Cultivating the Future

Driving Productivity, Resilience and Sustainable Growth Through Seed & Fertiliser Innovation

SMART SEEDS & FERTILISER INNOVATION FORUM

26 - 27 August 2026

Irene Country Club
Johannesburg, South Africa

Exploring the technologies, partnerships and innovations shaping the future of African agriculture

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Managing Director, DRIS (Diagnosis and Recommendation Integrated System) Global Council Member, World Agriculture Forum

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Principal Investigator of the Green Engineering Research Group (GERG) -(DUT)

Elsje Schreuder
Technical Marketing Manager: Innovative Biosolutions Rovensa Next

Dr Kingstone Mashingaidze
Senior research manager at the ARC-CGI

Michael Ellis
Manager: Research Coordination and NAMPO Academy , Grain SA

Fredo Ströh
Director | Patent Attorney & At van Rooy, Chair of the Board and a Director KISCH IP

Tuelo Motloba
Doctoral Researcher in Plant Pathology: Department of Plant & Soil Sciences

Thabile Nkunjana
Senior Economist: National Agricultural Marketing Council

Lyniarie Erwee
Quality Control Manager: Limagrain Field Seeds

Dr Belinda Janse van Rensburg
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Ryan New
Managing Director of The Original Grain Company

McGreggor Ntuli
Technical & Training Manager: AECI Plant Health

Viwe Siwisa
Quality Testing Manager Corteva Agriscience

Roedolf Nieuwenhuis
Managing Director, Biosyntrix

Dr Varsha Chhiba
Senior Researcher, CSIR

Seadi Mofutsanyana
LAB – Seed Analyst , ZAR Seeds

Gerhard Vermaark
Founder, Custom Chemistry

Lindi Grobelaar
Founder, Agri -Alchemi

Dr. Ian Heyns
Spring wheat breeding, ARC

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

GSA GRAIN | GRAAN

ARC • LNR

Limagrain

AECI

NAMC

zar SEED PRODUCTIONS

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

AFSTA

KISCH IP

CORTEVA™ agriscience

CSIR

BIOSYNTRIX
BIOSECURITY • SYNERGY • TECHNOLOGY

Agri-Alchemi growing passion...

Rovensa Next

DUT
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

THE ORIGINAL GRAIN COMPANY

CUSTOM CHEMISTRY

MEDIA PARTNERS

HarvestSA

farmer's weekly

FOOD FOR MZANSI

AFRICAN FARMING

SMART SEEDS & FERTILISER INNOVATION FORUM

The Smart Seeds & Fertiliser Innovation Forum is a high-level executive platform bringing together commercial farmers, agribusiness leaders, researchers, input suppliers, policymakers, financiers, and technology providers to explore the future of agricultural productivity, sustainability, and innovation.

The forum focuses on seed systems, fertiliser innovation, biologicals, crop protection, plant nutrition, precision agriculture, and integrated farming strategies shaping the future of agriculture across Africa.

Why This Forum Matters Now

Agriculture is entering one of the most critical and transformative periods in decades. Across Africa and global markets, farmers and agribusinesses are under growing pressure to produce more with fewer resources while navigating rising input costs, climate volatility, supply chain disruptions, sustainability demands, and increasing pressure on food systems.

At the same time, rapid advancements in seed genetics, fertiliser technologies, biologicals, precision agriculture, AI-driven farming, and plant nutrition are reshaping what is possible within modern agriculture.

The challenge facing the sector is no longer simply about increasing production — it is about producing smarter, more efficiently, and more sustainably.

This is why the Smart Seeds & Fertiliser Innovation Forum is both timely and essential.

The forum comes at a pivotal moment where:

- Farmers are demanding better returns on increasingly expensive inputs
- Climate change is forcing the adoption of more resilient crop systems
- Biologicals and regenerative agriculture are moving into the mainstream
- Precision agriculture and data-driven farming are accelerating rapidly
- Food security and agricultural competitiveness are becoming strategic national priorities
- Global fertiliser and commodity market volatility continues to impact profitability
- Export markets are placing greater emphasis on sustainability, traceability, and ESG compliance
- Governments and investors are prioritising climate-smart agriculture and resilient food systems

The agricultural sector is actively searching for practical, scalable solutions that can improve:

- Productivity and yield performance
- Input efficiency and profitability
- Soil health and sustainability
- Crop resilience and quality
- Supply chain reliability
- Commercial competitiveness

The Smart Seeds & Fertiliser Innovation Forum creates a high-level platform where industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, investors, agribusinesses, and commercial farmers can come together to address these challenges and opportunities directly.

More importantly, the forum bridges the gap between:

- Science and commercial agriculture
- Innovation and practical implementation
- Sustainability and profitability
- Policy and on-the-ground farming realities

This is not simply another agricultural conference — it is a strategic industry platform focused on the technologies, partnerships, and ideas that will shape the future of farming across Africa and emerging agricultural markets.

Why Attend

Who Should Attend

The Smart Seeds & Fertiliser Innovation Forum is designed for senior stakeholders and decision-makers across the agricultural value chain, including:

- Commercial farmers and large-scale producers
- Seed companies and plant breeding organisations
- Fertiliser manufacturers and distributors
- Crop protection and biologicals companies
- Agronomists, crop advisers, and agricultural consultants
- Agricultural cooperatives and producer organisations
- Agritech and precision agriculture companies
- Soil health and plant nutrition specialists
- Irrigation and smart farming solution providers
- Agricultural researchers, scientists, and academics
- Agricultural economists and market analysts
- Government departments and policymakers
- Regulators and standards organisations
- Exporters, commodity groups, and supply chain stakeholders
- Agricultural financiers, banks, and insurers
- Investment firms and development finance institutions
- Input retailers and agricultural supply businesses
- Sustainability, ESG, and climate resilience specialists
- Food security and rural development organisations
- Agri-processing and food production companies
- Logistics and agricultural infrastructure providers
- Technology startups and innovation hubs
- NGOs and development organisations working in agriculture
- Agricultural media and industry associations

Key Job Titles & Roles

The forum is particularly relevant for:

- CEOs, Managing Directors & Executives
- Heads of Agribusiness
- Commercial Directors & Sales Directors
- Agronomy Managers & Crop Specialists
- Seedcare & Biologicals Leads
- Plant Nutrition Specialists
- Product Development & R&D Managers
- Technical Managers & Scientists
- Supply Chain & Operations Managers
- Sustainability & ESG Managers
- Marketing & Business Development Managers
- Policy Advisors & Agricultural Economists
- Researchers & Academic Leaders
- Farm Managers & Production Directors
- Procurement & Input Strategy Managers
- Export & Commodity Specialists
- Financial Institutions & Agricultural Investment Teams

Industries Represented

- Seed & Genetics
- Fertilisers & Plant Nutrition
- Biologicals & Biostimulants
- Crop Protection
- Precision Agriculture & Agritech
- Commercial Farming
- Agricultural Finance & Insurance
- Food Production & Processing
- Agricultural Research & Academia
- Government & Policy
- Export & Trade
- Sustainability & Climate-Smart Agriculture

AGENDA: DAY 1 – 26 August 2026		
TIME	**TOPIC**	**SPEAKER**
08:00 – 09:00	**Registration & Networking Breakfast**	
09:00 – 09:15	**Opening Remarks**	**Charles le Roux:** Managing Director, DRIS (Diagnosis and Recommendation Integrated System) Global Council Member, World Agriculture Forum
09:15 – 09:45	**The Future of the Seed Industry in South Africa:** Innovation, Regulation & Growth	**Matome Ramokgopa:** Former SANSOR Chairperson, Board Member of the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA), and Regional Sales Director – Sub-Saharan Africa, Enza Zaden
09:45 – 10:15	**The Science of Seed Assurance: Quality, Testing & Field Reliability**	**Seadi Mofutsanyana:** LAB – Seed Analyst, ZAR Seeds
10:15 – 10:45	**Next-Generation Crop Solutions:** Integrating Biologicals into Modern Farming Systems	**Elsje Schreuder:** Technical Marketing Manager: Innovative Biosolutions, Rovensa Next
10:45 – 11:15	NETWORKING BREAK	
11:15 – 11:45	**From Genetics to Yield:** Advancing Crop Performance Through Innovation	**Dr Kingstone Mashingaidze:** Senior research manager at the ARC-CGI
11:45 – 12:15	**New Plant Breeders' Rights Act and its implications for the industry**	**Fredo Ströh:** Director Patent Attorney & At van Rooy, Chair of the Board and a Director KISCH IP
12:15 – 12:45	**Smart Fertilisers for Food Security**	**Lindi Grobelaar:** Founder, Agri-Alchemi
12:45 – 13:45	LUNCH & NETWORKING	
13:45 – 14:15	**Financing Agriculture & unlocking Production through smart input models**	**Ryan New:** Managing Director of The Original Grain Company
14:15 – 14:45	**Geopolitics, Input Costs & the Future of Agricultural Sustainability**	**Thabile Nkunjana:** Senior Economist: Trade Research Unit Markets and Economic Research Division - National Agricultural Marketing Council
14:45 – 15:15	**Seed Quality & Performance:** The Science Behind Reliable Crop Outcomes	**Lyniarie Erwee:** Quality Control Manager, Limagrain Field Seeds
15:15-15:30	AFTERNOON BREAK	
15:30-16:00	**Next-Generation Technology: Optimising Plant Growth and Fertiliser-Use Efficiency with Bio-Fertilisers**	**Gerhard Vermaark:** Founder, Custom Chemistry
16:00	**Closing Remarks:**	**Charles le Roux:** Managing Director, DRIS (Diagnosis and Recommendation Integrated System) Global Council Member, World Agriculture Forum
AGENDA: DAY 2 – 27 August 2026		
08:00 – 09:00	**Networking Breakfast**	
09:00 – 09:30	**Responsible Crop Protection:** Supporting Productivity, Sustainability & Farmer Safety	**McGreggor Ntuli:** Technical & Training Manager, AECI Plant Health
09:30 – 10:00	**From Seed to System:** Integrating Disease Management into Smart Input Strategies for Grain Crops	**Dr Belinda Janse van Rensburg:** Researcher Agricultural Research Council (ARC)
10:00 – 10:30	**Research, Innovation & Productivity in Grain Production**	**Michael Ellis:** Manager: Research Coordination and NAMPO Academy | GrainSA
10:30 – 11:00	NETWORKING BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30	**"Building Resilient Cropping Systems:** Biological Approaches to Soilborne Disease Management"	**Tuelo Motloba,** Doctoral Researcher in Plant Pathology Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria
11:30 – 12:00	**Nutrient sweet spot for optimal yields**	**Charles le Roux:** Managing Director, DRIS (Diagnosis and Recommendation Integrated System) Global Council Member, World Agriculture Forum
12:00 – 12:30	**From Laboratory to Field:** Ensuring Reliable Seed Performance	**Viwe Siwisa:** Quality Testing Manager Corteva Agriscience
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH & NETWORKING	
13:30 – 14:00	**Bio-protectant, assisting with plant growth promotion**	**Dr Varsha Chhiba:** Senior Researcher, CSIR
14:00 – 14:30	**Breeding for Resilience:** Advancing Rainfed Crop Systems	**Dr. Ian Heyns:** Spring wheat breeding, ARC
14:30 – 15:00	NETWORKING TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
15:00-15:30	**From Seed to Surveillance:** How Digital Biosecurity and Early Warning Systems Protect Crop Productivity and Input Performance	**Roedolf Nieuwenhuis:** Managing Director, Biosyntrix
15:30-16:15	**Green Fertilizers:** Driving Sustainable Agricultural Transformation	**Dr Emmanuel Kweinor Tetteh:** Principal Investigator of the Green Engineering Research Group (GERG) Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, Durban University of Technology (DUT)
16:15-16:30	**Closing Remarks**	**Conference chair**