

### ANNUAL REPORT POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE







POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE

Reg. No. 1995/005404/08



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# ABOUT

### 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 utilization of resources
- Equal opportunities
- Performance orientation

PCS

Potato Certification Service (PCS) is a Non-Profit Company (NPC) under the Companies Act 71, 2008 (Act 71 of 2008), 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 (ICCSP), Potatoes appointed as authority in terms of the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme (Scheme) by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

The DALRRD audits PCS on its line functions and systems since 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).



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Potato Certification Service delivered inspection services on 10 009 hectares registered (budgeted for 9 211 ha) for seed potato production under the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme and more than 6.8 million 25 kg bags of seed potatoes had been certified.

Our personnel situation remained relatively stable, with only two resignations, one certification official and the personal assistant at Head Office. PCS is continually monitoring the certification standards in and between regions to ensure effective and optimal service delivery to the required standard.

Annually PCS invests in the technological upgrade of the Database, as well as the SharePoint administrative system. In addition to this, Power BI licenses were also approved to assist with the processing of data. Sanette Thiart, our Managing Director, presented the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme at an online Potato Seed System Development Workshop Series held on 6, 8 and 13 October 2020 hosted by the National Potato Council of Kenya in collaboration with USAID and CIP.

She and our Technical Manager, André Wessels, also had the opportunity to attend the online meeting of the Specialised Section on Standardisation of Seed Potatoes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Trade in Seed Potatoes on 18 and 19 March 2021. Attention was given amongst others, to the revision of the Standard, knowledge sharing specifically pertaining to Potato Mop Top Virus, True Potato Seed (TPS) and herbicide carry-over.

I am grateful to report that PCS is financially in a very good position. The company is in good standing with regards to filing and payment of taxes and we managed to keep the increase in certification tariff to 6.18% despite fewer hectares budgeted for.

Adv. Les Kügel, the Executive Chair of the ICCSP, is thanked for his role and commitment to our company as service provider to the authority. His contribution to the PCS personnel and finances is highly appreciated.

Last year I said that 2020 was a year that forced us to think, act and plan different to what we were used to. This was even more true for 2021. Plans had to be made and adjusted as we continued delivering essential services throughout the second and third waves of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa. I want to thank our Managing Director and her team for the professional in which way the Company is managed, and services were delivered. I would further like to thank my co-directors for their participation and applying and speaking their minds.

A special thank you to our seed potato growers for staying committed to the production of good quality planting material. Without you, we would not have the potato industry we have. To all our clients, thank you for your support in planting certified seed potatoes!





CHAIR | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The delivering of services for the certification of seed potatoes is regarded as essential services by our government during this pandemic. That made me think of how essential our services really are.

Average yields in most African countries are in the single digits or just over 10 tonnes per hectare, largely due to a lack of good planting South Africa boasts an material. excellent certification Scheme highly regarded by its local and international clients, certifying almost 7 million 25 kg bags of seed potatoes annually, resulting in more than 85% of plantings made with certified seed potatoes. Bearing in mind that growers may farm save seed.

We have conducted around 4 500 field inspections and approximately 2 400 tuber inspections. Besides the sampling done on potato micropropagative material, mini tubers and virus field samples, 1 611 bacterial wilt field samples also taken. were Certification services were continued with despite having certification officials infected with the Corona virus and having to isolate. I owe a lot of gratitude to our certification officials, who I deem as frontline workers in agriculture, as well as to our administrative staff supporting us all the way. You are a formidable team and I commend you for that.

PCS is going from strength to strength as we strive to improve efficiency and service delivery on all levels. André Wessels is thanked for heading up the team at Head Office responsible for improving and updating the database on a continuous basis. The database is the backbone of our certification intelligence and continued investment in the system is of the essence.

I am grateful to report that PCS's financial position is healthy, and we managed to maintain salaries in times where a lot of salary cuts and lay-offs were at the order of the day.

The potato industry is fortunate to have good relationships with various DALRRD Directorates, namely Plant Production, Inspection Services, Plant Health and Food Import and Export Services, as well as Genetic Resources. These directorates all form part of the Potato Quarantine Pest Committee where several matters are discussed in depth, collaboration is forged, and solutions found.

The Board of Directors is thanked for looking after the company's employees and finances so diligently. The wealth of your knowledge and expertise is ploughed into our company. I would further like to thank the ICCSP's Executive Chair, Adv. Kügel, for your inputs in ensuring that we have the necessary expertise and financial resources as service provider of the authority. Your contribution to the Scheme and legal aspects, where we had to ensure that the administrative processes are duly captured in the Scheme and Protocol besides the certification aspects, was invaluable and will serve the industry well.

Ninety-five seed growers registered plantings in the reporting year of which three were new growers. This equates to 105 hectares per grower on average. Thank you for your hard work in ensuring good quality planting material. If producing seed potatoes were easy, we would have had way more growers.

#### Many blessings!







### INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION COUNCIL FOR SEED POTATOES

The ICCSP is the designated authority in terms of the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme. The Executive Chair is independent and unattached and is appointed by the Council members representing the potato industry.

Other Council members are 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 Providers (NUMPRO) and processing industry.

The industry technical representatives comprise of a representative from

Potato Laboratory Services (PLS), the Managing Director of PCS, as well as the Research and Development Manager of Potatoes South Africa. of the Three representatives Department of Agriculture, Land Reform Rural and Development (DALRRD) attend Council meetings but do not have voting rights.

In the reporting year the Council met times to discuss three Scheme matters, as well as other matters pertaining to the Scheme such as eligibility of clones for acceptance into the Scheme, the review of regulatory requirements such as R.110, auditing of facilities. dispute procedures, dispensations and guidelines for facilities. Biosecurity and the way forward regarding new pests are also addressed.



### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **EXECUTIVE CHAIR**

#### Adv. Les Kügel

INDEPENDANT REPRESENTATIVE

### **INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES**

JF van der Merwe POTATOES SOUTH AFRICA - CHAIR

**Gerhard Posthumus | Vice-Chair** NATIONAL SEED POTATO COMMITTEE - CHAIR

### **Jakkie Mellet**

NATIONAL SEED POTATO COMMITTEE - VICE-CHAIR

#### **Dawie Ras**

NATIONAL SEED POTATO COMMITTEE - ADDITIONAL MEMBER

### **TECHNICAL RESPRESENTATIVES**

**Dr. Fienie Niederwieser** PSA - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

#### Marieta Botha

PLANTOVITA - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Sanette Thiart POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE - MANAGING DIRECTOR

### DALRRD REPRESENTATIVES

### Joan Sadie | Registrar PLANT INPROVEMENT ACT - DIRECTORATE OF PLANT PRODUCTION

**Gilbert Mediroe | Deputy Director** AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT - DIRECTORATE OF INSPECTION SERVICES

### **Maanda Rambauli | Executive Officer** AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT - DIRECTORATE: PLANT HEALTH



# **BOARD OF**



The Board of Directors remained the same as the Seed Potato Growers' Forum had been postponed to September 2022 due to the Covid-19 The Board of PCS pandemic. comprises of the four Regional Chairpersons of the Seed Potato Growers, namely Gerhard Posthumus (Western), Jakkie Mellet (Northern), Johan van Greunen (Southern) and Gavin Hill (Eastern) as non-executive directors. with Sanette Thiart. Managing Director as the executive director. Gerhard Posthumus serves as Chair with Jakkie Mellet as Vice-Chair.

The Chair of the ICCSP, Adv. Les Kügel, attends the Board meetings as observer to ensure that PCS as the ICCSP's service provider has the human and financial resources to apply the Scheme efficiently and attainably.

The Board is responsible for the Human and Financial Resources of the Company and does not discuss certification matters. The ICCSP is responsible for all certification aspects of the Scheme.

# DIRECTORS



Gerhard Posthumus | Chair western region | non-executive



Jakkie Mellet | Vice-Chair Northern Region | NON-EXECUTIVE



Johan van Greunen southern region | non-executive



Sanette Thiart Managing Director

**Gavin Hill** Eastern region | non-executive



# HUMAN

The personnel is thanked for their dedication and hard work during the Covid-19 pandemic. The changed circumstances under which PCS had to operate were embraced by all and all the services were delivered as usual despite a few Covid-19 cases experienced.

In the reporting year, the personnel handled all the inspections, data capturing and processing, as well as administrative tasks associated with certification services related to 10 009 hectares registered, consisting of 2 471 registrations, 4 488 field inspections, 1 931 samples collected for micro-propagative material and mini tubers, 8 039 samples taken on the other generations in the Scheme of which 1 611 were bacterial wilt field samples, and 2 411 tuber inspections conducted.

### STAFF THAT LEFT THE COMPANY

PCS had two resignations in the reporting period.

- Johan Fick, certification official in Christiana resigned at the end of November 2020.
- Amelia Hooneberg-Smit, personal assistant at Head Office, resigned at the end of June 2021.

### **STAFF THAT JOINED THE COMPANY**

• Juhan Swarts was appointed as trainee certification official in Christiana as of 1 February 2021.

### STAFF THAT WERE AUTHORISED BY DALRRD FOR PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT

• Leon Zietsman, Douglas – 25 November 2020

# RESOURCES

### **STAFF THAT WERE PROMOTED**

### SAMPLING

• Juhan Swarts qualified on sampling on 15 April 2021.

### **FULLY QUALIFIED**

- Tristan Pillay qualified on field inspections on 18 November 2020 and was fully authorised as certification official after passing the closed book exam on 1 December 2020.
- Ngwedi Legodu qualified on field inspections on 10 December 2020 and was fully authorised as certification official after passing the closed book exam on 27 January 2021.



## FINANCES

The financial position of the Company is very good thanks to more hectares registered than initially budgeted and the expenditure was kept to a minimum.

The budgeted hectares for the reporting period were 9 211, and 10 009 realized, which were 798 more than expected.

The Total Income of R22 924 365 was R2 196 805 more than budgeted and the Total Expenditure of R22 932 892 was R1 194 209 less than expected, which makes the shortage for the year, R3 391 014, better than the budgeted shortage of R3 399 541, resulting in a nett shortage of R8 527. PCS still 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. The roof of the building required major which PCS maintenance to contributed a further R115 000 loan to the building, bringing the PCS loan amount to R1 187 303. To complete the major maintenance required to the building, a further loan contribution will be made in the next reporting year.

The seed potato growers are thanked for timeous payment of registrations.

### **BUDGETED VS ACTUAL REGISTERED HECTARES**

REGION	12 MONTHS	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Eastern	1 702	2 075	+373
Eastern Free State	265	269	+4
KwaZulu-Natal	1 197	1 483	+241
North-Eastern Cape	240	369	+128
Northern	512	721	+209
Gauteng	0	0	0
Mpumalanga	271	362	+91
Limpopo	241	359	+118
Southern	254	254	0
Ceres	7	2	-5
Sandveld	183	186	+3
Southern Cape	64	66	+2
Western	6 743	6 959	+216
Eastern Cape	16	33	+17
North West	747	816	+69
Northern Cape	1 370	1 291	-79
Western Free State	4 610	4 819	+209
TOTAL	9 211	10 009	+798



## MICRO-PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL

All potato micro-propagative material registered in mini tuber production facilities must have originated from an *in vitro* facility approved by the authority.

Phytosanitary status indicates that the initial potato micro-propagative material (imported clones or newly established clones) has been tested in the controlling laboratory. All material must:

- test negative for the presence of Potato Leaf Roll Virus (PLRV), Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV) and Potato Viruses X, M, A, S and Y;
- test negative for Ralstonia spp., Soft Rot Enterobacteriaceae (SRE);
- be visually free from symptoms characteristic of any other pests, and
- test negative in an enriching medium for general microbial contamination.

### ICCSP APPROVED IN VITRO MULITPLICATION FACILITIES

				_
FA	CIL	ITY	COD	

B 007	Agricultural Research Council
L 001	Rascal Seed Research
N 196	Dwen Farming (Pty) Ltd
R 015	Vitroplant South Africa (Pty) Ltd

### **ICCSP APPROVED FACILITY TYPES**

FACILITY TYPE	B 007	L 001	N 196	R 015
Single-Crop Facility			•	_
Multi-Crop Facility			_	
Post-Entry Quarantine Facility (PEQ)			_	
Establishment Facility			_	
Maintenance Facility				
Propagation Facility				

# MINI TUBER PRODUCTION



The South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme recorded the greatest number of *in vitro* plants registered in mini tuber production facilities during the 2020/2021 season.

3 167 271 *in vitro* plants were planted in 8 ICCSP approved facilities originating from 62 different varieties and/or breeding lines which resulted in 8 415 316 mini tubers being certified to date.

During the 2019/2020 season, 10 013 608 mini tubers were certified with an average of 3.7 mini tubers per *in vitro* plant.

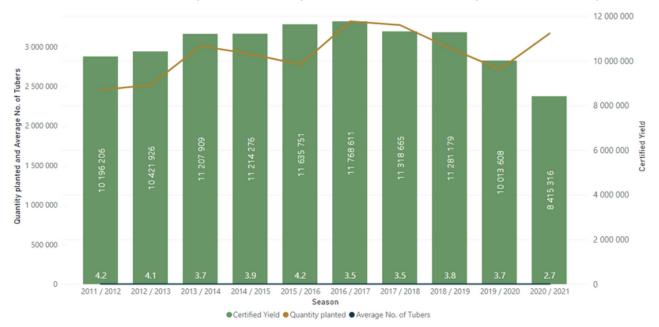
Due to the sacrifice of tubers, cost of mini tubers, transport cost and the period for which mini tubers are required to sprout prior to testing, growers opt to make use of leaf samples (87.40%) rather than tuber samples (12.60%) in determining the virus status.

## MINITUBER PRODUCTION CONTINUED

During the reporting period, 5.09% of samples submitted to the controlling laboratory, tested positive for Soft Rot *Enterobacteriaceae* (SRE) which resulted in potential mini tubers being destroyed.

Mini tubers originating from insect proof ICCSP approved greenhouse facilities and which complied with a zero tolerance during field inspection, sampling and tuber inspection, are awarded with a gold certification label as proof of Generation 0 planting material.

All facilities of mini tuber production entities are continuously monitored by the certification officials during each aspect of certification. Further to this, these facilities are stringently audited on a biennial basis and recommendations made to the ICCSP for consideration of approval.

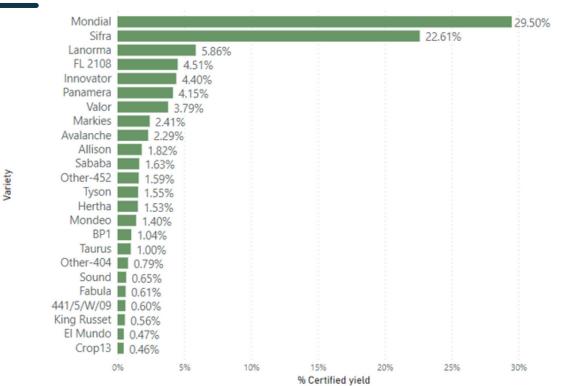


### QUANTITY PLANTED (IN VITRO'S) - CERTIFIED YIELD (MINI TUBERS)

### **ICCSP APPROVED MINI TUBER PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

GROWER CODE	GROWER NAME
B 008	Potato Seed Production
C 001	Ceres Aartappels (Edms.) Bpk.
D 064	GWK Kweekhuis
L 001	Rascal Seed Research
N 196	Dwen Farming (Pty) Ltd
P 020	Maluti Mini Tubers CC
R 015	Vitroplant South Africa (Pty) Ltd
S 169	Advanced Potato Propagation (Pty) Ltd

### VARIETIES | 2020 / 2021

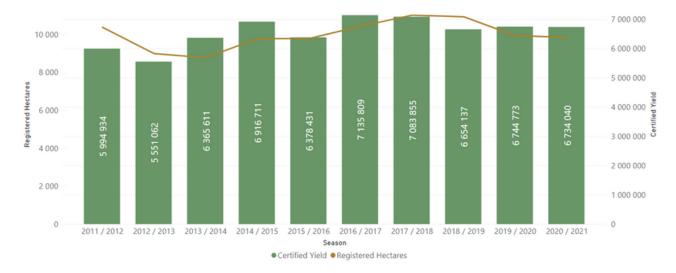


## GO - G7 SEED POTATO PRODUCTION

### **REGISTERED HECTARES**

For the 2019/2020 season, 9 935 hectares were registered, which is less than the 10 935 hectares registered for the 2018/2019 season. During the 2020/2021 season, 9 848 hectares have been registered. Based on hectares registered for the 2020/2021, Western Free State (4 784 ha), KwaZulu-Natal (1 432 ha) and the Northern Cape (1 255 ha) registered the greatest number of hectares.

Considering the number of bags required for planting all the hectares of potatoes in South Africa and one subtracts the number of bags exported, the percentage farm-saved seed and seed potatoes planted as uncertified varies between 10 and 15%.

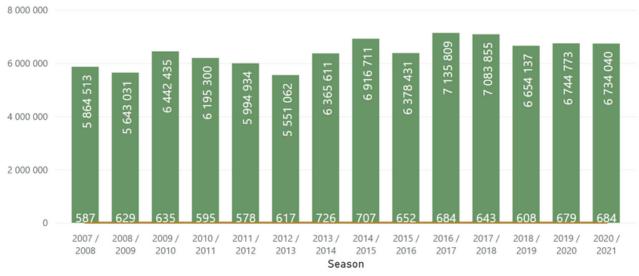


### NUMBER OF SEED POTATO GROWERS

95 Seed potato growers registered plantings under the Scheme in the reporting year, certifying on average 684 x 25 kg bags (17.1 tonnes) of seed potatoes per hectare.

### **CERTIFIED YIELD**

A total of 6 744 773 x 25 kg bags of seed potatoes were certified in the 2019/2020 season and during the 2020/2021 season, 6 734 040 x 25 kg bags of seed potatoes. The yield for the 2020/2021 season is not complete due to tuber inspections on the last plantings made in May and June of the financial year not being certified yet. The Western Free State production area certified the most seed potatoes (2 412 964 x 25 kg bags) for the 2020/2021 season, followed by North West (1 344 948 x 25 kg bags), and KwaZulu-Natal (1 145 767 x 25 kg bags).



Number of tubers or 25 kg bags

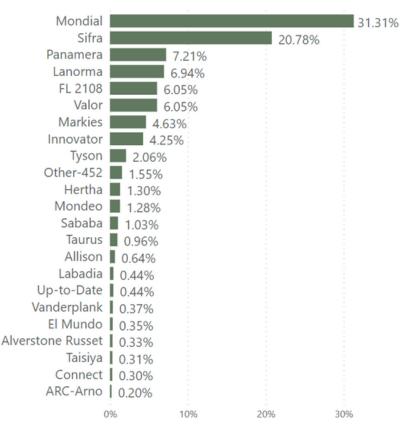
### **GENERATION DISTRIBUTION**

Based on the certified yield for the 2020/2021 season, the biggest portion of seed potatoes is certified as Generation 4, namely 2 191 290 x 25 kg bags or 32.54%, followed by Generation 3, 1 732 390 x 25 kg bags or 25.73% and then Generation 2, 1 263 040 x 25 kg bags or 18.76%. During the 2020/2021 season a decrease was seen in the number of Generation 3 (29.40% down to 25.72%) bags certified and an increase in the number of Generation 5 (12.97% up to 17%) seed potatoes.



### **TOP VARIETIES**

The top 10 varieties certified for 2020/2021 the season were Mondial (31.31%), Sifra (20.78%), (7.21%), Panamera Lanorma (6.94%), FL 2108 (6.05%), Valor Markies (6.05%),(4.63%),Innovator (4.25%), Tyson (2.06%) and Hertha (1.30%). During the evaluation of post-control variety purity samples under diffused lights, it was found that only 27 747 x 25 kg bags contained tubers other than the said variety out of the 6 734 040 x 25 kg bags Alverstone Russet | 0.33% certified.



### VIRUS INFECTION

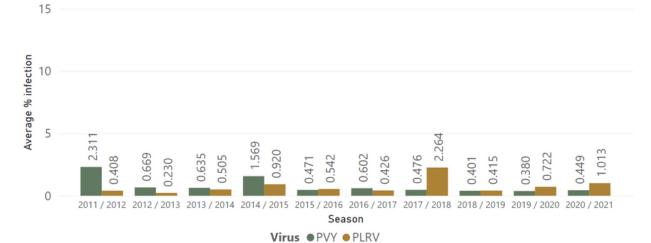
For the 2020/2021 season, which is not complete, average infections of 0.449% PVY and 1.013% PLRV were detected during testing of field samples, with PVY occurring in 15.99% and PLRV in 43.76% of all field samples. During the same period, average infections of 0.186% PVY and 0.777% PLRV were detected during testing of post-control samples, with PVY occurring in 13.03% and PLRV in 45.74% of all post-control samples.

A total of 4 899 754 x 25 kg bags certified (88.28%) had no PVY-virus infection in the post-control virus sample, 584 018 x 25 kg bags had PVY-virus infection but complied with the respective tolerance per generation and 64 848 x 25 kg bags exceeded the tolerance per generation and 1 800 x 25 kg bags exceeded the 15% maximum tolerance allowed for PVY.

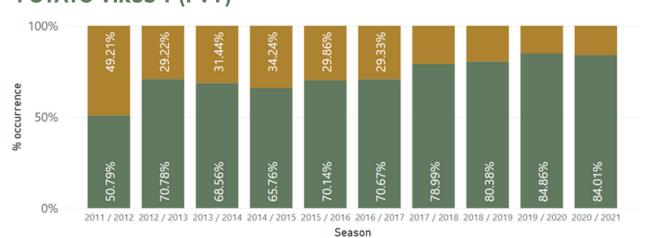
For the same period, 3 048 347 x 25 kg bags certified (54.92%) had no PLRV-virus infection in the post-control virus sample, 1 486 911 x 25 kg bags had PLRV-virus infection but complied with the respective tolerances, 862 721 x 25 kg bags exceeded the tolerance per generation and 152 441 x 25 kg bags exceeded the maximum 5% PLRV tolerance allowed.

### VIRUS INFECTION FIELD SAMPLE

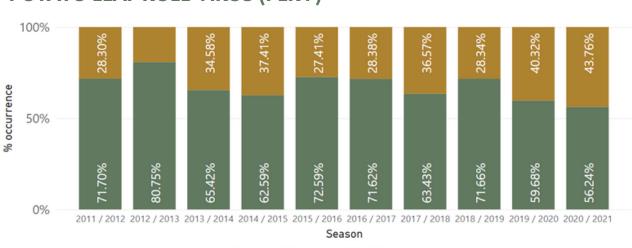
### **AVERAGE PERCENTAGE VIRUS INFECTION**









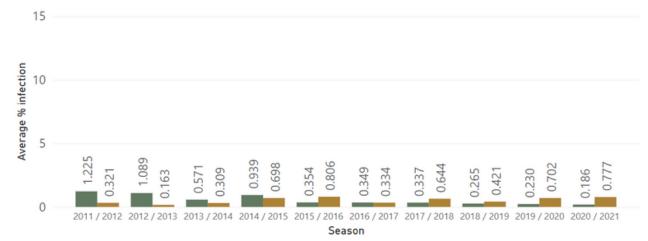


### POTATO LEAF ROLL VIRUS (PLRV)



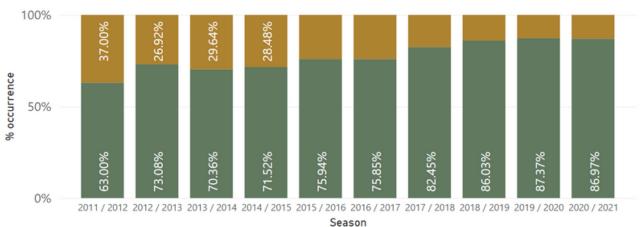
### VIRUS INFECTION POST-CONTROL SAMPLE

### **AVERAGE PERCENTAGE VIRUS INFECTION**





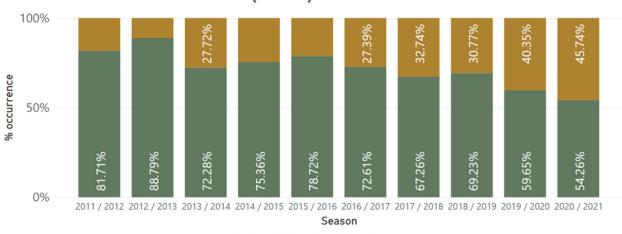
### **POTATO VIRUS Y (PVY)**



Season

Status 

Negative
Positive



POTATO LEAF ROLL VIRUS (PLRV)



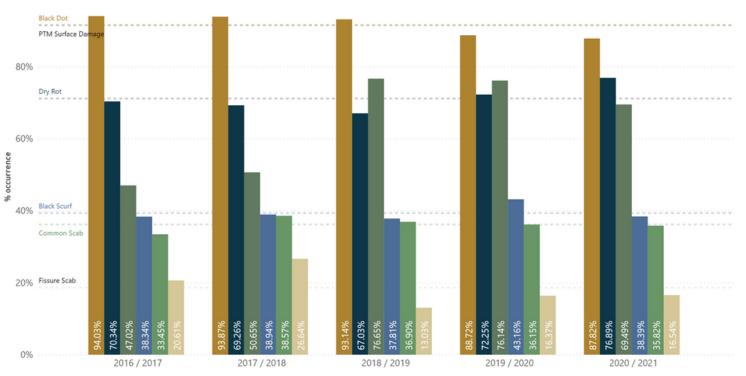
### **TUBER DEVIATIONS**

During visual tuber inspections conducted for the 2020/2021 season, an average of 2.416% Black dot/Silver scurf was found on material planted as Generation 0 to Generation 2 and 5.795% for material planted as Generation 3 to Generation 5 and detected in 87.82% of all tuber inspections.

An average of 0.146% Dry rot was found on material planted as Generation 0 to Generation 2 and 0.121% for material planted as Generation 3 to Generation 5 and detected in 76.89% of all tuber inspections.

Black dot/Silver scurf (87.82% of all tuber inspections), Dry Rot (76.89%) and Potato Tuber Moth: Surface Damage (69.49%) are the biggest concerns for deviations that occurred during tuber inspections.





### **TOP DEVIATIONS**

● Black Dot ● Dry Rot ● Potato Tuber Moth: Surface Damage ● Black Scurf ● Common Scab ● Fissure Scab

## ADDRESSING RISKS



All incidences where post-control results from certified seed lots exceed the maximum tolerances for PVY (15%), PLRV (5%), TSWV (5%), or the total virus infection (15%), are investigated by PCS and growers are informed in writing.

Where very high infections are detected in post-control samples, the grower is expected to inform the buyer in writing and a copy of the notification must be supplied to PCS.

During the 2020/2021 season, one post-control sample exceeded the maximum tolerance for PVY, 54 samples for PLRV and four samples for total virus infection.

During diffused lightsprout evaluations, varietal mixing was only detected in eight post-control variety samples.

### **REGULATED PESTS**

#### RALSTONIA SPP.

Ralstonia solanacearum and Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum are now classified as regulated non-quarantine pests which are regulated only in terms of propagation material.

All units registered under the Scheme are tested for the Bacterial wilt-causing organisms, *Ralstonia* spp.

The number of seed potato production units infected with bacterial wilt has decreased from 35 in 1994 to none or one in the last six years, with two reported in the 2020/2021 planting season.

### **GOLDEN CYST NEMATODE**

No seed potato production units had been infected with *Globodera* rostochiensis for many years.

The last units where cyst forming nematodes had been found were identified as *Globodera capensis*, which is endemic to South Africa and is not a regulated pest.

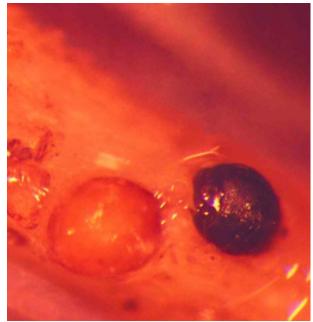
DALRRD has ongoing surveillance for this pest and all units registered for export are sampled and laboratory tested for the presence of the organism.

### WART DISEASE

Synchytrium endobioticum, the organism causing wart disease was last found in the 1920's in South Africa.

DALRRD has ongoing surveillance for this pest.



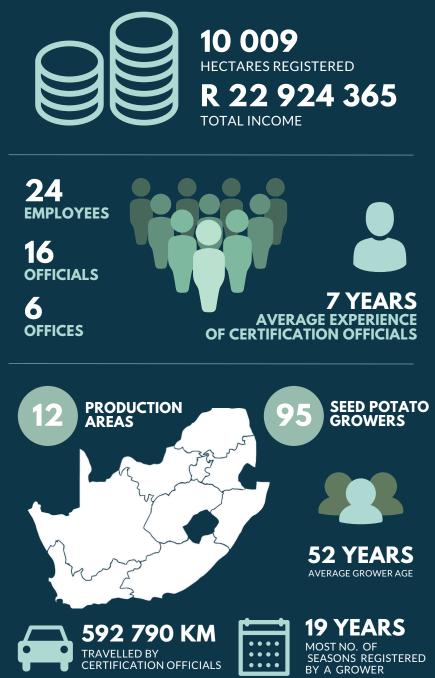


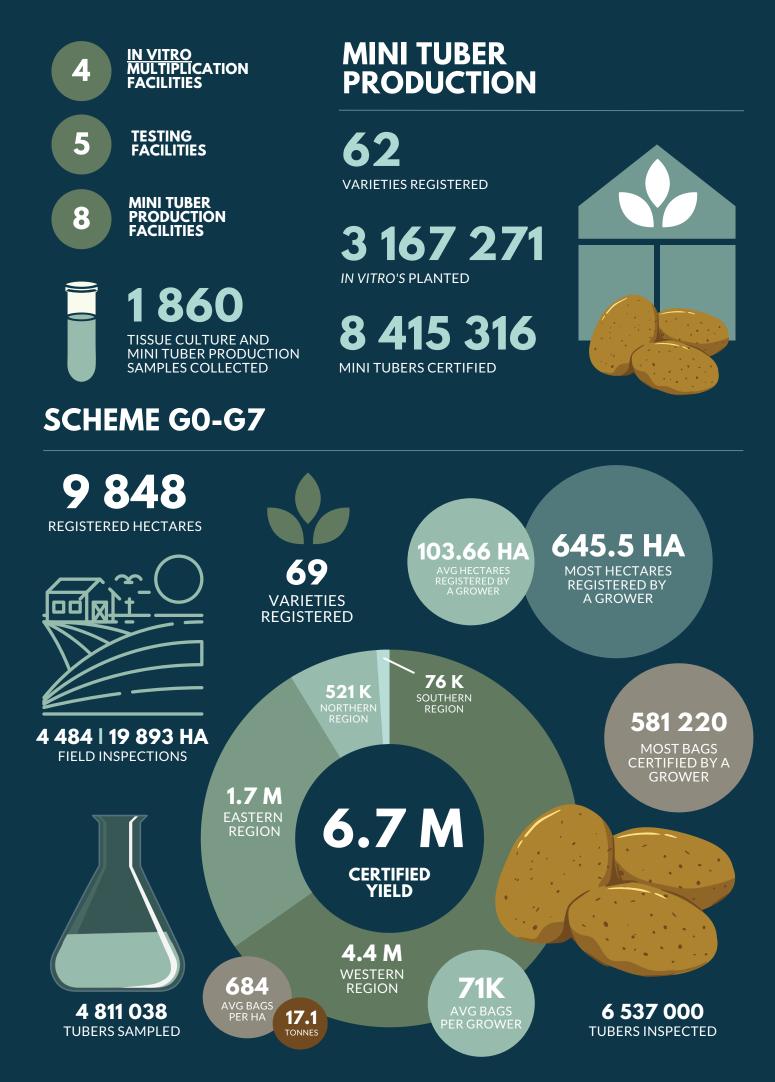


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## POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE FACTS 2020/2021







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### **PRODUCTION AREAS**

REGIONAL OFFICE	PRODUCTION AREA
CHRISTIANA	Eastern Free State
	North West
	Western Free State
DOUGLAS	Eastern Cape
	Northern Cape
LYDENBURG	Limpopo
	Mpumalanga
MALMESBURY	Ceres
	Sandveld
	Around Sandveld
	Southern Cape
PIETERMARITZBURG	KwaZulu-Natal
	North-Eastern Cape

### **GPS COORDINATES**

