



Potato Certification Service

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 / 2023



POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE

Reg. No. 1995/005404/08

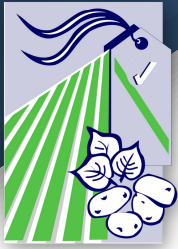
2022/2023





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ABOUT

POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE

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





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 the service provider of the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCS), appointed as the 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) and has been amended in 2021.





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been another good year for Potato Certification Service (PCS), despite it being a turbulent year with resignations, this time not only from certification officials, but administrative personnel as well. The company lost valuable staff members, with loss of expertise that will take time to establish again. However, I am confident that the staff appointed in their new capacity will soon make a difference.

The members of the Board remained unchanged after being confirmed at the Potatoes South Africa Seed Potato Growers' Forum on 21 September 2022, namely Gerhard Posthumus, representative of the Western region seed potato growers, Jakkie Mellet, representative of the Northern region, Johan van Greunen, representative of the Southern region and Gavin Hill, representative of the Eastern region as non-executive directors, with Sanette Thiert as the executive director. The Board as a whole, as well as the individual directors, were subject to evaluation, prior to their re-appointment.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors were re-elected, with myself as Chairperson and Jakkie Mellet as Vice-Chair. Jakkie Mellet serves as Director of Potato House representing the Company and was elected as Chairperson of its Board on 25 October 2022.

The members of the Board is thanked for their continued support of the Company and for ensuring that the Company fulfills its role in the supply of good quality planting material for the potato industry. The expertise and knowledge of each director contributes on different levels to the success of the Company. The Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes' (ICCSP) Executive Chair, Adv. Les Kügel, is thanked for his contribution to the potato industry by ensuring that PCS has the necessary resources as service provider of the ICCSP.

Despite budgeting for a loss, the total income (R29 066 942) was R2 404 202 more than the budgeted R26 662 740, mainly due to 777 more hectares registered. The total expenditure (R27 774 053) was R253 355 less than expected for the year (R28 027 408), which makes the net surplus for the year R1 292 889, instead of a budgeted shortage of R1 364 668, which was R2 657 557 better off than originally budgeted. The Company is thus in a very good financial position and has the necessary reserves should something severe happen.

To ensure good corporate governance, the Board Charter is reviewed annually and a Code of Ethics for the Company, addressing the United Nations Global Compact Principles, such as human rights, labour, the environment as well as anti-corruption, was renewed, clearly stating the Company's stance on a number of ethical matters.

The Managing Director, Sanette Thiar, was invited to present what the certification of seed potatoes entails during the induction of the newly appointed directors of Potatoes South Africa (PSA). This induction session took place on 14 November 2022. She further presented the PSA National Council / Board of Directors with an overview of the seed potato industry on 9 May 2023. The challenges, especially with regards to biosecurity and the risks associated with uncertified seed potatoes, were brought under their attention. She further emphasized what research is still required to manage the impact of Pepper Ringspot Virus (PepRSV) effectively.

I just realized again what a privilege it is to function in an environment, where knowledgeable people with a passion for what they do, are in charge of the certification of our industry's planting material.

The PCS team is thanked for their hard work and for the directors applying their minds with one common goal and that is to ensure an efficient and cost-effective certification service.

Gerhard Posthumus

CHAIR | BOARD OF DIRECTORS





MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2022/2023 will certainly be remembered as one of the most challenging years in terms of the detection of Regulated Pests (RP), as seven cases of bacterial wilt (RNQP) and two cases of Pepper Ringspot Virus (PepRSV) (RQP) had been detected and investigated. This is in addition to the normal inspections, sampling and certification of more than 6.5 million 25 kg bags certified on 11 202 hectares registered under the Scheme.

The Company was also involved in several UNECE meetings and workgroups, the Plant Improvement Certification Forum, the Potato Regulated Pest Committee and the Joint Advisory Body of the pension fund. Two in-house induction sessions for newly appointed staff were held and PCS also presented the Scheme requirements to Potatoes South Africa's (PSA) newly appointed chairperson, directors and staff. I had the privilege of promoting the use of certified seed potatoes during a PlaasTV interview and our Technical Manager, André Wessels was involved in the PSA Bacterial Wilt trial at the University of Pretoria. TPS (True Potato Seed) discussions with several role players were held and practical aspects were discussed at meetings of the Plantovita Technical Committee.

We also had the privilege of having an international expert, Dr Nigel Crump, General Manager of the Australian Seed Potato Industry Certification Authority (AuSPICA), and Co-Chair of the UNECE Specialised Section for Seed Potatoes,

review the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme. He said the Scheme is modern as it includes provision for True Potato Seed (TPS), is technologically advanced and is supported with strong diagnostics. It is also current to modern farming systems and comparable to other Schemes globally.

Rudi Heinlein of B 054 | Circle-N-Estate was awarded the prestigious Bayer Seed Potato Grower of 2022 at the gala dinner held at the Seed Potato Growers' Forum in September 2022. L 002 | Firna (Edms) Bpk. and L 026 | Carbrecht (Pty) Ltd, were runners up. These growers are worthy receivers of the honour of being the top three seed potato growers in South Africa.

The annual PCS workshop was focused on training and technical evaluation of certification officials as required by DALRRD for service providers of the designated authority. André Wessels and his team are congratulated for bringing the evaluation to a high technological level.

Administrative systems audits were conducted in all the regional offices as well as at Head Office. The Company received one Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), which was granted partially. The Company's Section 32 Report for the period 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023, had been submitted and the office of the Information Regulator acknowledged successful submission.

Further to this the Department of Labour conducted an audit on the enforcement of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act in the Christiana Regional office on 27 October 2022 and PCS's Employment Equity Report as well as AGRISETA Annual Training Report 2021-2022 and Workplace Skills Plan 2022-2023 had been submitted successfully.

The company continued to live up to its mandate to certify high-quality planting material to the potato industry despite again losing some of its employees to the potato industry and larger agricultural sector. This provided an opportunity for employees to grow in the company and new employees to be appointed.

PCS is in a very good and stable financial position and has the necessary reserves to carry the company should something severe happen. More hectares registered resulted in a much better financial position than initially anticipated.

The various directorates within the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, DALRRD, are thanked for their role in regulating pests in our country. This is certainly not an easy task.

Last but not least, the company's staff, its Board of Directors, as well as the ICCSP, are thanked for their dedication, hard work and perseverance in challenging times. It is a privilege to run the company with such a valuable team.

To the seed potato growers, my message is never, ever give up! Without your commitment to planting seed potatoes, there will not be a potato industry putting potatoes on our plates.

Once again, thank you very much for your continued support as we deal with the turbulence in the potato industry.

Sanette Thiar
MANAGING DIRECTOR





INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION COUNCIL FOR SEED POTATOES

The composition of Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP) for next two-year term was confirmed at the meeting held on 21 September after the Seed Potato Growers' Forum and the PSA Congress on 22 September 2023.

It is with regret that I have to report that there is currently a vacancy after Mr Gert Bester, Potatoes South Africa's Chairperson, resigned from the ICCSP in May 2023 as the *ex officio* representative of PSA. Whilst the resignation of Mr Bester does not affect the functioning of the ICCSP in the short term as the Council continues to have sufficient voting members to form a quorum, the continued absence of a voting member is not ideal from a good governance perspective. I accordingly requested the relevant industry structures to provide its feedback and views on addressing this gap which is awaited.

The various industry inputs made on the proposed regulations of the Plant Improvement Act and Plant Breeders' Rights Act have been consolidated by DALRRD. DALRRD will host workshops to ensure as wide as possible consultation in this regard. The term of plant breeders' rights for potatoes as requested by the potato industry is now thirty years to align South Africa's Regulations with international standards. This will be implemented once published in the Government Gazette.

After collecting data under the dispensation for Fissure scab, expiring on 30 September 2023, the application of the tolerance for *Streptomyces* spp., for the detection of fissure scab, combined with findings on common scab, will be submitted to the Registrar for inclusion in the Scheme.

It was further decided that DNA-fingerprinting will become compulsory when applying for varietal listing for all varieties reaching one hectare, or three times planted (whichever comes first).

The potato industry also realized the importance of having true reliable DNA controls that must be available to everyone in the industry to ensure varietal identity and purity. Subsequently, the Plantovita Biobank was established as a reference collection of national importance from where controls could be supplied to DNA Fingerprinting Laboratories. I am pleased to report that this initiative is well underway and wish to encourage all varietal owners to make use thereof.

Consideration was also given to a Code of Conduct for seed potato growers going forward. The draft Code of Conduct will be presented at seed potato grower meetings to afford growers ample opportunity to comment and make inputs, after which it will be taken to the National Seed Potato Committee (NSPC) for finalization and implementation under the Scheme.

Unfortunately Pepper Ringspot Virus (PepRSV) was again detected in seed potato plantings, all certification actions were terminated and where seed potatoes from the other sub-units had already been certified, the certification was withdrawn. Since PepRSV is a Regulated Quarantine Pest (RQP), DALRRD must be notified and orders are issued. This potentially comes with huge financial losses. The potato industry understands government's role and it is noted that collaboration is very important, as everyone must work together to limit the spread of the pest, limit the risk associated with its spread and to limit the risk and economic losses for the grower.

Hence a PepRSV Task Team, consisting of DALRRD: Directorates Inspection and Diagnostic Services, the ARC, Plantovita, PCS and PSA, was established to gain as much as possible information on the pest, its hosts, the method of transmission, testing methods and tracing backwards and forwards so that everyone may better collaborate to deal with the pest. Following positive detection of PepRSV during the growing season at a commercial grower in Polokwane, it was realized that the application of a sprout inhibitor during the growing season will probably have the least negative economic impact on the grower. There was thus an urgent submission made to the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 for the registration of a product to be applied as pre-harvest sprout inhibitor for potatoes. Feedback in this regard is awaited.

Bacterial Wilt infections caused by *Ralstonia* spp. also reared its head in several seed potato plantings. No seed potatoes from these plantings have been certified as it is regulated in planting material as a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest (RNQP).

Despite the numerous challenges experienced in the reporting year, I am grateful that the Scheme is applied efficiently and effectively by Potato Certification Service (PCS). The PCS Directors, management and staff are thanked for their dedication and hard work amidst these trying times.

Yours sincerely



Adv. Les Kügel

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN



COUNCIL MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE CHAIR

Adv. Les Kügel

INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATIVE

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Vacant

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 REPRESENTATIVES

Dirk Uys

PSA - RESEARCH MANAGER

Marieta Botha

PLANTOVITA - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Sanette Thiar

POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE - MANAGING DIRECTOR

DALRRD REPRESENTATIVES

Herman Mootane | Acting Registrar

PLANT IMPROVEMENT ACT - DIRECTORATE OF PLANT PRODUCTION

Gilbert Mediroe | Deputy Director

AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT - DIRECTORATE OF INSPECTION SERVICES

Maanda Rambauli | Executive Officer

AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT - DIRECTORATE OF PLANT HEALTH



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE

The Board of Directors comprises of the four Chairpersons of the Regional Seed Potato Grower Meetings, 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.

Jakkie Mellet represents the Company as Director of Potato House (Pty) Ltd., Registration Number, 93/004345/07. The Company has a 26% share in the building. In March 2022, the building had been valued at R6 750 000. At its meeting of 25 October 2022, the Potato House Board of Directors unanimously elected Mr Mellet as Chairperson of the Board.

The Chair of the ICCSP, Adv. Les Kügel, attends the Board meetings as an observer to ensure that the Company, as the ICCSP's (Authority) service provider, has the human and financial resources to apply the Scheme efficiently and effectively.

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. The Company is also responsible for the secretariat of the ICCSP.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE



Gerhard Posthumus | Chair

WESTERN REGION | NON-EXECUTIVE



Jakkie Mellet | Vice-Chair

NORTHERN REGION | NON-EXECUTIVE

Sanette Thiar
Managing Director

EXECUTIVE



Johan van Greunen

SOUTHERN REGION | NON-EXECUTIVE

Gavin Hill

EASTERN REGION | NON-EXECUTIVE





HUMAN RESOURCES

POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE



STAFF THAT LEFT THE COMPANY

Colleen Botes

Secretary | Head Office
15 December 2022 | 8 months

Rolindie de Klerk

Data-Administrator | Head Office
31 January 2023 | 4 Years

Jaco Botes

Regional Manager | Christiana
30 April 2023 | 7 Years, 10 months

HW Coen

Certification Official | Christiana
31 May 2023 | 3 Years, 11 months

STAFF THAT JOINED THE COMPANY

Markus Oosthuizen

Data-Administrator | Head Office
1 January 2023

Jo-Reze Clarke

Secretary | Head Office
6 February 2023

Mashiteletse Mapheto

Certification Official | Pietermaritzburg
5 June 2023

STAFF THAT WERE PROMOTED

Leonard van der Walt

Promoted to Regional Manager | Christiana
1 May 2023

Kevin Swiegers

Qualified on Tuber Inspection | Christiana
18 May 2023

Jacques Steyn

Qualified on Tuber Inspection | Christiana
18 May 2023



FINANCES

POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE

The financial position of the Company is very good. It is always endeavored to supply an effective certification service which is cost effective and efficient.

The budgeted hectares for the reporting period were 10 258, and 11 035 were realized, which were 777 more than expected.

The Total Income (R29 066 942) was R2 404 202 more than the budgeted R26 662 740, mainly due to 777 more hectares registered. The Total Expenditure (R27 295 141) was R732 267 less than expected for the year (R28 027 408), which makes the net surplus for the year R1 771 801, instead of a budgeted shortage of R1 364 668, which was R3 136 469 better off than originally budgeted. The surplus after tax was R377 785.

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 maintenance to which PCS contributed a further R115 000 loan to the building, bringing the PCS loan amount to R1 187 303. On 20 August 2021, R85 000, and on 7 February 2022, a further R65 000 was contributed, bringing PCS' loan amount to R1 337 303.24. On 29 March 2022, the building was valued at R6 750 000.

The active seed potato growers are all the growers who have for the past four years registered plantings for the certification of seed potatoes under the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme (Scheme). Currently, there are 138 active seed potato growers, of which 103 have registered plantings under the Scheme in the reporting year. Seven new growers registered plantings in the 2022/2023 financial year.

A big thank you goes to the seed potato growers who always pays on time for their services. The staff is also thanked for their role in keeping the expenditure to a minimum without it impacting on services delivered.

FINANCES

AT A GLANCE

INCOME

R 28 287 675

Unit registrations	R27 799 234
Services rendered	R488 441
Other	R1 002 493

EXPENDITURE

R 27 519 117

RESULT

Net surplus before income tax	R1 771 081
Income Tax	- R478 1925
Net comprehensive income for the Year	R1 292 889

FUTURE PLANS FOR GROWTH

Technological upgrade	R402 124
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ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME

R 488 441

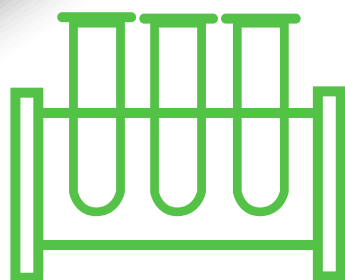
Audit of facilities	R46 608
Database info	R64 425
Sampling, renewal of varieties etc.	R160 115
Other	R206 190



BUDGET VS ACTUAL

REGISTERED HECTARES

REGION	12 MONTHS	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Eastern	2 091	2 357	266
Eastern Free State	260	365	105
KwaZulu-Natal	1 551	1 582	31
North-Eastern Cape	280	410	130
Northern	936	1 211	275
Limpopo	435	755	320
Mpumalanga	501	456	-45
Southern	338	305	-33
Ceres	2	2	0
Sandveld	90	95	5
Sandveld (R)	163	125	-38
Southern Cape	83	83	0
Western	6 893	7 163	270
Eastern Cape	30	76	46
North West	797	931	134
Northern Cape	1 300	1 432	132
Western Free State	4 766	4 724	-42
TOTAL	10 258	11 036	778



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.

All potato micro-propagative material (imported clones or newly established clones) have been tested at Plantovita, the controlling laboratory in the potato industry.

All initial 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.;
- test negative for 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.
- Initial material will in future be tested for PepRSV as well.

ICCSP APPROVED FACILITY TYPES

FACILITY TYPE	L 001	N 196	R 015
Single-Crop Facility	—	●	—
Multi-Crop Facility	●	—	●
Post-Entry Quarantine Facility (PEQ)	●	—	●
Establishment Facility	●	—	●
Maintenance Facility	●	●	●
Propagation Facility	●	●	●

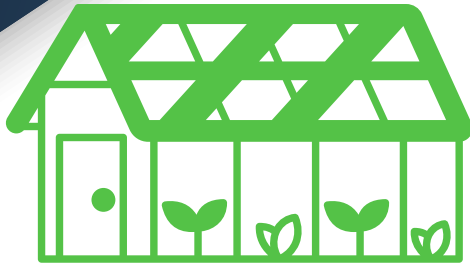
ICCSP APPROVED MICRO PROPAGATION FACILITIES

CODE	FACILITY NAME
L 001	Rascal Seed Research
N 196	Dwen Farming (Pty) Ltd.
R 015	Vitroplant South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

ICCSP APPROVED MICRO PROPAGATION FACILITY

CODE	APPROVAL VALID UNTIL
L 001	2024/04/30
N 196	2023/12/31
R 015	2024/04/30





MINI TUBER PRODUCTION

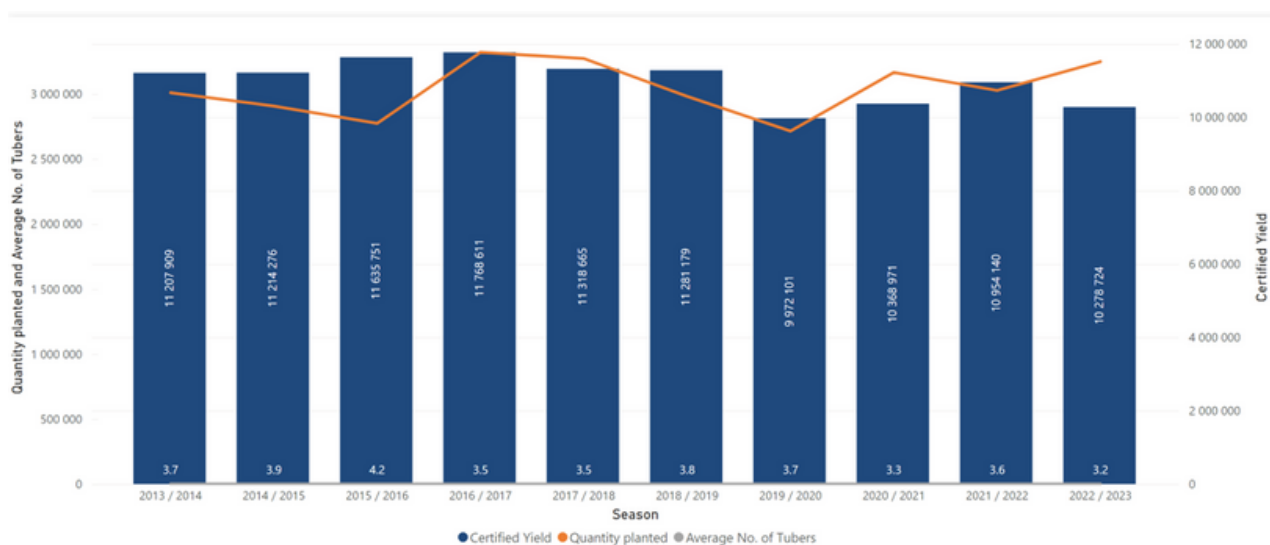
The South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme recorded the greatest number of *in vitro* plants registered in mini tuber production facilities during the 2017/2018 season, namely 3 288 455.

3 248 248 *in vitro* plants were planted in 8 ICCSP-approved facilities originating from 115 different varieties and/or breeding lines, which resulted in 10 278 724 mini tubers being certified.

During the 2022/2023 season, an average of 3.2 mini tubers were produced per *in vitro* plant.

Due to the sacrifice of tubers, the 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 (87.50%) rather than tuber samples (12.50%) in determining the virus status. These figures remained fairly stable over the last 4 years.

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



ICCSP APPROVED MINI TUBER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

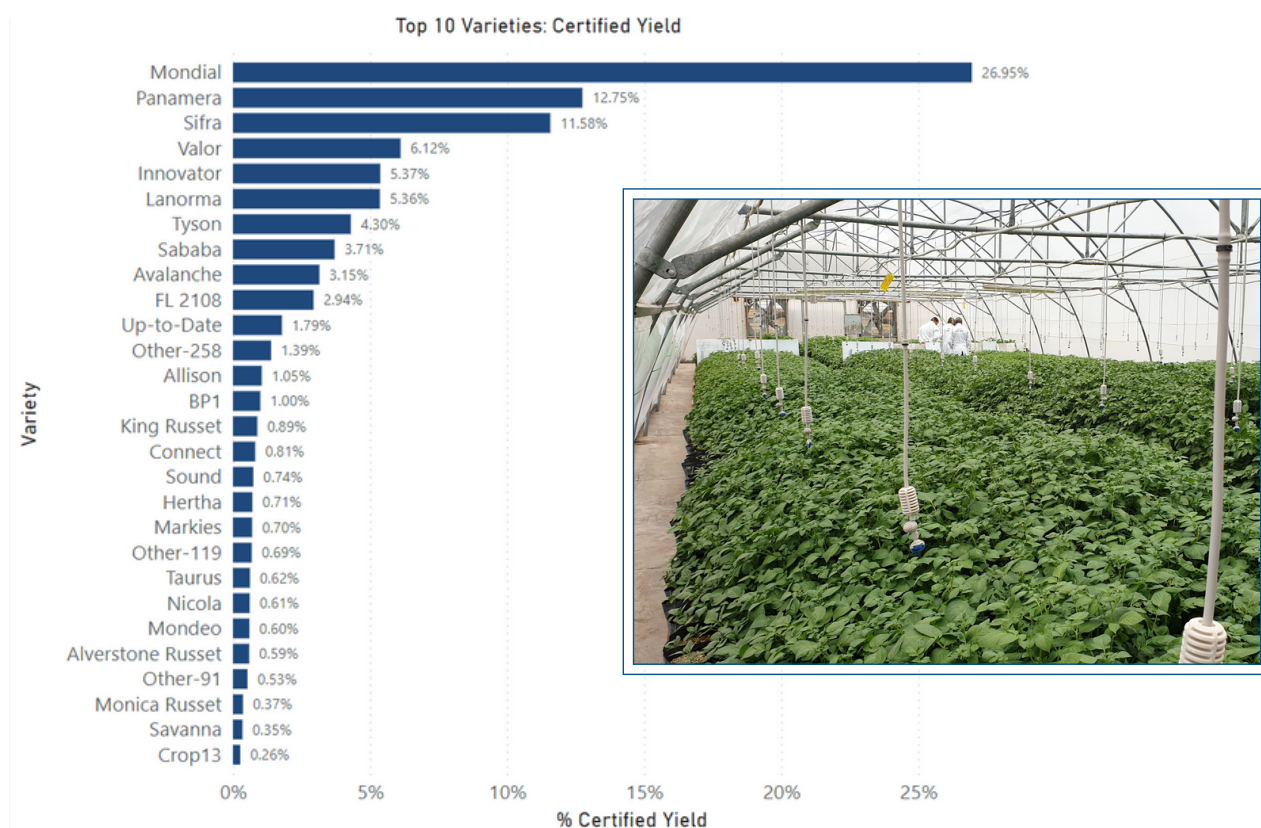
GROWER CODE	GROWER NAME	APPROVAL VALID UNTIL
B 008	Potato Seed Production	2024/11/30
C 001	Ceres Aartappels (Edms.) Bpk.	2024/11/30
D 064	GWK Kweekhuis	2025/03/31
L 001	Rascal Seed Research	2024/04/30
N 196	Dwen Farming (Pty) Ltd	2023/12/31
P 020	Maluti Mini Tubers CC	2024/11/30
R 015	Vitroplant South Africa (Pty) Ltd	2024/04/30
S 169	Advanced Potato Propagation (Pty) Ltd	2024/04/30

Mini tuber production facilities are audited on a biennial basis for ICCSP approval.

All mini tuber production facilities are continuously monitored by the certification officials during each aspect of certification.

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 a golden certification label as proof of Generation 0 planting material.

VARIETIES | 2022 / 2023





GO - G7 SEED POTATO PRODUCTION

REGISTERED HECTARES

For the 2022/2023 season, 11 035 hectares were registered, which is more than the 10 784 hectares that had been registered for the 2021/2022 season. Western Free State (4 725 ha), KwaZulu-Natal (1 582 ha), and the Northern Cape (1 432 ha) registered the greatest number of hectares. It is noted that Limpopo grew from 359 hectares in 2020/2021, to 469 hectares in 2021/2022 and then to 755 in the reporting year.

Considering the number of bags required for planting all the hectares of potatoes in

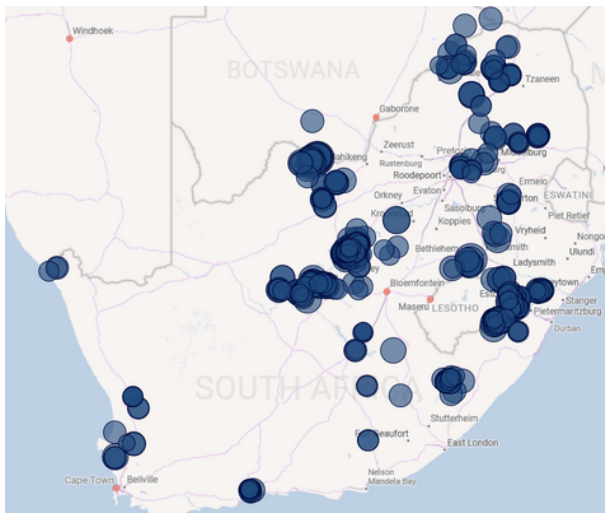
South Africa, and one subtracts the number of bags exported, the percentage of farm-saved seed and seed potatoes planted as uncertified, was 10% in 2022.

NUMBER OF SEED POTATO GROWERS

103 Seed potato growers registered plantings under the Scheme in the reporting year, certifying on average 603 x 25 kg bags (15.09 tons) of seed potatoes per hectare.

REGISTERED HECTARES AND CERTIFIED YIELD





Production Area	Hectares	25 kg bags	Ton/ha	Bags/ha
Eastern Cape	76	23,530	7.76	310.42
Eastern Free State	363	297,698	20.53	821.08
KwaZulu-Natal	1,577	1,021,606	16.19	647.76
Limpopo	805	502,775	15.61	624.50
Mpumalanga	423	276,838	16.36	654.53
North West	897	1,287,315	35.89	1,435.77
North-Eastern Cape	410	245,211	14.96	598.37
Northern Cape	1,441	657,283	11.40	456.19
Sandveld	138	58,058	10.52	420.71
Sandveld (R)	110	57,426	13.01	520.49
Southern Cape	83	58,366	17.52	700.67
Western Free State	4,792	2,220,678	11.58	463.38
Total	11,115	6,706,784	15.09	603.41

CERTIFIED YIELD

A total of 6 706 784 x 25 kg bags of seed potatoes were certified in the 2022/2023 season. During the 2021/2022 season, the most seed potatoes ever had been certified, namely 7 293 970 x 25 kg bags of seed potatoes. The Western Free State production area certified the most seed potatoes (2 220 678 x 25 kg bags) for the 2022/2023 season, followed by North West (1 287 315 x 25 kg bags), and KwaZulu-Natal (1 021 606 x 25 kg bags).

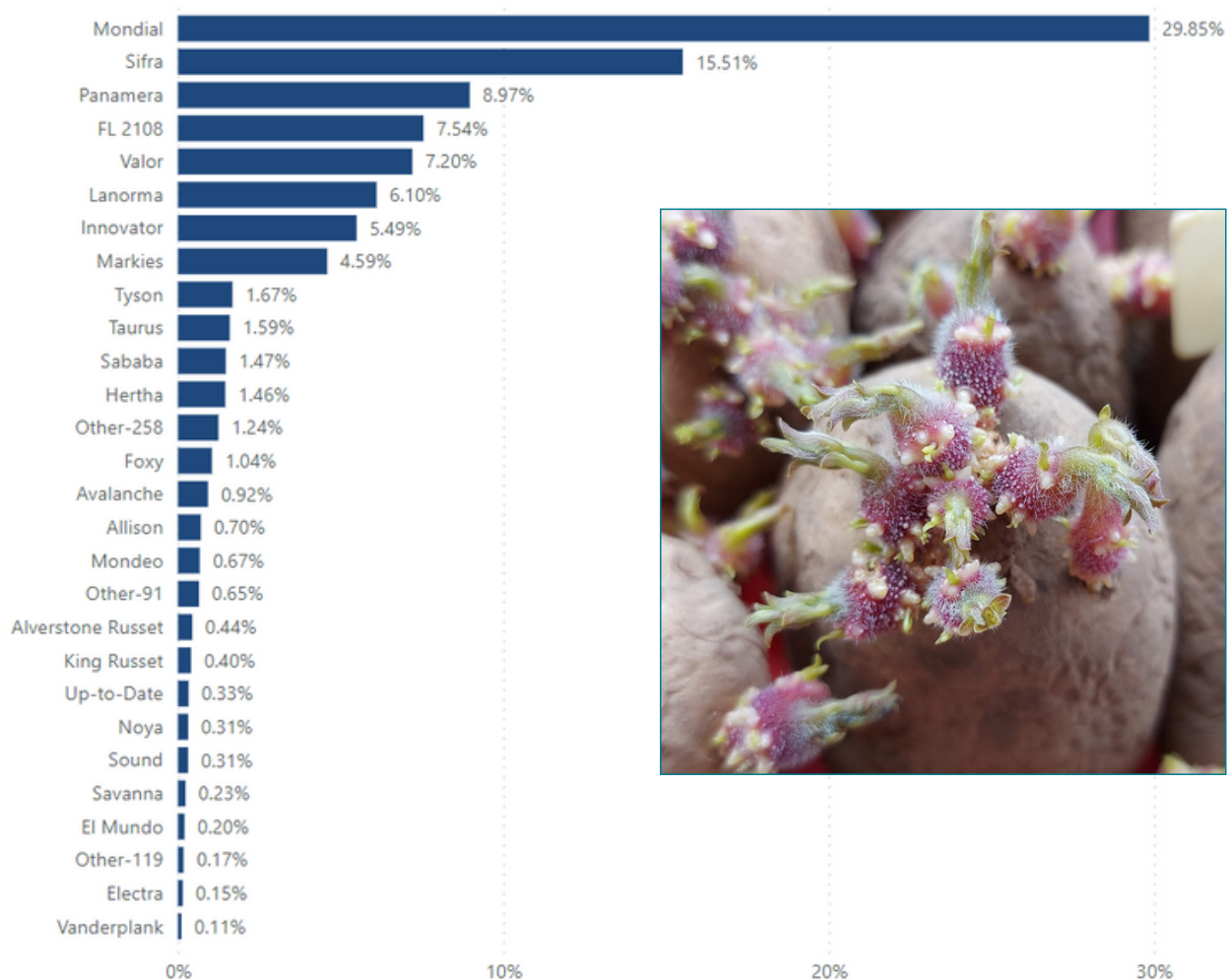
GENERATION DISTRIBUTION

Based on the certified yield for the 2022/2023 season, the biggest portion of seed potatoes was certified as Generation 4, namely 2 559 241 x 25 kg bags or 38.09%, followed by Generation 3, 2 098 788 x 25 kg bags or 31.23%. The previous year, the generation most certified had been Generation 3. 86.22% of all seed potatoes are certified as generation 1 to 4. This is the same as the previous year, despite fewer Generation 3 seed potatoes certified this year.



TOP VARIETIES

The variety distribution is shown below. During the evaluation of post-control variety purity samples under diffused lights, it was found that only 10 579 x 25 kg bags contained tubers other than the said variety out of the 6 685 514 x 25 kg bags evaluated so far.



POST-CONTROL VARIETY PURITY

PRODUCTION AREA	BAGS CERTIFIED (25 KG)	NO. OF BAGS WITH MIXING	% BAGS WITH MIXING	AVERAGE % MIXING IN BAGS
KwaZulu-Natal	1 021 606	167	0.02%	18.33%
Limpopo	501 775	2 050	0.41%	26.67%
North-Eastern Cape	245 211	4000	1.63%	5.00%
Northern Cape	650 841	3 917	0.60%	1.67%
Western Free State	2 220 678	445	0.02%	3.34%
RSA	6 685 514	10 579	0.16%	8.33%

VIRUS INFECTION

For the 2022/2023 season, which is not complete, average infections of 0.331% PVY and 0.411% PLRV were detected during the testing of field samples, with PVY occurring in 11.76% of all field samples compared to 11.48% the previous year and PLRV in 20.05% of all field samples, compared to 14.46% the previous year.

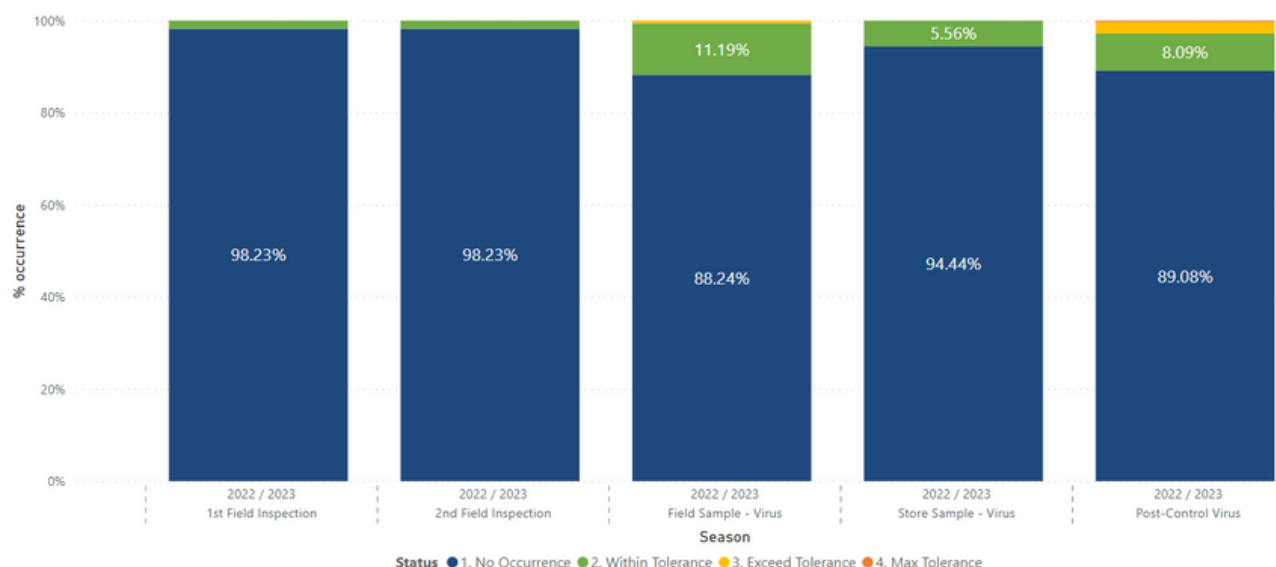
During the same period, average infections of 0.235% PVY and 0.236% PLRV were detected during testing of post-control samples, with PVY occurring in 10.92% and PLRV in 18% of all post-control samples.

A total of 5 918 066x 25 kg bags certified (88.24%) had no PVY-virus infection in the field samples and 5 974 403 x 25 kg bags certified (86.19%) had no PVY-virus infection in the post-control samples.

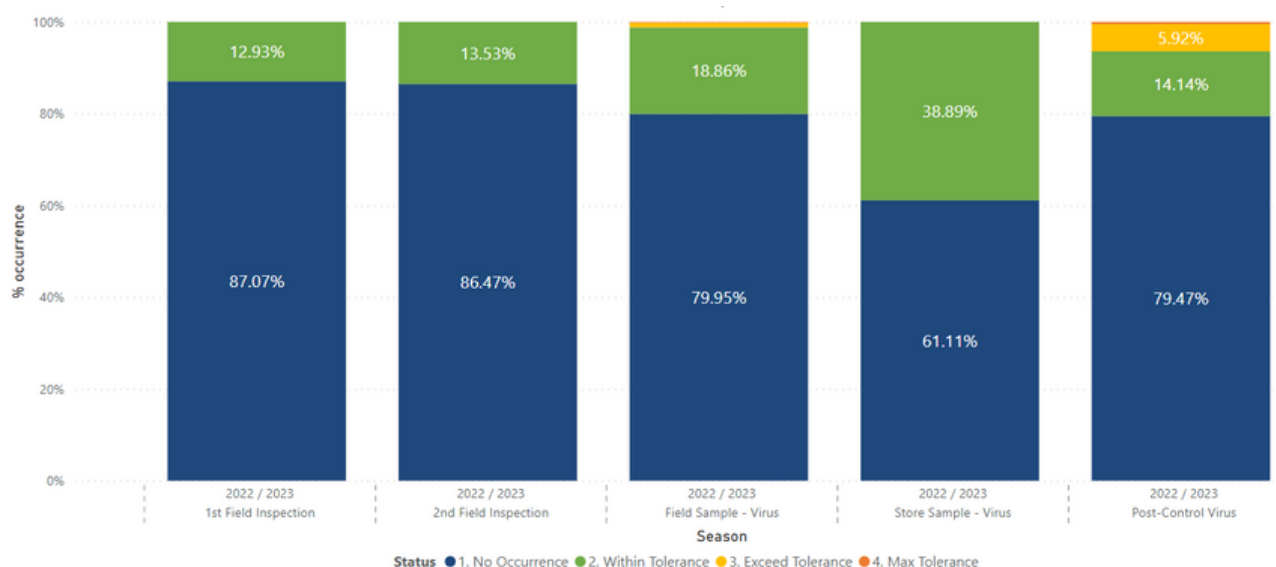
For the same period, 5 362 073 x 25 kg bags certified (79.95%) had no PLRV-virus infection in the field samples and 5 329 881 x 25 kg bags certified (79.47%) had no PLRV-virus infection in the post-control samples.

VIRUS INFECTION | TOLERANCE COMPLIANCE

POTATO VIRUS Y (PVY)

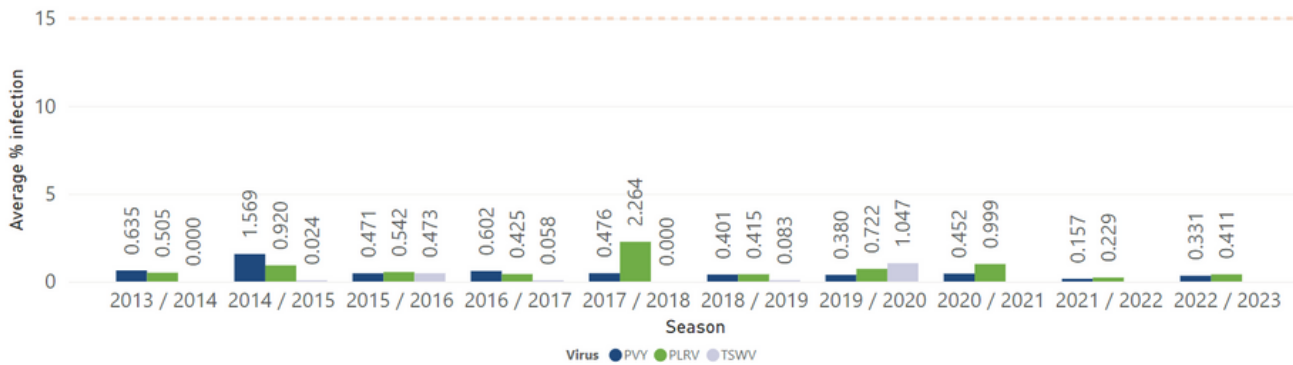


POTATO LEAF ROLL VIRUS (PLRV)

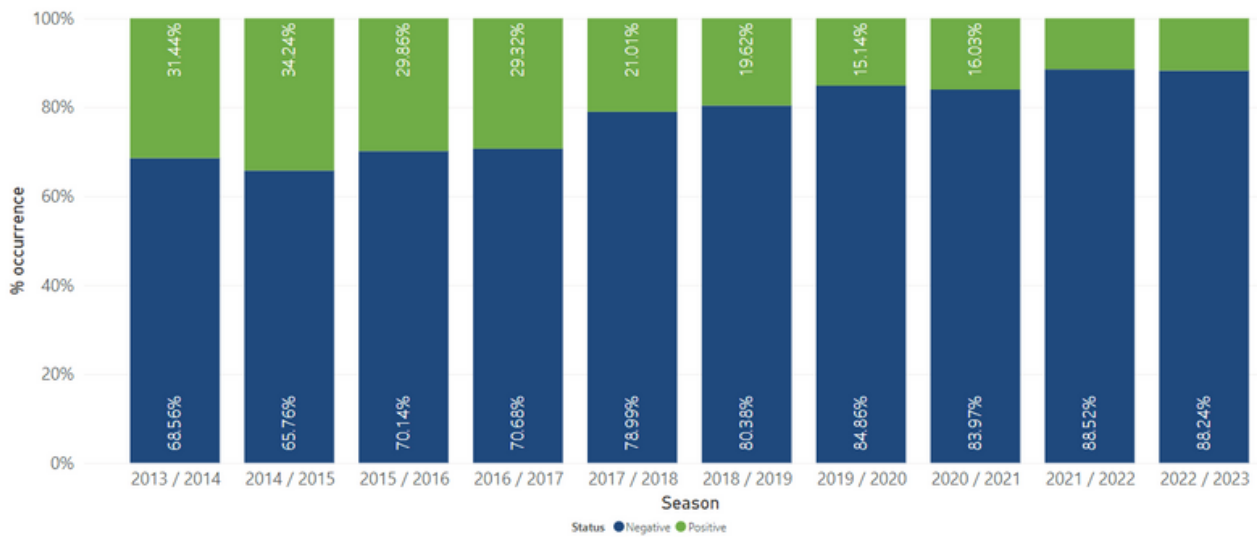


VIRUS INFECTION | FIELD SAMPLE

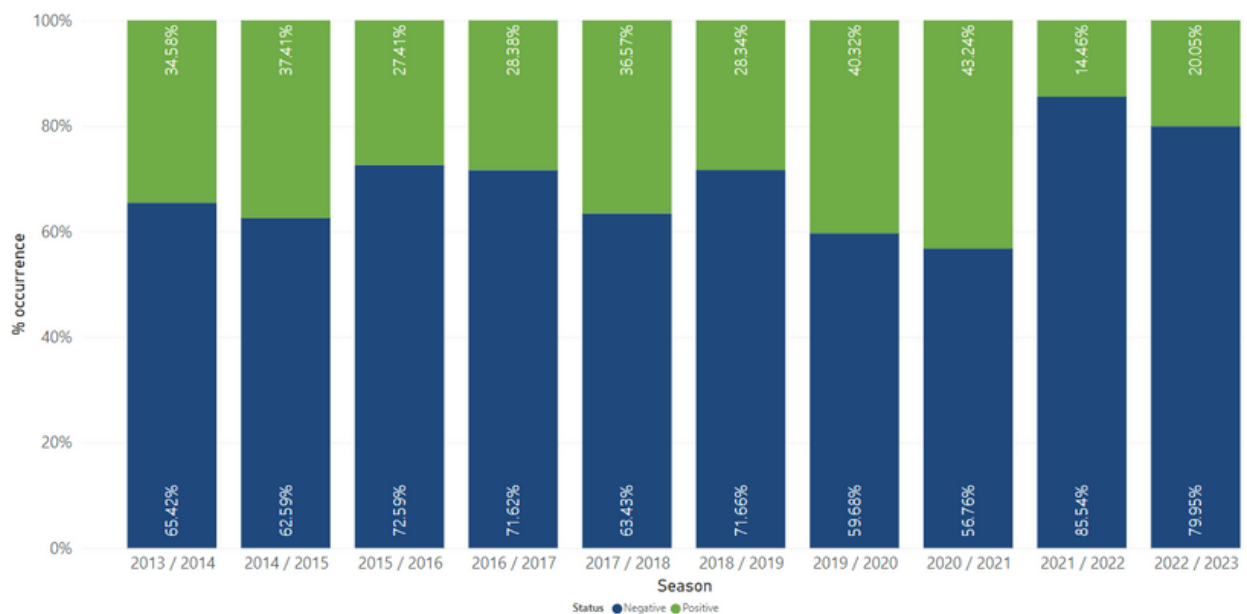
AVERAGE PERCENTAGE VIRUS INFECTION



POTATO VIRUS Y (PVY)

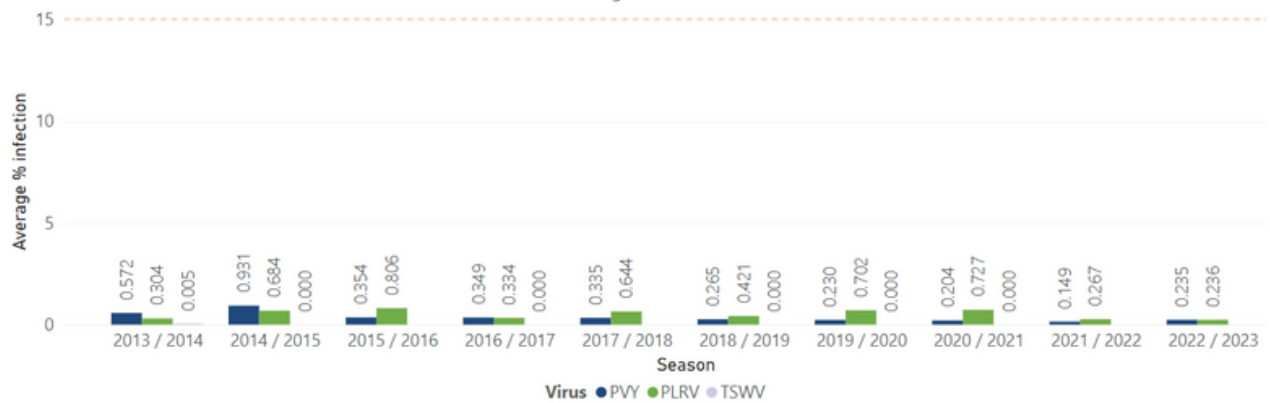


POTATO LEAF ROLL VIRUS (PLRV)

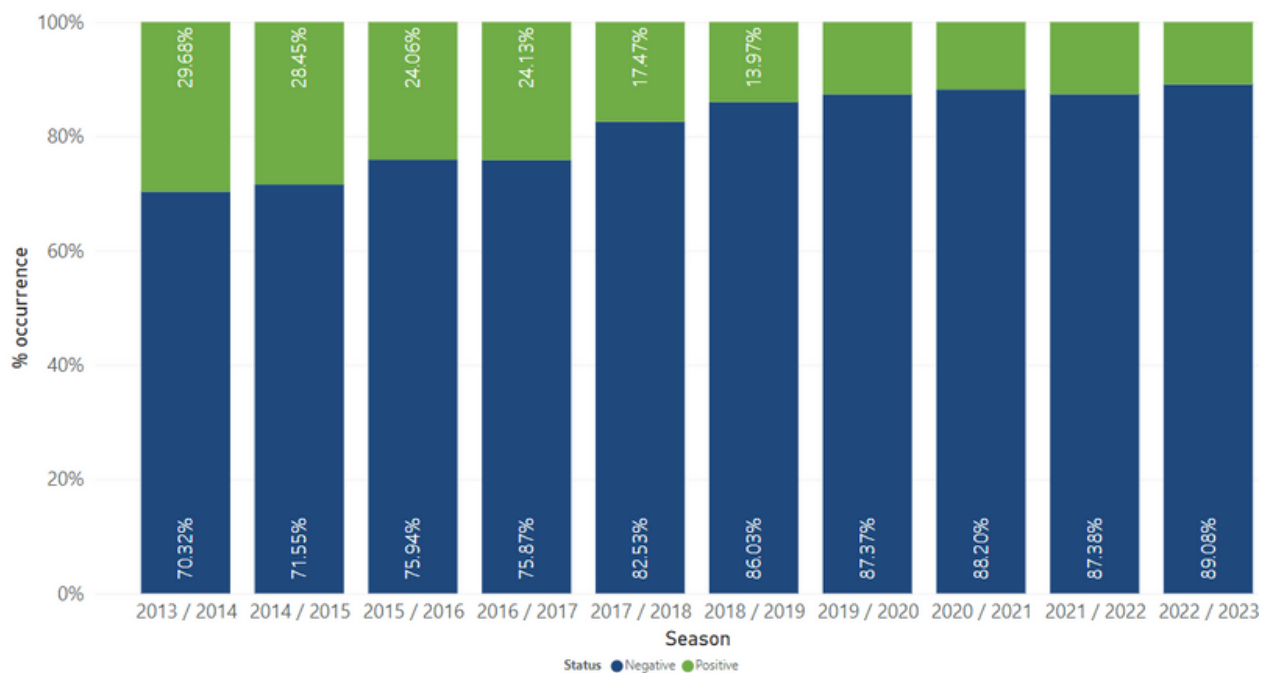


VIRUS INFECTION | POST-CONTROL SAMPLE

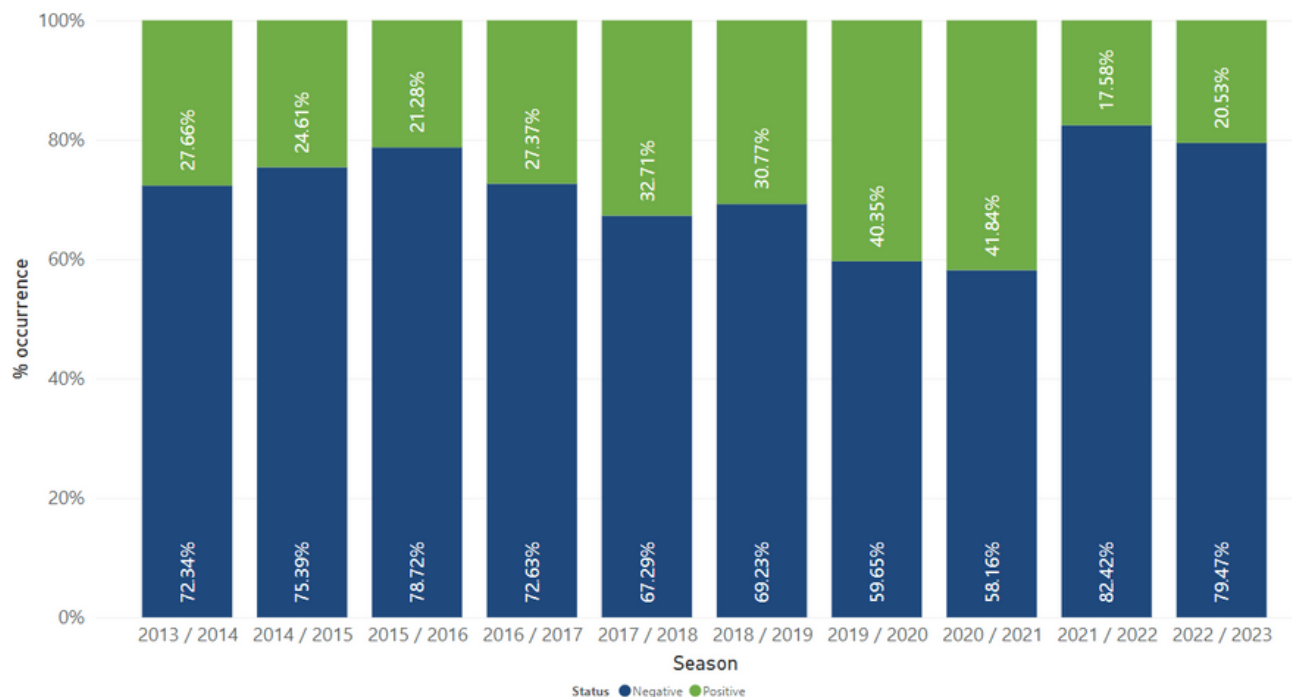
AVERAGE PERCENTAGE VIRUS INFECTION



POTATO VIRUS Y (PVY)



POTATO LEAF ROLL VIRUS (PLRV)



TUBER DEVIATIONS

During visual tuber inspections conducted for the 2022/2023 season, an average of 2.513% Black Dot / Silver Scurf was found on material planted as Generation 0 to Generation 2, and 6.180% for material planted as Generation 3 to Generation 5, and it was detected in 92.16% of all tuber inspections, compared to 87.74 of the previous year.

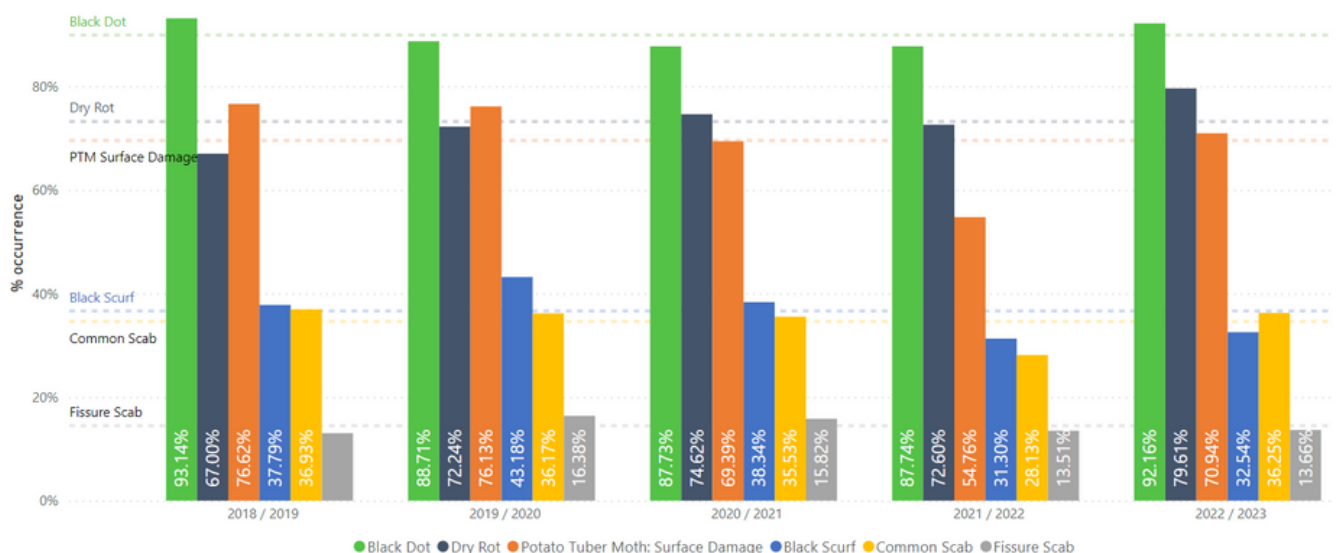
2022/2023 saw the the biggest percentage, namely 4.800% *Rhizoctonia* / Black scurf detected in generation 6 to Generation 7 planted in ten years. However this was still well within the tolerances for Generation 7 and Certified Commercial.

An average of 0.181% Dry Rot was found on material planted as Generation 0 to Generation 2, and 0.129% for material planted as Generation 3 to Generation 5, and detected in 79.61% of all tuber inspections.

Black Dot / Silver Scurf (92.16% of all tuber inspections), Dry Rot (79.61%), and Potato Tuber Moth: Surface Damage (70.94 compared to 54.08% in 2021/2022) are the biggest concerns for deviations that occurred during tuber inspections, followed by Black Scurf, Common Scab, and Fissure Scab.



TOP 6 DEVIATIONS





ADDRESSING RISKS

The detection of Pepper Ringspot Virus (PepRSV) in South Africa is a huge concern, not only for seed potato production and the potato industry, but also for other crops.

A PepRSV Task team had been established to gain as much information as possible on the pest.

PCS' detection of PepRSV is currently based on visual inspection during field inspections, sampling and tuber inspections, which are confirmed by diagnostic PCR testing. All certification actions are suspended when detected visually, pending the results of diagnostic samples taken. The grower is informed that all plantings within the isolation area are deemed as presumably infected.

Due to the suspicion, the grower is at this point instructed that the potatoes may not be moved or distributed pending the result. Certification is then rejected based on Plantovita's confirmation of PepRSV and DALRRD is notified in writing.

Further to this, it is clear that a pathogen such as *Ralstonia* spp. should not be underestimated.



REGULATED PESTS

RALSTONIA SPP.

Ralstonia solanacearum and *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* are classified as Regulated Non-Quarantine (RNQ) 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. with a sample size of 4 605 tubers providing a 99% probability of detecting one infected plant in a 1 000.

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 seven new detections in the 2022/2023 planting season, two in KwaZulu-Natal and four in the Northern Cape and one in Limpopo. Two of the seven incidences detected were infected with Biovar 3, *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* and the rest with Biovar 2, *Ralstonia solanacearum*. An eight-year withholding period applies in all cases.



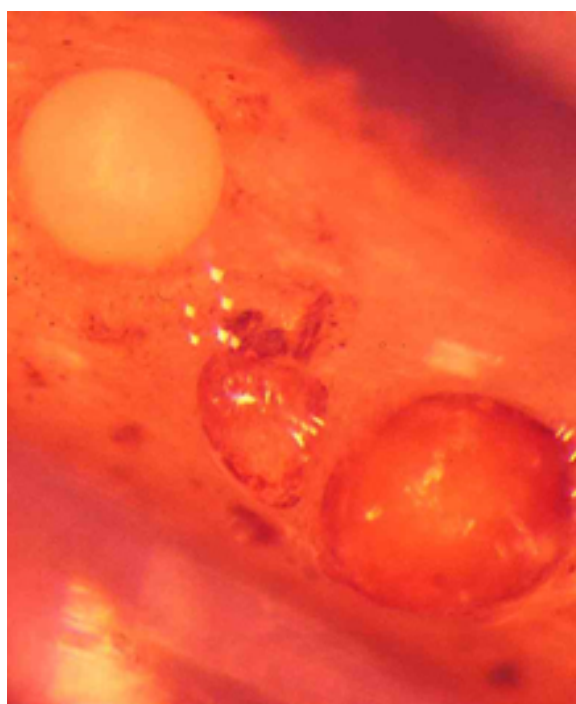
GOLDEN CYST NEMATODE

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.

All units with orders for Cyst Nematode had been resampled, tested, and found negative. There are therefore no longer any units with orders for Golden Cyst Nematode in South Africa.

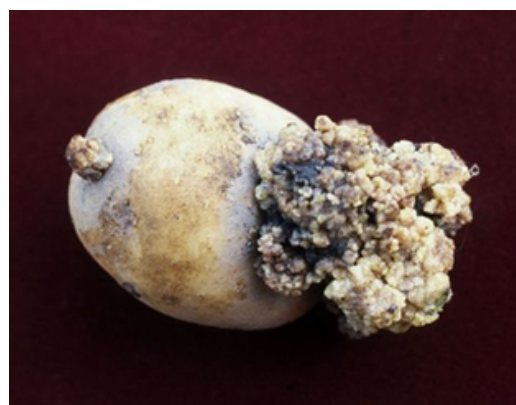
DALRRD has ongoing surveillance for this pest and all units registered for export are sampled and laboratory tested for the presence of the organism.



WART DISEASE

Synchytrium endobioticum, the organism causing wart disease was last found in the 1920s in South Africa. Control Measures R.110 as amended in R.1998 of 8 April 2022, removed some of the areas in KwaZulu-Natal, after monitoring and samples taken tested negative.

The DALRRD has ongoing surveillance for this pest.



https://live.staticflickr.com/3768/10680400636_28e7c7c4ab.jpg

PEPPER RINGSPOT VIRUS (PepRSV)

In the reporting year, two detections of PepRSV had been made in seed potato plantings, namely in the Eastern Free State and Kwa-Zulu-Natal.

Certification had been withdrawn where seed potatoes on sub-units had already been certified and rejected for all other sub-units of the unit. DALRRD issues orders for destruction of potatoes.

However, DALRRD is cognizant of the massive economic impact and allows for destruction by processing or consumption after treatment with a sprout inhibitor.

Research is ongoing as there are a lot of questions to which we do not have the answers yet.

The development of a high-throughput ELISA test receives urgent attention.



TECHNICAL EVALUATION

the PCS in-house Technical Evaluation was conducted on 19 October 2022.

It is a requirement from DALRRD that the knowledge and expertise of Certification Officials are evaluated every five years. This is besides the continuous monitoring of certification standards in and between regions.

For this purpose a trial, consisting of 47 varieties, were planted. It was not only for evaluation purposes, but also an opportunity for Certification Officials to get to know the varieties not planted in their regions.

The Certification Officials were evaluated on field inspection, tuber deviations, diffused light sprouts and were also given the opportunity to do variety descriptions based on UPOV requirements.

Trueness-to-type, variety mixing and variety switching also formed part of the evaluation.

Certificates were issued for the best performance in three categories, namely: Tuber inspection | Johan Germishuys, Field inspection | Leonard van der Walt, Varietal identification | Johandr  Breitenbach.

Johandr  Breitenbach also received the certificate for the best overall performance.





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PRODUCTION AREAS

REGIONAL OFFICE

CHRISTIANA

PRODUCTION AREA

Eastern Free State
North West
Western Free State
North-Eastern Cape

DOUGLAS

Eastern Cape
Northern Cape

LYDENBURG

Limpopo
Mpumalanga

MALMESBURY

Ceres
Sandveld
Around Sandveld
Southern Cape

PIETERMARITZBURG

KwaZulu-Natal

GPS COORDINATES

● Head Office	E28° 16.381' S25° 44.722'
● Malmesbury	E18° 43.459' S33° 26.825'
● Douglas	E23° 46.287' S29° 03.233'
● Christiana	E25° 09.929' S27° 54.864'
● Lydenburg	E30° 28.262' S25° 06.311'
● Pietermaritzburg	E30° 25.059' S29° 39.415'



