



**Stellenbosch**

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**Chair in Plant Health**

## **Introduction to potato production practices**

### **The Course Presenter: Prof Martin Steyn**

**Martin Steyn is a Professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Pretoria.** His research focus is on the agronomy and water requirements of field crops and medicinal plants. He specializes in potatoes and has been involved in potato research for the past 35 years, first at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), and the last 22 years at UP. His current research focus is on the improvement of effective irrigation water management, potato production in a changing climate and the development of more sustainable crop production practices. Prof Steyn collaborates with scientists, research organisations and companies nationally and internationally. He has presented numerous lectures as speaker and invited speaker at national and international congresses and also presented training in sustainable irrigation practices to potato agronomists, field staff and growers from countries such as Australia, Egypt, Russia, India, the Middle East and various African countries.

### **Programme**

#### **Day 1: 10 October 2024**

**08:00** Arrival and Registration

**08:30 - 10:30**

- Welcome
- The origin and history of potatoes
- The South African potato industry
- Potato crop growth stages and basic physiology

**10:30 - 10:50** Tee/Coffee break

**10:50 - 12:45**

- Seed quality, physiological age and seed handling
- Plant and stem population
- Soil selection, soil preparation and cultivation practices
- Available cultivars and cultivar selection

**12:45 - 13:30** Lunch

**13:30 - 15:00**

- Fertiliser requirements and nutrient deficiencies
- Fertiliser requirement calculations

**15:00 - 15:20** Tea/coffee break

**15:20 - 16:00**

- Input resource use efficiencies of the South African potato industry

#### **Day 2: 11 October 2024**

**08:30 - 10:30**

- Overview of the most important bacterial diseases
- Overview of fungal diseases
- Overview of viral diseases

**10:30 - 10:50** Tea /Coffee break

**10:50 - 12:45**

- Overview of the most important potato pests
- Water requirements and irrigation management
- Irrigation management tools

**12:45 - 13:30** Lunch

**13:30 - 15:00**

- The prospects of potato production in a changing climate - what can we expect for the future?

• Questions

**15:00 - 15:30**

- Quiz
- Course evaluation

**15:30** Closure



**Presenting type: In person**  
**Date: 10 - 11 October 2024**  
**Price: R5000 per person**

**Click here to register for the course**

**agritraining.co.za**

**For more information and registration:**  
Lorette de Villiers - [lorette@sun.ac.za](mailto:lorette@sun.ac.za) • 0829211945