b>DAY 1 &amp; 2</b> 3 - 4 May 2023</p>	<p><b>CONFERENCE</b> Allee Bleue Wine Estate Franshoek, Western Cape</p>	<p>Featuring key experts, case studies and discussions around the challenges of climate change and solutions working towards developing a Smart Horticulture Strategy and Plan.</p>
<p><b>DAY 3</b> 5th MAY 2023</p>	<p><b>PRACTICAL ONSITE TOURS</b></p>	<p><b>THE HORTIDEMOCENTRE AT THE STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY-</b> The tour will showcase some of the latest and only Dutch Agri-Smart Climate technology and Research and Development available within smart greenhouses for profitable farming and sustainability.</p> <p><b>ONE OF THE FIRST! TISSUE CULTURE FACILITY IN BERHEIM PAARL CAPE TOWN -</b> Participants will explore the latest in technology to secure the best possible plant material/rootstocks invested within the industry.</p> <p><b>Afternoon Visit:</b> Growing hemp: SA takes a step closer to commercial cultivation. Bien Donn� Cannabis Research and Training Centre: An Agricultural Research Council (ARC) facility, Bien Donn� is a historic farm in the Drakenstein</p> <p>The visit will focus on the cultivation /farming of hemp for various uses, including food and fibre. Delegates will have the opportunity to see examples of hemp used in construction.</p>

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**  
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## OVERVIEW

**How can we reach enhanced climate resilience considering sunburn and heat damage in fruit and vegetable production within the field of Horticulture and ensure food security?**

The conference on Climate Smart Technologies Conference 4.0 & Edu Tour, aim is to bring together the latest advances in research/technologies on current climate change challenges and other issues in temperate horticulture. The amalgamation of experts and industry leaders that will be joining us, will provide an opportunity for the exchange of information/ideas and stimulate joint research and collaboration for improved horticultural farming practices.

Global warming and climate change is the greatest concern of mankind in the 21st century. The established commercial varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers will perform poorly in an unpredictable manner due to climate change.

Sudden fluctuations in temperature, water scarcity, floods and other natural disasters are further worsening the agriculture sector including horticulture.

Hence there is a need to protect these valuable crops for sustainability, against the climate change scenario. The most effective way is to adopt conservation agriculture, using renewable energy, forest and water conservation, reforestation etc. To sustain the productivity, modification of present horticultural practices and greater use of greenhouse technology are some of the solutions to minimize the effect of climate change.

Development of new cultivars of horticultural crops tolerant to high temperature, resistant to pests and diseases, short duration and producing good yield under stress conditions, as well as adoption of hi-tech horticulture and proper management of natural resources will be the main strategies to meet this challenge

## PANEL INCLUDES:



**Dr Hildegard Witbooi**  
Horticulture Lecturer  
University of Fort Hare



**Jacky Goliath**  
MD De Fynne



**Dr Elrea Strydom**  
Research/Dev Macadamias  
SA (SAMAC)



**Sefton Fripp**  
Fibertex SA



**Chuck Baresich**  
President: Ag-Robotics  
(Canada)



**Dr Ignatious Matimati**  
HOD: Durban University of  
Technology



**Professor C David Rose**  
Sustainable Agricultural  
Systems, Cranfield University



**Natie Ferreira**  
Managing Director Ignited  
Unlimited



**Charmaine Stander**  
Plant Tissue Culture  
Manager-TCF



**Dr Estelle Kempen**  
Lecturer Agronomy  
Stellenbosch University



**Dr Carolyn Howell**  
Senior Researcher: Soil  
&Water Agricultural  
Research Council (ARC)



**Cindy van Rijswijk**  
Expert: Fresh Produce  
Rabobank Research Food &  
Agribusiness (Netherlands)



**Renoir Hindley**  
Researcher University  
of Stellenbosch Water  
Institute



**Paul Kotze**  
Managing Director Solar  
Energy Architects (SEA).

## MEDIA PARTNER

**farmer's weekly**

**F**armer's Weekly is South Africa's leading source of English news and information about the agriculture and agribusiness sectors,

having served the industry for 111 years. Trusted by farmers and agribusiness professionals as a source of advice, inspiration and the latest farming news, Farmer's Weekly has evolved into much more than just an agricultural magazine. The brand has grown to also include some of the most widely read and supported online platforms for agricultural news and information in Africa. Our social media platforms, webpage, podcasts and digital and print magazines cater for established commercial, smallholder and emerging farmers, and focus on helping them achieve their objectives. These multiple platforms serve as a meeting place where Farmer's Weekly and its clients can interact directly with the brand's audience. Farmer's Weekly seeks to inform the wider public about the crucial role that agriculture plays in the African economy, to motivate and inspire farmers and other role players in the agriculture sector, as well as to promote the interests of sustainable food and fibre production

## EXHIBITORS



**Andermatt  
Madumbi**

**A**ndermatt Madumbi aims to change the way food is grown. 'Healthy Food and Healthy Environment, for all' underpins our purpose.

Inspired by the knowledge that 'Nature leads innovation,' Andermatt Madumbi is committed to driving sustainable agriculture for future generations with products that are 'Backed by Science and Loved by Nature.' In our field, the smallest players are the biggest heroes.

As global leaders, our integrated solutions for soil health, plant vitality and biorational pest control, are supported in the field and online through our local team of biological experts.

Andermatt Madumbi are committed to maximising economic returns and environmental sustainability for future focused growers.

Our Root Health and Biostimulant range supports root health and enhanced plant vitality, ensuring the foundation of stronger plants which are naturally more resistant to various pests and diseases.

Our Bio Protect solutions (bioinsecticides and biofungicides) contain biorational active ingredients including fungi, bacteria, baculoviruses and plant extracts.

We support growers in building a better environment for growing healthier food. Join us in leading this change.

**Haygrove**

**H**aygrove brings a grower to grower approach. Our goal is to supply farmers with a cost effective solution to covering large areas with tunnels. Offering outstanding customer service, increased flexibility, and greater value, thus optimizing efficiency.

## TECHNICAL SITE TOUR VISITS INCLUDES:

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT** - into Smart Horticulture in a climate changing era  
**DISCOVER** - Protected horticulture showcasing the best and most cutting-edge in Dutch horticultural technology.

**EXPERIENCE** - Greenhouse technology and high-quality inputs in the South African market

**EXPLORE** - The process of Tissue Culture and how genetic multiplication can provide healthier and quality crops

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Departments of Agriculture
- Horticulturists
- Plant Health and Diagnostics Laboratories Personnel
- Ecologists /Climate change Personnel
- Crops Specialists
- Agronomist
- Researchers
- Extension and Advisory Services
- Suppliers to the Horticulture Sector
- Irrigation Companies
- TVET colleges/Universities
- Plant Scientists
- Farmers
- Educators
- Chemical Companies

## AGENDA:

### DAY 1 - 3 MAY 2023

**08:30-09:00 Registration and Opening Address**

**09:00-09:45 Keynote - Why Horticulture?**

#### Why Now?

- Climate change
- Food security
- Enriching diets
- Medicine and cosmetics imperative

**Presenter:** Dr Hildegard Witbooi Horticulture lecturer: University of Fort Hare

Witbooi is passionate about sustainable, regenerative and organic horticulture. She holds a doctoral degree from Cape Peninsula University of Technology (2020). She has just over a decade of industry experience, mainly as a viticulturist and a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship under the belt at Stellenbosch University.

#### Session: Climate -Resilient Horticulture

**09:45-10:30** "Addressing climate change through Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and improved agronomic practices".

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an integrated approach to managing landscapes—cropland, livestock, forests and fisheries—that addresses the interlinked challenges of food security and accelerating climate change. CSA aims to simultaneously achieve three outcomes:

- Increased productivity: Produce more and better food to improve nutrition security and boost incomes, especially of 75 percent of the world's poor who live in rural areas and mainly rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.
- Enhanced resilience: Reduce vulnerability to drought, pests, diseases and other climate-related risks and shocks; and improve capacity to adapt and grow in the face of longer-term stresses like shortened seasons and erratic weather patterns.
- Reduced emissions: Pursue lower emissions for each calorie or kilo of food produced, avoid deforestation from agriculture and identify ways to absorb carbon out of the atmosphere. While built on existing knowledge, technologies, and principles of sustainable agriculture, CSA is distinct in several ways.

**Presenter:** Renoir Hindley Researcher University of Stellenbosch Water Institute

**10:30-10:45 Coffee/Tea/Networking Break**

#### Session: Women Flower Power

Former Irish president and UN rights commissioner Mary Robinson recently said that climate change is "a man made problem with a feminist solution." The agricultural sector has a unique potential for empowering women and providing diverse opportunities.

**10:45-11:30** Women have an incredible potential for transforming agriculture as we know it, but how can we make sure they are being empowered? Success Story Breaking Barriers and an inspiration to women farmers out there!

#### Working Along the Horticulture Value Chain for Women's Economic Empowerment

*How can we make sure Women in Agriculture are Empowered? There's a tool for that.*

**Presenter:** Jacky Goliath Managing Director De Fynne Nursery

Jacky Goliath started her farm, De Fynne Nursery as a backyard garden in 2001, with only 1000 units of three plant types. Since then her operations have turned into a 22ha premise in Paarl, Western Cape and grows more than 600 000 plants. Since 2008 the nursery has been supplying South African retailer Woolworths with fynbos plants and the farm forms part of the retailer's enterprise development initiative. Over the years, De Fynne Nursery has been supplying more variety of plants to Woolworths, which includes various species of fynbos, Spekboom, fruit trees such as figs and lemons, as well as blueberries and lavender.

### HORTICULTURE 4.0

**11:30-12:15 Smart Irrigation Practices of table grapes under drought conditions**

- Over the past four decades, the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) has focused on developing irrigation strategies for table grapes. As parts of South Africa experiences drought, water resources are extremely limited. Producers will therefore have to use water resources judiciously to produce grapes.
- There are several soil and viticultural management practices that can be applied to vineyards in times of drought.

**Presenter:** Dr Carolyn Howell Senior Researcher: Soil &Water Agricultural Research Council (ARC)

Dr Howell is an experienced Senior Researcher in the Soil and Water Science Division of ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij. She has a PhD Agric. in Soil Science and has published several papers on irrigation of wine and table grapes. Her undergraduate background is in Soil Science, Horticulture and Agricultural Economics. She is currently an assistant editor of the South African Journal of Enology and Viticulture.

**12:15-13:00 Meeting Tomorrow's Horticulture Needs through University Engagement**

**Presenter:** Dr Estelle Kempen Agronomist Stellenbosch University

An agronomist with experience in working in higher education as well as the food retail industry. Estelle has broad experience in managing research projects, working with farmers to obtain and implement appropriate crop production practices and knowledge transfer through lecturing, writing and presenting seminars. Her skills and passion is in soil-less crop production systems and hydroponics, integrated and sustainable farming practices and crop nutrition

**13:00-14:00 LUNCH**

**14:00-14:45 Virtual Session:** Use of Robots and Artificial Intelligence in Greenhouse Horticulture"

Robotics and AI are not panaceas for solving labour shortages or other product-related problems. But in the next decade, robots and crop support software will take over certain tasks in the high-tech greenhouse.

**Presenter:** Cindy van Rijswijk Global Strategist - Fresh Produce, Farm Inputs RaboResearch

Within RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness, Cindy van Rijswijk is the Global Strategist for the fruit, vegetable, and floriculture sectors, as well as Farm Inputs. Cindy has published various reports, presented at several congresses, and is instrumental in providing relevant analyses and views for Rabobank deals.

Before joining Rabobank in 2001, Cindy worked for the Dutch Agricultural Economic Institute and the European Parliament, also as a research analyst in the produce sector. Cindy graduated as an economist at Tilburg University in 1997.

**14:45-15:30 New Technologies advancing the Macadamia Sector**

**Presenter:** Dr Elrea Strydom Research and Development SAMAC

**15:30-15:45 Presentation by Haygrove**

**15:45 -16:30 Responsible development of robotics for horticulture**

**Presenter:** Professor David Rose Sustainable Agricultural Systems, Cranfield University

David is a Rural Geographer and leads the Change in Agriculture Group, which is split between Cranfield (joined May 2022) and Reading for the time being. The group works on aspects of farm extension - engaging, listening, and responding to farmer and other stakeholder views about changes in policy, innovation, or technology. We are interested in how changes in agriculture affect people, production, and the planet with a particular focus on mental health, farmer learning, governance, just transitions, animal welfare, behaviour change, and responsible innovation.

### END OF CONFERENCE DAY 1

### CONFERENCE DAY: 2 - 4 MAY 2023

**Session: Innovate**

**09:00-09:45 History/ overview of the newly established Tissue Culture Facility (TFC) and why the deciduous fruit industry of SA set up such facility**

Tissue culture - also called micropropagation - is a method by which fragments of tissue from a plant are transferred to an artificial sterile environment, on a growth medium in which they can optimally function. Historically, a lot of species aren't able to root and so tissue culture provides a means through the technology of causing them to grow and root, and then they're put back into the real world."

**Presenter:** Charmaine Stander Plant Tissue Culture Manager TCF

Charmaine obtained a MSc (Agric) Genetics at Stellenbosch University in 1999. She joined the Institute for Plant Biotechnology (IPB) in 2001, where she managed the sugarcane transformation platform. During 2007 - 2016 Charmaine was involved with grapevine tissue culture research at the Institute for Wine Biotechnology (IWBT). In 2016 she joined West Cape Biotech Pty (Ltd) as Assistant Tissue Culture Manager where she managed the tissue culture multiplication projects. Currently, Charmaine is part of the managing team at the newly established Plant Tissue Culture Facility (TCF) in Paarl.

**Session: Artificial Intelligence and Robotics:**

Weeding and harvesting robots for Sustainable and Affordable Horticulture

Discover the latest precision farming and ICT-based technologies in this session.

Find out the possibilities opening a more environmentally friendly horticulture paradigm, allowing to grow healthier crops with higher yields, producing the freshest products in a more sustainable, local, and affordable way, while encouraging young generations to engage in new agricultural practices around the world.

#### 09:45-10:15 Hemp farming as climate change response

- Introduction to hemp: History of hemp as an agricultural crop. Hemp's use in textiles, construction, food and medicine. Update on hemp farming in South Africa and market potential.
- Hemp and the climate: Hemp is a low input crop. Pest and disease resistance. Versatility.
- Hemp and carbon sequestration: Hemp for carbon removal and sequestering. Biochar. Carbon credits. Hemp to replace carbon intensive inputs in plastics, concrete and food. Use of hemp based material in horticulture i.e. geotextiles and netting and plant containers. Hemp and soil health: Hemp's use in soil remediation and conditioning. Cover cropping and green manure. Hemp in rotation.
- Hemp and water: Hemp as a water smart crop. Use of hemp in erosion control.
- High tech cultivation of hemp: Vertical farming? Controlled environment farming. Hemp on Mars? Utilising waste streams to cultivate for industrial needs. Precision farming. Advances in genetics.
- Hemp policies and regulations: Brief overview of situation in South Africa and elsewhere.
- Case studies and some successes
- The future: Advances in hemp related technologies

**Presenter:** Natie Ferreira Managing Director Ignited Unlimited

Natie has been gardening and growing food his whole life, with a career that has spanned the horticulture, landscaping and agriculture industries since 2000. His interest fields have led him down the paths of biohacking, healthy living, biodynamics, permaculture, and more specifically Cannabis in all its forms.

Recognised as an industry leader, Natie presents advanced and commercial grow courses with Cheeba Cannabis Academy, runs his own nursery providing Cannabis plants to growers, and has several other Cannabis business interests that includes a Hemp research and training facility, an analytical laboratory and an extensive consultancy reach across the Cannabis sector.

His exposure to advanced technologies in using hemp in soil remediation and mine waste rehabilitation as well as the further beneficiation of hemp by-products and waste streams makes for interesting conversations."

#### 10:15-10:30 Floating Solar: The most practical Green Technology

**Presenter:** Paul Kotze Managing Director Solar Energy Architects (SEA).

Paul is a founding member and managing director of Solar Energy Architects (SEA).

He has organically grown SEA into reputable solar energy projects developer and energy services provider.

SEA values impeccable professional engineering, the flawless execution of projects and the assembly of the right people for the project, to the small and medium enterprise customer base.

Paul holds a national higher diploma in mechanical engineering.

#### 10:15-10:30 Coffee/Tea/Networking Break

#### 10:30-11:15 Plant Nutrition and Water Efficiency Technology for Smart Greenhouse Horticulture

**Presenter:** Dr Ignatious Matimati HOD: Durban University of Technology

Ignatious journey in plant sciences began at University of Zimbabwe with a BSc Hons in Crop Science (1999), majoring in horticultural science, and then a part-time MPhil Agriculture (2006). He joined the Horticulture Research Centre as a research officer and then Midlands State University as a horticulture lecturer. Between 2007 and 2009, Biodiversity Transect Africa (BIOTA) funded his internship in the Climate Change & Bio-Adaptation Division at SANBI's Kirstenbosch Research Centre

**11:15-12:45 Virtual Session:** The robots are here, and ready to weed your field.

Robotics has started revolutionizing even the toughest jobs like weed control. Horticulture crops are first, but row crop robots are coming too.

**Presenter:** Chuck Baresich President, Haggerty AgRobotics Company

Chuck Baresich is the President and Founder of Haggerty AgRobotics Company, as well as the General Manager of Haggerty Creek Ltd., Chuck and his wife Heather farm in Southwestern Ontario, along with his brother Justin. They have been involved in precision agriculture since 2004. Chuck is a graduate of the University of Guelph in Ag Business

#### 13:00-14:00 LUNCH

#### 14:00-14:45 Alternative Agriculture

**Presenter:** Sefton Fripp Fibertex SA

Sefton has over 20 years of work experience in textile technology, with a particular focus on innovation processes and procedures, as well as marketing and technical sales support.

## TOUR ITERINARY | 5 MAY 2023

#### 09:00-11:30 Tour of the HortidemoCentre (Stellenbosch University)

The HortiDemoCentre is a 3000 m<sup>2</sup> multi-span greenhouse, designed to maximise airflow and light penetrations to optimise the climate or a range of hydroponically grown crops. It is unique tailor-made structure that is a combination of South African and Dutch technology that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

The Centre specialise in protected crop production and showcase the best and most cutting-edge in Dutch horticultural technology and implement innovative Dutch technologies for profitable, productive, sustainable and climate smart agronomy, while also offering training to students and emerging farmers.

In particular, the Centre focuses on training, skills and knowledge exchange on good farming practices and entrepreneurship; developing new markets for sustainable agriculture and technologies such as on water efficiency, climate resistant inputs, biological pest management, post-harvest inspection and certification; showcasing of technologies, involving investors, and creating a different mindset towards technologies by linking them to the sustainable farming aspects that are needed for future farming; and, contribute to food security by increasing the local production and availability of quality food products that are nutritious and safe and allow access to premium markets.

The HortiDemoCentre also offer a potential site for independent trials for the commercial vegetable sector. It can generate local and nonpartisan data on cropping systems in collaboration with commercial companies through being administered by Stellenbosch University.

**Tour Director:** Dr Estelle Kempen Stellenbosch University

#### Learner Outcomes:

- Climate and Smart Farming Techniques
- Latest Greenhouse Farming Technologies
- Strategies for Enhanced Crop Production
- Sustainable Agriculture and Technologies such as on Water efficiency, Climate-resistant inputs, Biological Pest management, Post-harvest Inspection, and Certification.
- Empowering Young Entrepreneurs and Students in the Horti sector through Training and Development

#### 11:30-13:00 Depart to Western Cape's First Tissue Culture Facility Bernheim In Paarl

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture has allocated a once-off contribution of R10 million towards the infrastructure and key equipment required for a quarantine accredited Tissue Culture Facility (TCF) which will improve the competitiveness of the Horti sector and its ability to penetrate global markets.

The TCF will create the opportunity to multiply and provide quarantine compliant plant material to local industry and for neighbouring states which will also create a gateway to Southern African Development Communities (SADC). This will further enhance the Western Cape's standing as a key player in internationally accredited plant material trade and development.

To achieve the target of creating new plants with desired characteristics, these plant tissue culture techniques will ensure improved crop yield and quality.

Tissue culture is a very rapid plant multiplication technique. Thousands of plantlets can be produced from a small amount of plant tissue within a few weeks and new sought-after cultivars can be supplied to existing and newly accessed markets.

Given the realities of climate change, this will ensure the ability to rapidly multiply climate-adapted and drought-resistant cultivars and rootstocks, thereby improving the industry's ability to compete and supply the international trade, including sub-Saharan Africa.

The new plants produced by tissue culture are disease and virus-free, therefore optimising production of cultivars which satisfies quarantine concerns of the international trade.

The new production facility will ultimately have the ability to produce 3 million plants annually and will create 30 permanent jobs.

This is a sterling example of creativity and innovation in our agricultural sector despite the challenges at hand.

**Tour Director:** Leander Gagiano TCF

#### Learning Outcomes:

- Benefits of Tissue Culture in Horticulture and Access to Global Markets
- Greenhouse Tunnelling and Technology
- Hardening off and Outgrowth of In Vitro Plantlets
- Latest technology and the Process of Cloning Rootstocks for Horticulture

#### 13:00-14:00 LUNCH

#### 14:00-15:00 Depart to Bien Donn  Cannabis Research and Training Centre: An Agricultural Research Council (ARC) facility Paarl

**Afternoon Visit: Growing hemp:** SA takes a step closer to commercial cultivation.

Bien Donn  Cannabis Research and Training Centre: An Agricultural Research Council (ARC) facility, Bien Donn  is a historic farm in the Drakenstein

The visit will focus on the cultivation /farming of hemp for various uses, including food and fibre.

Delegates will have the opportunity to see examples of hemp used in construction.

END OF TOUR



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3rd, 4th & 5th MAY 2023 • ALLEE BLEUE WINE ESTATE | FRANSHOEK, WESTERN CAPE

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