



2017/2018 POTATO INDUSTRY REPORT

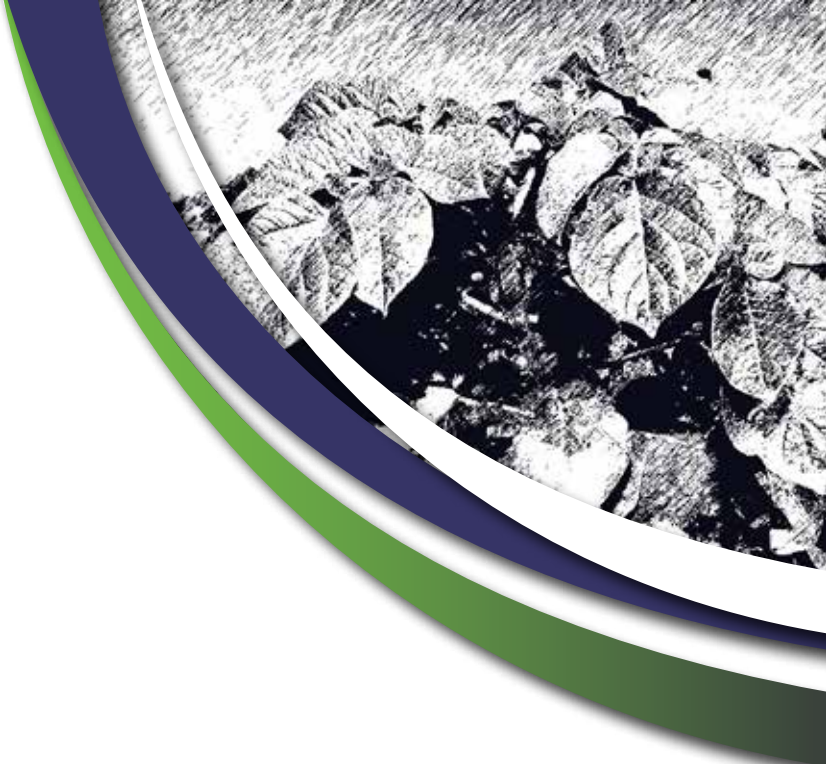


Potato Certification Service

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VISION

Potato Certification Service's vision is to play a leadership role in the pursuit of a sustained supply of healthy planting material for the South African potato industry.

MISSION

Potato Certification Service's mission is to be an industry-related service, which supports the South African potato industry to perform optimally by ensuring the availability of high-quality planting material.

VALUES

Potato Certification Service strives towards excellence by living the following values:

- Client trust and satisfaction
- Effective utilisation of resources
- Equal opportunities
- Performance orientation



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT



GERHARD POSTHUMUS

CHAIRPERSON

Potato Certification Service (PCS), as well as the seed potato industry, had to overcome quite a number of challenges this year, but also had some highlights. We saw the implementation of the new industry structures after a lot of time and effort were spent to develop efficient and cost-effective structures and systems.

It is still early days, but the new structures seem to be working well, especially where production areas which previously met separately, are now grouped together in the bigger seed production regions. Growers from different production regions and various other role players must now collaborate to escalate matters of mutual interest to the national structures or bodies in the industry. For these structures to function optimally to serve the potato industry, the active participation of seed potato growers and all other role players is crucial. The respective chairpersons must each present mandated requests to the national structures and provide feedback to their constituencies. The growers are therefore urged to attend the various platforms created in the industry to address matters of concern and to get the latest information available.

As the various platforms function, the structures, processes and communication will be streamlined to continuously improve the communication in the industry. The new-look PCS Board of Directors now consists of only five directors instead of ten previously. The functioning of the new Board will be evaluated to determine the best way forward to look after the company's and growers' interests.

Challenges in certification included the amendment of the Scheme with regards to the treatment of seed potatoes, the worst PLRV infections in years, chemical damage and varietal mixes detected. These challenges are difficult to address but if one knows what the risks are, it can be done.

The financial position of the company is healthy, since 732 hectares more than budgeted for were registered. A total of 10 995 hectares were registered under the Scheme. The loan levies are being paid back to seed potato producers and growers who have not been reached are welcome to contact the PCS Head Office in this regard.

This year again, the company lost valuable certification officials, which placed service delivery under strain. However, dedicated certification officials managed to deliver the services with the necessary support from the administrative staff. The growers are assured that the newly appointed staff will be given the best possible training and exposure to have them fully equipped and authorized as soon as possible.

I thank my fellow directors for their passion for the potato industry and looking after the company's affairs so diligently and especially for Sanette Thiant for her commitment and professional manner in which she manages PCS. It is much appreciated. I would also like to thank the new Independent Certification Council of Seed Potatoes (ICCSP) Chair, Adv. Les Kügel, for his inputs to ensure that the ICCSP's service provider has the means to deliver the certification service. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Keetch, outgoing ICCSP Chair, for his many years of dedication to the seed potato industry.

Seed potato growers are encouraged to keep on producing seed potatoes despite the challenges. Ensuring a constant supply of healthy plant material is the foundation of the potato industry.

Kind regards

G. POSTHUMUS
CHAIRPERSON



MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT



SANETTE THIART

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Potato Certification Service (PCS) continues to provide the potato industry with a sustained supply of healthy planting material despite quite some challenges experienced in the year under review.

The newly composed structures impacted significantly on the structure of PCS's Board of Directors as well as the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP). The new structures have met twice, and the benefits can already be seen, although there are some teething problems that will be addressed as we find our feet.

THE COMPANY: POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE

PCS is responsible for the certification of seed potatoes, auditing of tissue culture and mini tuber production facilities, as well as dissemination of information based on data generated by the certification scheme.

In terms of B-BBEE, PCS has been verified as a Level 8 Contributor with a B-BBEE procurement recognition level of 10%.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors now consists of only 5 directors compared to ten in the past. The four Regional Chairpersons of the Seed Potato Growers serve as non-executive directors and contribute to raise transparency, trust and buy-in and they serve as ambassadors for certified potato seed. Directors are now appointed for a two-year term in line with the election of the chairmen of the regions at the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.

Mr. Gerhard Posthumus was appointed Chairman of the Board with Mr. Jakkie Mellet as Vice-Chairman. The Chair of the Board is elected from the Chair or Vice-Chair of the National Seed Potato Committee and serves as Vice-Chair of the ICCSP, as well as director on the Potatoes South Africa (PSA) Board of Directors representing the seed potato

growers. The Chair of the ICCSP attend the meetings of the PCS Board of Directors as observer to ensure that its service provider has the financial means and competent staff to fulfil its role and that the budget makes provision for all the requirements of the ICCSP.

The Executive Committee consists of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Managing Director. The smaller Board of Directors places a heavy burden on the directors, but they are doing an excellent job looking after the company's affairs. Their dedication of time and expertise to this company is admirable.

Clients of the company

The seed potato growers are the clients of the Company. The active seed growers, in other words, all the growers who have for the past 4 years registered plantings for the certification of seed potatoes under the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme (Scheme), are currently 157 active seed growers, of which 125 have registered plantings in the past year. During the same period, three new growers joined the seed potato industry.

Potato house

PCS has a 26% share in Potato House and Potatoes South Africa (PSA) has a 74% share. The building was originally purchased for an amount of R4 124 243 to which PCS contributed a loan to the value of R1 072 303. Potatoes South Africa is thanked for their role in the maintenance of this asset. Mr. Jakkie Mellet, PCS Vice-Chair, serves as director looking after PCS's interest.

Staff

PCS had four resignations in the past year. Gareth Windt, certification official in Pietermaritzburg, resigned and joined Simba. Fortunately, the skills and expertise will not be lost for the potato industry. Because of Gareth's resignation, Leon Zietsman was transferred to Pietermaritzburg. Leonard van der Walt and Michael Schulze were appointed as trainee certification officials in Christiana in August 2017, with David Steyn in January 2018 also in Christiana.

The resignations of two regional managers, namely Gideon Truter and Albert Theron, in April and May 2018 respectively, dealt PCS a huge blow. Both these two gentlemen have left the potato industry but are still engaged in agriculture. We wish them all the best with their new careers. Marlé Theron, administrative assistant in Middelburg has also resigned. Johandré Breitenbach was promoted to Regional Manager for Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Gauteng and was transferred to Lydenburg, with his wife Elisca, appointed on a part-time basis to assist with the administration in the office. I am sure they will make a big difference in the region. Subsequently Phillip Buckle and Ngwedi Legodu have been appointed as trainee certification officials in Christiana in May and June 2018 respectively. All the newly appointed certification officials have been employed previously and I am confident that they will quickly get to grips with certification. Ngwedi is the first female certification official appointed by PCS and we wish her all the best with the particular challenges she might experience. During the reporting year, Pieter Leibbrandt and Johan Germishuys fully qualified on all aspects of certification. Leon Zietsman, Leonard van der Walt, Michael Schulze and David Steyn are making good progress with their training. All trainees are encouraged to gain as much knowledge and experience as fast as they can. Congratulations to everyone who was promoted and appointed. Although the learning curve will be steep and interesting, I trust that you will enjoy every moment and that you will have long and fruitful careers at PCS.

The administrative personnel and my staff at Head Office are thanked for their continued support to me, our directors, certification officials and growers. You are an amazing team supporting us in every way. I would also like to especially thank André Wessels, our Technical Manager, for his role in continuously developing our database which is the backbone of our record keeping system and data. Without your insight it would not have been possible.

Once again thank you to all the staff for your positive attitude and passion for the potato industry!

Finance

The financials for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 are briefly discussed.

The budgeted total income of R19 626 411 was based on 10 223 hectares. The actual registered hectares came to 10 995, which were 732 more than expected. This brought a total income of R20 272 300, which resulted in R645 889 more than budget. The expenses amounted to R19 487 370, which was a 5% saving. Due to the additional hectares registered, PCS was able to end the financial year on a net surplus of R784 930, after budgeting for a deficit of R970 903.

The budgeted hectares, actual hectares and the difference in the various regions are as follows:


Region	Ha budgeted	Jun actual	Deviation
South	413	359	-54
Sandveld	250	259	+9
Ceres	66	38	-28
Southern Cape	97	62	-35
East	2198	2206	+8
KwaZulu-Natal	1259	1349	+90
North Eastern Cape	539	485	-54
Eastern Free State	400	372	-28
West	7020	7770	+750
Northern Cape	1000	1465	+465
Western Free State	5150	5202	+52
North West	770	965	+195
Eastern Cape	100	138	+38
North	592	620	+28
Mpumalanga	334	392	+58
Limpopo	256	227	-29
Gauteng	2	1	-1
Total	10223	10955	+732

PCS is still a going concern that continually strives to deliver a professional and cost-effective service amidst fluctuating hectares.

Committees and forums

The committees and forums within the potato industry constitute organized platforms where much of communication with growers and other stakeholders in the industry takes place. The administration of the seed potato grower meetings and Seed Potato Growers' Forum is now done by Potatoes South Africa and the Seed Potato Growers' Forum will be held every second year on the day before the PSA Congress. The Seed Potato Traders' Forum was disbanded and provision is made on the PCS website for the contact details of owners of varieties.

The National Seed Potato Committee is the main platform where all role players of the industry have access to. This resulted in a much smaller ICCSP with industry representation, as well as technical members, with Adv. Kügel as



Independent Chairperson, to consider Scheme matters. Adv. Kügel brought a different level of expertise to the table with his legal background and vast knowledge of the Plant Improvement Act and certification schemes.

I would like to thank Dr. Keetch, who served the potato industry for close to 20 years by dedicating his time, energy, knowledge and expertise with the emphasis on the establishment of a certification scheme of note to ensure good quality planting material for the benefit of the potato industry as a whole. Dr Keetch was appointed Chairperson of the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP) on 3 February 1998. Since then he has continuously served the potato industry with his vast knowledge of phytosanitary aspects, the agricultural sector, the Plant Improvement Act and specifically the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme. Potato Certification Service presented him with a lifetime award at the Seed Potato Growers' Forum in 2016 when celebrating the company's 21 years of service delivery to the potato industry. He stepped down as Chairperson of the ICCSP after the Seed Potato Growers' Forum in 2017. PSA presented him with a *Solanum tuberosum* Meritum award for his contribution to the potato industry.

PCS has the privilege to serve on various other platforms such as the Plant Improvement Certification Forum, the PSA Research Committee, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) CEO Forum and the Potato Quarantine Pest Committee etc. PCS is also honored to be involved in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Bureau and Rapporteurs meetings on setting standards for trade in seed potatoes as well as to deliberate on matters and develop guides for certification of seed potatoes amongst others. The Technical Manager and I had the privilege to attend the 10th World Potato Congress in Cusco, Peru, the origin of the potato. This was an amazing opportunity where a lot of networks were strengthened, and knowledge were gained.

On behalf of the company, I thank each committee member for your time and dedication to the potato industry. Without your contributions we will not be able to fulfil our duties.

To the respective chairmen of the PCS's Board and National Seed Potato Committee, Mr. Gerhard Posthumus, and the ICCSP, Adv. Kügel, thank you for the time, energy and passion that you put into your respective mandates. Your commitment to the potato industry is noteworthy.

General

A lot of dedication and hard work goes into the production and certification of 11 million mini tubers and more than 7 million bags of certified seed potatoes. The certification staff work tirelessly with the growers to ensure that the seed potatoes are true-to-variety and that the phyto-sanitary status complies with the tolerances set by the Scheme. It has been a challenging year on all fronts, but in the end I can look back and say we have achieved success.

Thank you to all the companies involved in our company and seed potato production, whether it be sponsoring the Seed Potato Growers' Forum, assisting with diagnostics, research, chemical control, human resources or legal advice. Your input, collaboration, support and commitment are much appreciated. People in the potato industry are passionate about what they do. With this passion comes huge responsibility. Let us keep on working together to certify good quality planting material for the potato industry, honoring and acknowledging each of our roles to get potatoes on our plates.

Keep up the good work and "Certify for the Future"!

Sanette Thiar
Managing Director



BUSINESS REPORT

The purpose of certification is to certify seed potatoes of which the phyto-sanitary status in terms of diseases and pests falls within predetermined norms and that are true to type. To ensure the sustainability of potato production in South Africa, the Scheme is based on disease-free material as starting material.

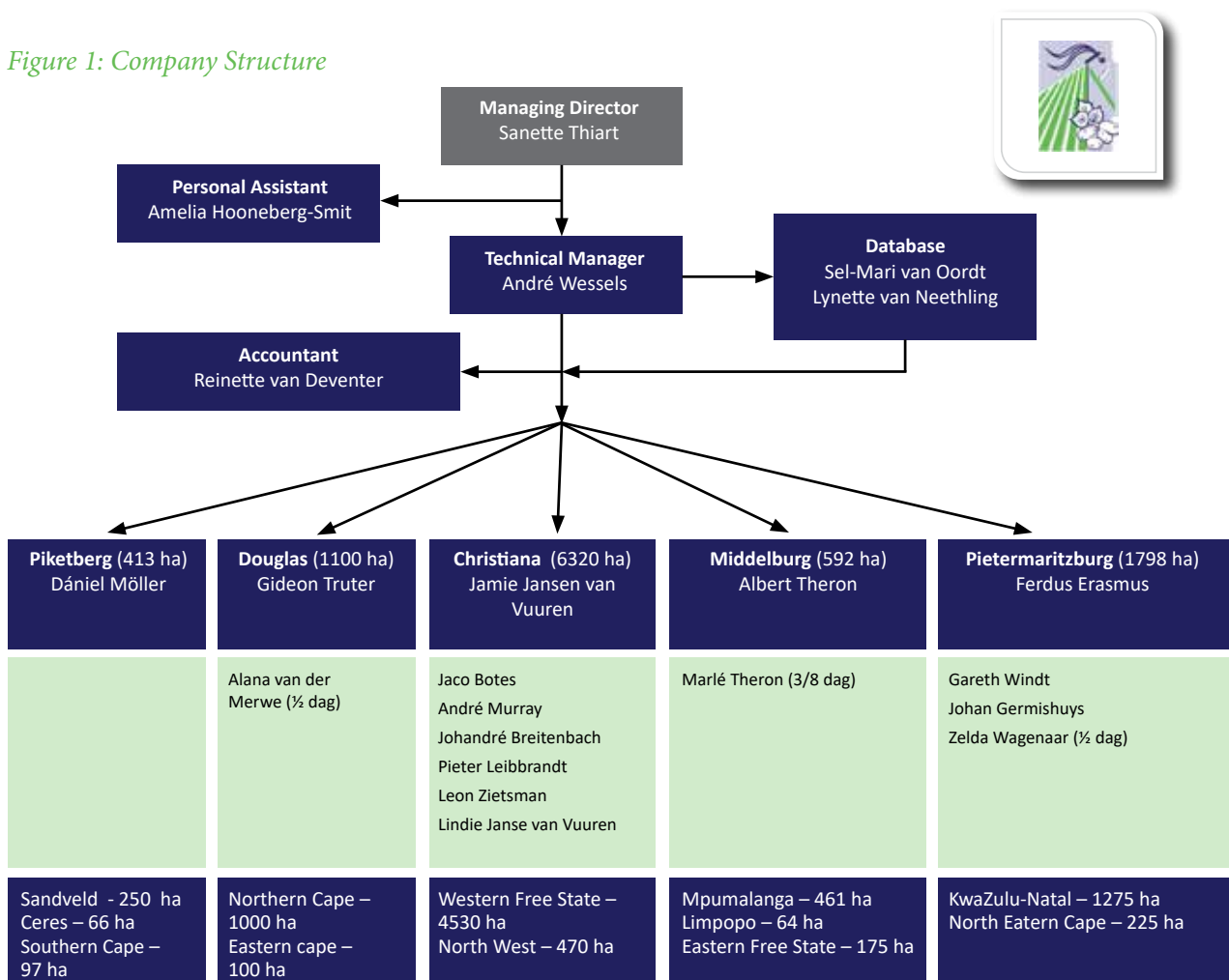
Potato Certification Service

Potato Certification Service (PCS) is a Non-Profit Company (NPC) without members, established in 1995, with the mandate to certify seed potatoes and is contracted as service provider of the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCS), appointed as authority in terms of the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme (Scheme) by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. PCS is audited by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), as PCS performs the functions and duties in terms of a statutory scheme. The Scheme is promulgated in terms of the Plant Improvement Act, 1976 (Act No. 53 of 1976).

Personnel

The company's Head Office is in Potato House in Perseus Technopark, Pretoria, with five regional offices located throughout the country, namely in Piketberg, Douglas, Christiana, Middelburg and Pietermaritzburg. The regional offices and staff members are strategically placed to render the best possible service in the most affordable manner to growers. The structure of the company is reflected in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Company Structure



In the reporting period, two regional managers, Gideon Truter and Albert Theron, a certification official, Gareth Windt, as well as Marlé Theron, part-time administrative assistant, resigned. We wish them all the best with the change in their careers. Johandré Breitenbach has been promoted to Regional Manager: Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Gauteng with relocating the office to Lydenburg. Elisca Breitenbach was appointed on a part-time basis to support Johandré with the administrative tasks. For the interim it was decided to provide services to the Northern and Eastern Cape on a rotation basis from the Christiana Regional office, until a fully qualified certification official with sufficient experience can be transferred to Douglas. Leon Zietsman was transferred to Pietermaritzburg to fill the gap left by Gareth's resignation. Leonard van der Walt and Michael Schultze were appointed as trainee certification officials in Christiana as from August 2017 and David Steyn, Phillip Buckle and Ngwedi Legodu were appointed as trainee certification officials in Christiana in January, May and June 2018 respectively. Ngwedi is the first female certification official to be appointed in the company.

Committees and Forums

The committees and forums within the potato industry constitute organized platforms where most communication with growers and other stakeholders in the industry take place. Aspects that need to be considered at the National Seed Potato Committee are tabled by the regional seed grower meetings. The various aspects are then debated and, if it is in national interest, the committee refers recommendations and resolutions to the relevant bodies and committees involved in the seed potato industry.

Board of Directors

The management of the company is set out in the company's Memorandum of Incorporation (Mol) and Board Charter. The Board Charter is evaluated and reviewed annually to ensure that PCS is managed in accordance with good corporate governance.

With the change in industry structures approved at the Seed Potato Growers' Forum in September 2017, the Board of Directors have been restructured in line with the rest of the industry and the Mol and Board Charter have been amended accordingly. The Board is now comprised of four non-executive directors, each representative of the 4 seed potato production regions, namely Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western regions, with one executive director in the Managing Director position. Mr. Gerhard Posthumus was re-elected as Chairman of the Board, with Mr. Jakkie Mellet re-elected as Vice-Chairman. The Executive Committee consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director. Because of the restructuring, the following directors resigned, namely Messrs. Frans Engelbrecht, Niekie Visser, André Coetzee, Guybon Osler and Garrick Christiane. Later, Mr. Llewellyn de Kock was followed-up by Mr. Johan van Greunen, representative of the Southern Region and Mr. JJ van de Velde was followed-up by Mr. Gavin Hill, representing the Eastern Region.

Table 1: Board of Directors

Director	Position	Representative for:
Gerhard Posthumus	Chairman	Western region
Jakkie Mellet	Vice-Chairman	Northern Region
Johan van Greunen	Director	Southern Region
Gavin Hill	Director	Eastern Region
Sanette Thiar	Managing Director	Potato Certification Service

The directors are entrusted with the financial and human resource matters of the company and are fulfilling an extremely important role looking after all the growers' interest in the company.

Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP)

The Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP) has also undergone major restructuring and now consists of an independent, unattached Chairman, with industry representatives consisting of the Chair of Potatoes

South Africa, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the National Seed Potato Committee representing the seed potato growers, a third member from the National Seed Potato Committee representing the table potato producers, the Forum for Nuclear Material Producers (NUMPRO) and processing industry, as well as technical representative from Potato Laboratory Services (PLS), the Managing Director of PCS as well as the Research and Development Manager of Potatoes South Africa. The independent chairman was appointed by the seed growers serving on the ICCSP. Three representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) attend Council meetings but do not have voting rights. Table 2 below reflects the present composition of the ICCSP.

Table 2: Composition of the ICCSP

Council Member	Position	Representative for:
Adv. Les Kügel	Chairperson	Independent
Industry representatives		
JF van der Merwe	Member	Potatoes South Africa- Chair
Gerhard Posthumus	Vice-Chairman	National Seed Potato Committee- Chair
Jakkie Mellet	Member	National Seed Potato Committee- Vice Chair
IB Oosthuizen	Member	National Seed Potato Committee- Additional member
Technical representatives		
Dr. Niederwieser	Member	Potatoes South Africa- Research and Development Manager
Marieta Botha	Member	Potato Laboratory Services- Chief Executive Officer
Sanette Thiar	Member	Potato Certification Service- Managing Director
DAFF Representatives		
Me. Joan Sadie	Registrar	Plant Improvement Act- Directorate of Plant Production
Mnr. Gilbert Mediroe	Assistant Director	Agricultural Pests Act- Directorate, Agricultural Product Inspection Services
Me. Rorisang Mahlakoana	Scientist Production: Pest Risk Analysis	Agricultural Pests Act- Directorate: Plant Health

The ICCSP is responsible for the formulation of policy guidelines in respect of the Scheme, as well as to ensure that the Scheme is run efficiently and sustainably in the interest of the potato industry as a whole. It is furthermore the ICCSP's duty to continually evaluate the Scheme and propose amendments where required. The treatment of seed potatoes has been written into the Scheme and was submitted to the Registrar for consideration. The Protocol has been completed and awaits publication after approval of the Scheme by DAFF.

Regional Seed Grower Meetings

The seed potato industry has been restructured to be in line with the rest of Potatoes South Africa's structures, according to its constitution. The four Regional Seed Potato Grower meetings ensure communication from ground level upwards to the various organisations responsible for the different aspects that need to be addressed, as well as communication and feedback down to ground level. The Chairpersons are elected by the growers from all the production areas in the region to serve as the mouthpiece of that specific region and serve on the National Seed Potato Committee, with additional members based on the number of certified bags contributed. The Chairpersons of these regions serve as non-executive directors on the PCS Board of Directors.

National Seed Potato Committee

The National Seed Potato Committee is a committee of Potatoes South Africa (PSA) and considers matters related to the seed potato industry, the demand for seed potatoes and issues related to the trade in seed potatoes. The identification of research and marketing needs in respect of seed potato production is also the committee's responsibility. The committee furthermore makes recommendations to the ICCSP about national requirements in respect of the certification of seed potatoes and proposes amendments to the Scheme. The National Seed Potato Committee includes members of all role players in the seed potato industry and PSA are responsible for the administration of all seed potato grower meetings.

Table 3: National Seed Potato Committee

Committee Member	Position	Representative for:
Gerhard Posthumus	Chairperson	Western Region- Western Free State
Johan Greyling	Member	Western Region- Western Free State
Werner du Plessis	Member	Western Region- Western Free State
Frans Engelbrecht	Member	Western Region- North West
André Coetzee	Member	Western Region- North- and Eastern Cape
Jakkie Mellet	Vice-Chairperson	Northern Region- Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Gauteng
Gavin Hill	Member	Eastern Region- KwaZulu-Natal
Garrick Christiane	Member	Eastern Region- North Eastern Cape
Johan van Greunen	Member	Southern Region – Sandveld, Ceres and Southern Cape
IB Oosthuizen	Member	Processing sector – French fries
Hanco van Zyl	Member	Processing sector- Crisps
Dawie Ras	Member	NUMPRO
Jan van Zyl	Member	Table producer
Wouter van Amstel	Member	Table producer

The Chairperson of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum is also Chairperson of the National Seed Potato Committee and represents the seed potato industry on the National Council and Board of Directors of PSA.

Mr. Gerhard Posthumus was elected as Chairperson of the National Seed Potato Committee and the Seed Potato Growers' Forum. Mr. Jakkie Mellet serves as Vice-Chairperson. The two-year term expires at PSA's Congress and the Seed Potato Growers' Forum in September 2019.

Seed Potato Growers' Forum

The Seed Potato Growers' Forum (Forum) serves as a discussion forum in respect of resolutions related to the seed potato industry. The Forum is responsible for the:

- determination of needs within the seed potato industry;
- identification of research needs;
- identification of needs in respect of the certification of seed potatoes;
- identification of needs in respect of the selling of seed potatoes;
- making recommendations to the National Seed Potato Committee and the ICCSP regarding amendments to the Scheme;
- referral of resolutions to the respective committees; and
- for the dissemination of information.

The nineteenth annual Seed Potato Growers' Forum was held at the Premier Hotel OR Tambo in Rhodesfield, Johannesburg, on 27 September 2017. The Forum was dedicated to finalizing the industry structures and to elect the various office bearers.

Mr. JP van den Berg (L 017) was again awarded the Bayer Seed Potato Grower of the Year Trophy, with Mr. Frans Engelbrecht and his son, Michiel, from Firna Boerdery (L 002), Mr. Kevin Cockburn and Dean Brown from Pidelta (Pty) Ltd (N 058) and Mr. Craig MacFarlane from Loch Buighe Farms (N 127), as finalists. Wesgrow was presented with a certificate of recognition since the winner plants for them.

Seed Potato Certification

During the period under review, 11 091 hectares were registered (planting date) by 125 seed potato growers, which included 78 hectares registered for mini tuber production. Currently there are 153 active seed growers. The active seed growers are all the growers who have, for the past 4 years, registered plantings for certification of seed potatoes under the Scheme.

Table 4 indicates the hectares registered per production area for G0 to G7 planted for the planting dates, 1 July until 30 June each year, as well as the number of 25 kg bags certified on those plantings.

Table 4: Registered hectares and certified yield

Region	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18*	
	Plantings (Hectares)	Yield (25 kg Bags)	Plantings (Hectares)	Yield (25 kg Bags)	Plantings (Hectares)	Yield (25 kg Bags)	Plantings (Hectares)	Yield (25 kg Bags)
Ceres	126	37 036	37	35 690	65	33 438	34	30 211
Eastern Cape	51	29 538	95	68 591	132	44 300	138	59 956
Eastern Free State	296	235 853	273	73 203	366	274 294	370	254 326
Gauteng	-	-	-	-	1	17	1	-
KwaZulu-Natal	1 432	1 081 961	1 417	733 028	1 211	960 449	1 344	905 275
Limpopo	207	171 558	126	99 272	221	168 656	272	165 482
Mpumalanga	468	389 632	365	211 051	330	286 023	419	253 530
North West	509	973 588	597	1 083 705	717	1 213 028	932	1 037 154
North Eastern Cape	336	336 952	541	162 695	630	256 977	485	282 034
Northern Cape	674	491 597	849	462 953	1 273	719 792	1 460	661 503
Sandveld	644	297 850	339	175 344	228	109 119	300	26 995
Southern Cape	76	65 439	149	66 972	66	52 578	60	38 414
Western Free State	4 961	2 923 555	4 996	3 189 880	5 195	2 994 347	5 198	2 896 705
RSA	9 780	7 034 559	9 784	6 362 406	10 436	7 113 018	11 012	6 611 587

2017/2018 Not complete*

The Western Free State production region produced 42% of the seed potatoes certified in South Africa in 2016/2017. Not all the seed potatoes from the hectares registered in the period under review have been certified.

The certified yield per annum varies between 6 and 7 million bags. The number of mini tubers certified annually is more than 11 million, with 11.7 million last year. There are seven mini tuber production facilities that are approved by the ICCSP, namely: Rascal Seed Research Laboratories, Potato Seed Production, Advanced Potato Propagation, Ceres Aartappels, Super Spud Seed Potatoes, Maluti Mini Tubers and Griekwaland-Wes Bpk.

The generation distribution indicates that Generation 1 to Generation 4 seed potatoes form the biggest portion of certified seed potatoes (89%), with the G6, G7, G8 and Standard Grade certified at 11%. Due to heavy Potato Leaf Roll Virus infection experienced in the reporting period, significantly more G8 seed potatoes have been certified compared to 10 years ago, but the percentage of early generation seed potatoes remained stable. These figures might change slightly as the final number of bags of seed potatoes certified on the plantings registered late in the reporting period is not yet available.

Table 5: Generation distribution (25 kg Bags)

Generation	2007/2008	2017/2018*
G1	205 461	173 876
G2	555 017	1 003 848
G3	1 536 474	1 942 378
G4	1 792 852	1 542 051
G5	1 144 562	1 205 104
G6	326 842	310 927
G7	97 687	28 678
G8	139 655	400 260
Std Grade	17 657	4 465
Total	5 816 207	6 611 587

*Not complete

Considering the variety distribution of the top ten varieties that were certified during the past decade, as reflected in Figures 2 and 3 below, tremendous changes took place. The top ten varieties consist mainly of varieties with Plant Breeders' Rights, except for Mondial, Up-to-Date and Hertha, which are open commercial varieties.

2007/2008

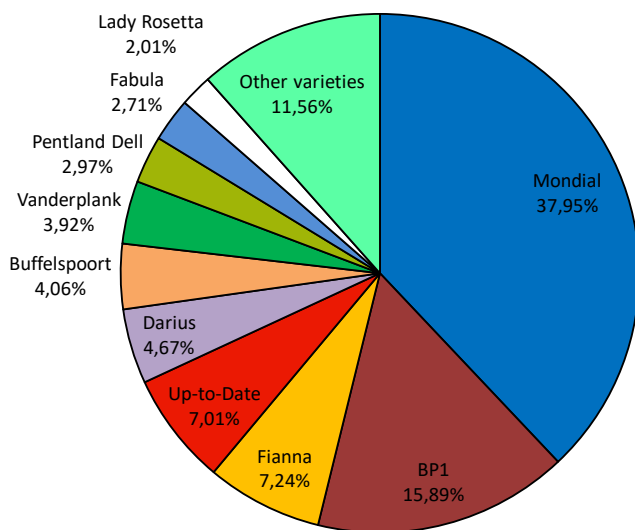


Figure 2: Variety distribution as in 2007/2008

2017/2018*

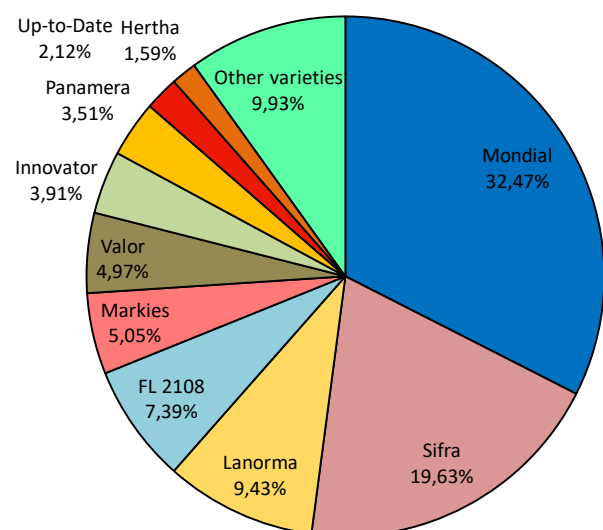


Figure 3: Variety distribution as in 2017/2018*
*Not complete

The other smaller varieties planted are indicated in Figure 4 (2007/2008) and Figure 5 (2017/2018*).

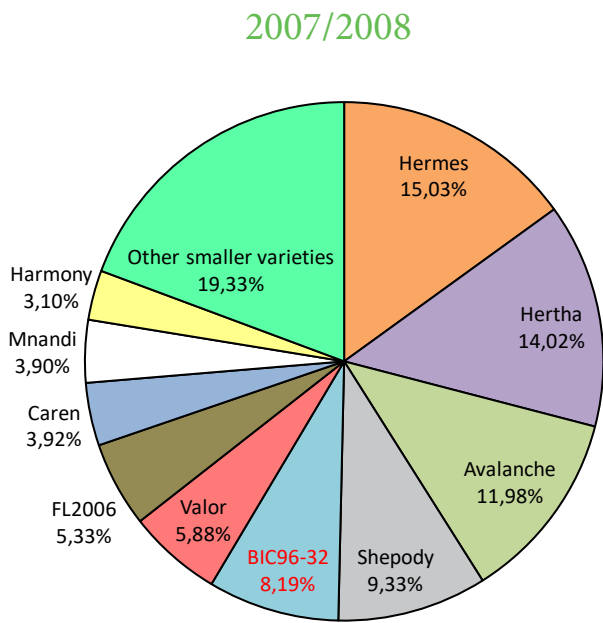


Figure 4: Composition of other smaller varieties in 2007/2008

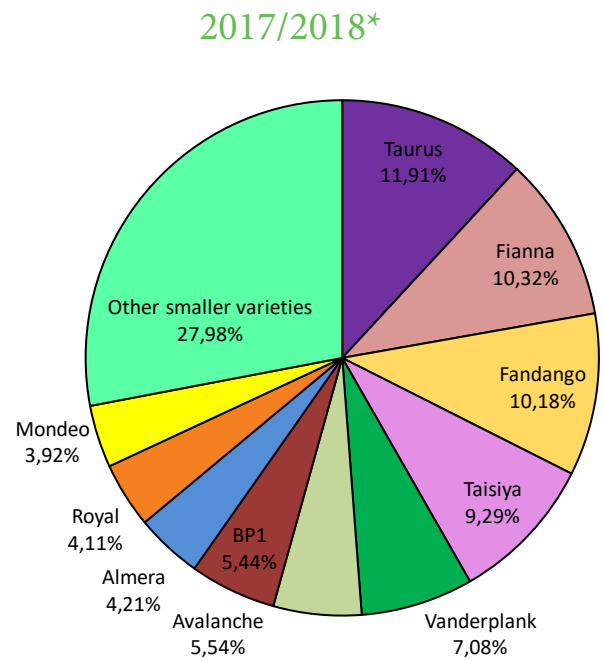


Figure 5: Composition of other smaller varieties in 2017/2018*
*Not complete

Regarding diseases, Figure 6 shows the percentage of virus free samples nationally.

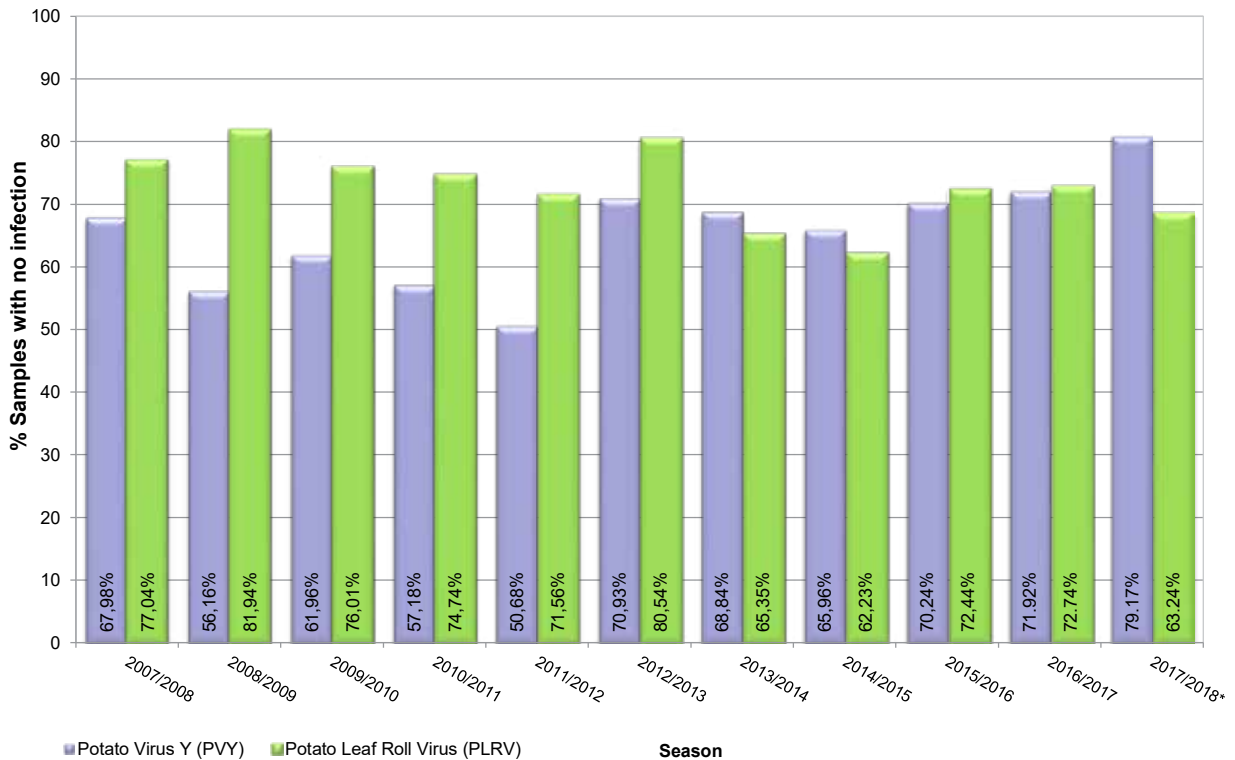


Figure 6: RSA: VIRUS OCCURRENCE (Field samples: G0 – G7 planted)

Heavy Potato Leaf Roll Virus (PLRV) infections occurred in the reporting year, which lead to a virus workshop to address the problem. Data on the virus content of sources planted, compared to the certification and post-control virus results of the subsequent plantings, showed heavy challenges with regards to PLRV infection, in spite of sources with no or very little virus planted. For the past 4 years, no seed potatoes with Potato Tuber Necrotic Ringspot Disease (PTNRD) were found.

The Scheme has been amended to include the treatment of seed potatoes for Black Dot / Silver Scurf, as well as treatment for *Rhizoctonia* for own planting. The dispensation for the treatment of seed potatoes for Black Dot / Silver Scurf is still in place whilst awaiting publication of the amended Scheme. During 2016/2017 (complete year) 130 907 x 25kg bags of certified seed potatoes were treated. Most regions treated seed potatoes, except the Northern Cape, North West and Eastern Cape. No complaints were received with regards to treated seed potatoes.

The Potato Quarantine Pest Committee, under the chairmanship of the Directorate Inspection Services, DAFF, is the watchdog of the potato industry for quarantine pests. Bacterial wilt, caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum*, Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN- *Globodera rostochiensis*) and wart disease, caused by *Synchytrium endobioticum*, are officially controlled in terms of the Scheme. Import regulations and biosecurity also falls under the jurisdiction of this committee.

With regards to prohibited organisms, *Ralstonia solanacearum*, the bacterial wilt-causing organism, was detected in one seed potato planting, upon which a delegation from the Directorate Inspection Services with PCS, visited the unit and appropriate action was taken. Farms listed on R.110 for wart disease, are also in the process of being sampled to detect the presence and/or absence of *Synchytrium endobioticum*. No *Globodera rostochiensis* infections have been detected in many years.

The Scheme is based on phyto-sanitary status, as well as variety purity. Mixing of varieties was only found in 0.174% of all seed certified. Where mixing took place, the growers were notified in writing and the necessary corrective action was instituted. Out of the 7.1 million bags certified, mixing detected affected only 12 417 bags. Registrations had been corrected after detection of switching of trial varieties. Switching of varieties are much more difficult to detect visually, since the whole planting is of a different variety than the one intended and varieties descriptions are not always available of trial varieties. It is therefore extremely important that the material maintained and produced *in vitro* should be true-to-type. The importance of DNA-fingerprinting of imported or newly established material was again emphasized, and owners and agents were requested to have such material fingerprinted at the point of entry into the genebanks and to supply PCS with the varietal descriptions.

Owners and agents of varieties were again made aware of the labelling required for unlisted varieties and that the labelling must indicate that such material is for evaluation purposes only.

Planting certified seed potatoes greatly reduces the risks associated with potato production, but does not give an absolute guarantee. Certification means that the seed potatoes were produced, sampled, examined and sealed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Seed Potato Certification Scheme and complied with the requirements of the Scheme on the day of sealing. Wise potato growers only plant certified material.

Please visit www.potatocertification.co.za

