

ANNUAL TECHNICAL & TRADE SYMPOSIUM 2026

28 -29 MAY | KRONENBURG, PAARL

Shaping the berry future

AGENDA | Day 1

Coffee and Registration	8h00 - 9h00
SESSION 1	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

SESSION 2	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 —

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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



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AGENDA | Day 2

Coffee and Registration	8h00 - 9h00
SESSION 1	9h00
Mr. Herman van Dyk Welcoming	9h00 - 9h05
Dr. Mono Mashaba A word from Minister Steenhuisen'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

SESSION 2	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