

Programme

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST 2026



TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM
07:30	Registration & coffee
08:15	Welcome. Talitha Venter (Conference Chair)
08:30	Conference opening. Ilse Trautmann (SASEV Honorary President/SATI Research Committee Chair)
08:45	I1. Opening address by Associate Partner: Western Cape Department of Agriculture
09:15	K1. Keynote address by Presenting Partner: Agrochemicals: Where are we heading? Marius Boshoff (Villa Crop)
09:45	Gold Sponsor Video: Philagro
09:50	Coffee Break (Sponsored by Philagro)
10:20	I2. Platinum sponsor address: Biologiese produkte & grondgesondheid. Trix Quixley (NexusAG)
SESSION 1: Our Industry: Local and Global Perspectives Session Moderator: Conrad Burger	
10:35	K2. Keynote address: Strengthening Resilience: Chartering the next chapter for the South African table grape sector. Mecia Petersen (SATI)
11:05	I3. Perceived quality vs actual quality. Morné Bester (TopFruit)
11:20	I4. Sun World Global Technical Services (GTS) – Insights. Tharien Hansen and Robert Oosthuizen (Sun World International)
11:35	I5. Sweet Globe™ and disease resistance genetics. JT Nel (BloomFresh)
11:50	O1. Long-term multi-environment assessment of rootstock performance for commercial table grape production in South Africa. Keboneilwe Toolo , Graeme Matthews, Mardé Booyse, Iwan Labuschagné
12:05	F1. Do seed traces matter? Crop-load effects on consumer acceptance of Crimson Seedless grapes. Janéne Strydom , Marieta van der Rijst, Isabella van Huyssteen, Kobus Hunter
12:10	I6. Panel Discussion Sponsor Address: Drip vs Micro-Sprinkler: An economic comparison for table grape irrigation. Christo van der Westhuizen (Netafim)
12:25	P1. Panel Discussion: Managing water, optimising quality (Sponsored by Netafim) Panel Moderator: Dr Ilse Trautmann. Panelists: Danie Kritzing, Stephany Midgley, Philip Myburgh, Andre Roux
13:10	Lunch (Sponsored by Inteligro)
SESSION 2: Delivering Quality Products: Post-harvest Management and Packaging Session Moderator: Denene Erasmus	
14:00	K3. Keynote Address: What's in the postharvest toolbox? Essential tools for maintaining table grape condition. Oscar Salgado (AgroFresh)
14:30	O2. Pallet covers effect on table grapes weight loss during cold storage. Luis Luchsinger, Felipe Illanes , Felipe Vallejos
14:45	O3. CFD-based virtual prototyping for enhanced understanding and optimisation of commercial table grape export packaging. Thalente Mpanza , Robert Lufu, Buhle Maphosa, Corné Coetzee, Alemayehu Tsige
15:00	Gold Sponsor Video: AgroFresh
15:05	O4. Influence of packaging configuration on postharvest quality and physiological responses of table grapes during cold storage and shelf life. Sinothando Feni , Buhle Maphosa, Elke Crouch, Alemayehu Tsige
15:20	O5. From experimental measurement to virtual prototyping: Multiphysics modelling of SO ₂ dynamics in commercial table grape packaging. Thalente Mpanza, Buhle Maphosa, Feni Sinothando, Robert Lufu, Corné Coetzee, Elke Crouch, Alemayehu Tsige
15:35	O6. Linking crop-load, storage potential and sensory quality of Crimson Seedless. Janéne Strydom , Marieta van der Rijst, Isabella van Huyssteen, Kobus Hunter
15:50	Gold Sponsor Video: Armando Alvarez
16:00	Coffee break
SESSION 3: Plant Health: Towards a Healthier Future Session Moderator: Minette Havenga	
16:30	I7. Cocktail Sponsor Address: HaifaStim Force: The perfect supplement for uniform development of vines. Filippo Correddu (Haifa Group - Italy)
16:45	O7. Cell wall chemotyping for predicting table grape berry firmness. John P. Moore , Terri-Lynne Naidoo, Miguel Henriques, Eugene Badenhorst, Bodil Jørgensen, Talitha Venter
17:00	O8. Optimum irrigation of table grape vineyards in South Africa in the context of climate change. Carolyn Howell
17:15	O9. The evaluation of the efficacy of an essential oil-infused biocontrol sheet against <i>Botrytis cinerea</i> during cold storage to protect table grapes. Nonkululeko Masikane , Rodney Hart, Valmary Van Breda, Nombasa Ntushelo, Bongani Ndimba, Ashwil Klein
17:30	Closing
17:45	Cocktail function (Sponsored by Haifa)

K = Keynote | I = Industry | P = Panel Discussion | O = Oral | F = Flash



HOSTED IN COLLABORATION
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Programme

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026



TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM
07:30	Welcoming coffee
08:00	I8. Platinum Sponsor Address: FlipPER. André van Schalkwyk (Bayer)
SESSION 3: Plant Health: Towards a Healthier Future Session Moderator: Minette Havenga	
08:15	O10. Assessing the impact of cover crop cultivation in a Sweet Globe™ vineyard in the Berg River Region, South Africa. Carolyn Howell , Karen Freitag, Reckson Mulidzi
08:30	O11. CRISPR/Cas9-Mediated genome editing of VvDMR6 confers dual stress tolerance in grapevine. Clara Holm , Minette Havenga, Justin Lashbrooke, Johan Burger, Manuela Campa
08:45	O12. How fungicide pressure, sexual reproduction and fitness shape QoI and SDHI resistance dynamics in grapevine powdery mildew populations in South Africa. Danae Stoltz , Lizel Mostert, Francois Halleen, Minette Havenga
09:00	F2. Assessing fungicides and biocontrol agents as pruning wound protectants on Richter 99 rootstock material against grapevine trunk disease pathogens. Zubayr Daniels , Matthew Webber, Lizel Mostert, Yolanda Petersen, Francois Halleen, Minette Havenga
09:05	F3. Impact of agrochemical formulation type on the epidermal integrity of table grapes: Microcracking and russetting. Larissa van der Vyver , Uzi Yaron
09:10	F4. Biocontrol potential of non- <i>Saccharomyces</i> yeasts against <i>Botrytis cinerea</i> . Zukisani Gomomo, Morris Fanadzo, Maxwell Mewa-Ngongang, Boredi Chidi, Justin Hoff, Marieta van der Rijst, Lucky Mokwena, Mathabatha Setati, Heinrich du Plessis
09:15	F5. Application of dsRNA as an antiviral strategy in grapevine. Kian Kruger , Justin Lashbrooke, Johan Burger, Manuela Campa
09:20	F6. CRISPR-Based-One-Pot assay for the sensitive and specific detection of grapevine Leafroll-Associated Virus 3 (GLRaV-3). Lisa Malherbe , Johan Burger, Manuela Campa
09:25	F7. Multispecies microbial consortia from vineyards for controlling grapevine pathogens. Mahlatse Moremi , Heinrich du Plessis, Evodia Setati
09:30	Coffee break (Sponsored by APL Cartons)
10:00	I9. Presenting Partner Address: Why Villa Crop Protection is investing in climate intelligence. Gabrielle Redlinghuis (Villa Crop)
SESSION 4: A Sustainable Table Grape Future: Innovation and New Insights Session Moderator: Talitha Venter	
10:15	K4. Keynote Address: South-African grape industries into the future: Training, innovation and entrepreneurship as a partnership between industry and academia. Albert Strever (Stellenbosch University)
10:45	O13. Non-destructive estimation of table grape bunch mass using RGB-based morphological features and machine learning. Talitha Liebenberg , Manja Strever, Talitha Venter, Carlos Poblete-Echeverría
11:00	O14. Plastic covers in vineyards: Effects on remotely sensed canopy spectral signals and physiological relationships. Nicola Gerardo Trombetta, Eunice Avenant, Jan Avenant, Laura de Palma, Vittorino Novello, Carlos Poblete-Echeverría
11:15	O15. Biochemical regulation of dormancy release in Crimson Seedless grapevines. Henry Viljoen , Eunice Avenant, Talitha Venter, Theunis Kotze, John Moore
11:30	O16. Optimisation of VNIR spectral indices using variable selection and ratio-based spectral analysis for predicting grape quality parameters. Fikile Wolela , Talitha Venter, Carlos Poblete-Echeverría
11:45	F8. Berry skin elasticity and cuticular wax composition as key drivers of cracking resistance in table grapes. Robin Bosman , Justin Lashbrooke
11:50	F9. Artificial intelligence for automated, non-invasive grapevine bunch detection and quantification. Mell Conradie , Talitha Liebenberg, Manja Strever, Carlos Poblete-Echeverría
11:55	F10. Diploid genome assemblies enable QTL refinement and marker development for berry aroma traits in grapevines. Varoostha Govender , Robin Bosman, Clint Rhode, Justin Lashbrooke
12:00	F11. Elucidating the interactions between grapevine vigour, nutrient levels and biochemical responses under different cover crops and management practices. Gumani Nemauma , Carolyn Howell, Reckson Mulidzi, Takalani Mulaudzi-Masuku
12:05	F12. Enhancing photosynthetic performance, nutrient use efficiency and marketable yield in AUTUMNCRISP® table grapes using an <i>Ecklonia maxima</i> - derived seaweed extract under semi-arid conditions. Alec Edwards, Dunesha Naicker
12:10	F13. Investigation of low-browning variegated grapevine mutant cv Bruce's Sport. Clara C Holm , Nina Wiese, Johan T Burger, Justin G Lashbrooke, Manuela Campa
12:15	F14. Return fertility of <i>Vitis vinifera</i> L. as affected by GA2, GA4+7 and GA3 plus s-abscisic acid (ABA). Sithobile Mhchwango , Talana Fourie, Jan Avenant, Eunice Avenant
12:20	P2. Panel Discussion: Table grape graduate of the future Panel Moderator: Mecia Petersen. Panellists: Albert Strever, Keboneilwe Toolo, Piet Karsten Snr, Brenton Maarman
13:05	Lunch (Sponsored by Philagro)
SESSION 5: Plastic Production Systems for Table Grapes: Research, Technology and Practical Experience Session Moderator: Tarryn Wettergreen	
14:00	O17-18; F15-18. Evaluating overhead nets and plastic covers for climate modification, harvest timing and product performance. Eunice Avenant
14:30	I10. Panel Discussion Sponsor Address: Anti-rain coverings: a tool to compete in the global market. Giuseppe Borracci and Giacomo Mastrosimini (Serroplast)
14:45	I11. Sponsored presentation: OASIS SecondSky™: Turning greenhouse covers into a tool for better grape performance. Nico Augsburger (iyris)
15:00	I12. Sponsored presentation: Daios Plastics - Safe D soft fruit protection films. Dimitris Daios (Daios Plastics), Brendan Kelly (Rhino Plastics)
15:15	P3. Panel Discussion: Overhead plastic protection in table grapes (Sponsored by Serroplast) Panel Moderator: Sean Walsh. Panellists: Alwyn Dippenaar, Reynecke Viljoen, Eunice Avenant
16:00	Closing and Thanks