

FREE ATTENDANCE | REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Growing Tomorrow: Sustainable & Protected Vegetable Farming

Proudly presented by NAMPO Cape, Food For Mzansi and Two Oceans Projects and Services



Friday, 12 September 2025 from 09:00 - 12:30

Santam Auditorium (lower level), Bredasdorp Park

This session looks at how growing vegetables in protected environments – like tunnels or greenhouses – can help ensure a steady food supply, especially in dry areas like the Western Cape. We'll explore smart ways to use water and other resources, control pests, and connect farmers to markets, with a focus on supporting both new and experienced farmers.

PROGRAMME



09:00 - 09:15 | Welcome

Speaker: Mr Ivor Price, Co-founder of Food For Mzansi Group



Opening Remarks

Introduction to the Waterwise Centre's vision and the importance of protected cultivation.

Speaker: Dr Ian Goldie, Water Wise Centre Bredasdorp Park



09:15 - 09:45 | Sustainable Water Management in Vegetable Farming

Water Quality Management in Vegetable Farming – including state of surface water quality, (importance of industry-academic collaboration and development of low-cost real-time monitoring).

Speaker: Prof Gideon Wolfaardt, Water Institute of Stellenbosch University



09:45 - 10:15 | Water treatment technologies suitable for application in agriculture

Exploring modern and cost-effective water treatment technologies that can benefit vegetable cultivation in rural areas where available ground or surface water quality is unsuitable for agricultural use.

Speaker: Mr KK Mhlauli, CEO of Ikusasa Water

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10:15 - 10:45 | Coffee Break & Networking Opportunity



10:45 - 11:15 | Integrated Pest & Disease Management in Controlled Environments

Pest and disease control strategies tailored for greenhouses and traditional open-field farming, focusing on cost-effective and environmentally friendly methods for both established and emerging farmers.

Speaker: Elmien Coetser, Technical Training Coordinator of RealIPM South Africa



11:15 - 11:45 | Unlocking investments in controlled environment agriculture

Showcasing how smart farming solutions – including tunnels, shade netting and drone-based precision spraying can deliver higher yields and resilience while opening new investment opportunities in South Africa's vegetable industry.

Speaker: Mpho Mence, Sustainable Agriculture Analyst at GreenCape



11:45 - 12:15 | Soilless Farming Innovations: Hydroponics & Aquaponics

An exploration of traditional soil management versus soilless farming techniques, providing practical advice for adapting these innovations for emerging farmers.

Speaker: Mr Henk Stander, Aquaculture unit, University of Stellenbosch



12:15 - 12:45 | Market Trends & Value-Added Opportunities in Vegetable Production

Insights into consumer preferences, export opportunities, and adding value to vegetable products for higher profitability, with guidelines for emerging farmers on how to engage and grow in competitive markets.

Speaker: Dr Pippa Karsen, Department of Agriculture, Western Cape Government



12:45 | Vote of thanks

Speaker: Dr Ian Goldie, Water Wise Centre Bredasdorp Park

RSVP: bit.ly/nampocape2025