

## ANNUAL TECHNICAL & TRADE SYMPOSIUM 2026

28 -29 MAY | KRONENBURG, PAARL

*Shaping the berry future*

### AGENDA | Day 1

Coffee and Registration	8h00 - 9h00
<b>SESSION 1</b>	9h00
Mr. Brent Walsh   Opening & Welcome	9h00 - 9h05
Dr. Gulu Bekker   Berries ZA Technical: What we do and where we are going	9h05 - 9h30
Prof. Pia Addison   <i>Drosophila Suzukii</i> : 18 months down the line, an update on the current research.	9h30- 09h55
Dr. Elma Carstens   Invisible Threats, Real Losses: Strengthening Biosecurity	09h55 - 10h20
Refreshments	10h20 - 11h00

<b>SESSION 2</b>	11h00
Prof. Chris Weldon   Thrips monitoring, movement and environmental preferences in blueberry orchards and the surrounding landscape	11h00 - 11h25
Prof. Karin Jacobs   The relationship between blueberries and fungi: it is complicated!	11h25 -11h50
Prof. Stephanie Midgley   A Government Perspective – Building Climate Resilience in Agriculture	11h50 - 12h15
Dr Renate Smit   Fumigation as a post-harvest tool for SWD control: Current progress & insights	12h15 - 12h40
Lunch	12h40 - 14h00

# BERRIES ZA

— SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICAN GROWERS —

## ANNUAL TECHNICAL & TRADE SYMPOSIUM 2026

28 -29 MAY | KRONENBURG, PAARL

### AGENDA | Day 1

SESSION 3	14h00
Prof. Lizel Mostert   Management and characterisation of stem blight and dieback of blueberry plants	14h00 - 14h30
Dr. Bruce Paxton   Shared Water: Addressing Water Risk in Agricultural Catchments using the Water Balance Tool	14h30 - 15h00
Dr. Estelle Kempen   Optimising Nutrition in Blueberries	15h00 - 15h30
Conclusion & acknowledgements	15h30 - 15h40
Spitbraai	from 16h00



brought to you by UNITED EXPORTS GROUP



## AGENDA | Day 2

Coffee and Registration	8h00 - 9h00
<b>SESSION 1</b>	9h00
Mr. Herman van Dyk   Welcoming	9h00 - 9h05
Dr. Mono Mashaba   A word from Minister Steenhuizen's office	9h05 - 9h35
Mr. Theo Boshoff   Geopolitics- where to from here in unstable times	9h35 - 10h05
Prof. Eugene Cloete   Make your business great again with ordinary people	10h05 - 10h45
Refreshments	10h45 - 11h15

<b>SESSION 2</b>	11h15
Mrs. Antoinette van Heerden   Transnet and our South African ports	11h15 - 11h35
Mr. Louw Pienaar   Looking 10 years ahead Global blueberry markets and what to expect from South Africa: 2026-2035	11h35 - 12h00
Mr. Brent Walsh   BerriesZA update	12h00 - 12h20
Questions & Wrap up	12h20 - 12h30
Lunch	12h30
AGM (members only)	13h00