



UNDERCOVER FARMING EXPO (Pty) Ltd, Reg No: 2011/147244/07, VAT No: 4160260727

P O Box 759, Montana Park, 0159

Email: info@undercoverfarmingexpo.com

Cell: 071 6399 300

Dear Colleague,

14 March 2025

**OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT A PAPER AT THE WESTERN CAPE
UNDERCOVER FARMING EXPO & CONFERENCE,
29 & 30 October 2025, Allée Bleue, Groot Drakenstein, Western Cape**

1. The Undercover Farming Expo & Conference, taking place on 29 and 30 October 2025, presents an excellent opportunity for industry experts to share their knowledge and insights with growers in the Western Cape. This prestigious event has consistently delivered exceptional business opportunities for exhibitors and high-quality content for delegates, with ample time for networking among professionals in the trade.
2. The conference is designed for both existing and potential producers and buyers of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and seedlings cultivated under protective cover. With tunnel and shade-net farming playing a crucial role in South Africa's agricultural landscape, this method provides an effective solution to the country's increasingly arid climate by optimizing water usage and minimizing evaporation through recycling and efficient irrigation systems.

The 2025 event will focus on a range of critical topics, including:

- Low to mid-tech undercover farming structures, systems, and methods
- High-tech undercover farming structures, systems, and methods
- Irrigation systems, controls, and methods
- Fertigation systems, controls, and methods
- Sustainable and efficient water and nutrient management, including runoff and rainwater reuse
- Future-proofing farms through soil, fertigation, irrigation, and energy alternatives
- Vegetable seed development and new varieties
- Berries: New varieties and market trends
- Agricultural insurance for crops, structures, and implements
- Fresh market trends, forecasts, and development
- Export and logistics for fresh fruit, vegetables, and ornamental plants
- Smart farming: Leveraging technology for farm management
- Pest management: Biological and chemical control solutions
- Climate and energy management
- Innovations in irrigation technology
- Water regulations and compliance
- Bio-friendly packaging solutions
- Mechanization advancements, AI, and drone technology
- Security technology to safeguard agricultural investments and ensure food supply stability
- The impact of global turmoil on South African agriculture and potential solutions
- Financial trends and market insights

3. Speakers are invited to contribute to this dynamic event by presenting a session. Each session is allocated a 45-minute slot, including a short Q&A session of approximately five minutes. Interested presenters are requested to complete the attached registration form and submit a recent head-and-shoulders photograph, a short biography, and a synopsis of their presentation for use on the event website, program, and marketing materials. Please note that these sessions are allocated to share technical information and are NOT designed as advertisement/sales sessions. Full presentations may be shared via Dropbox or WeTransfer. After the conclusion of the conference all presentations and video/sound clips will be distributed to all Undercover Farming role-players nationally and internationally.
4. While the Undercover Farming Expo does not cover speaker fees, presenters will be provided with lunch and refreshments on the day of their session. Additionally, they will have full access to the expo floor on their presentation day. Should a speaker wish to attend the second day of the conference (on a non-speaking day), a nominal fee of R1 750.00 will apply to cover venue costs.
5. Speakers are encouraged to confirm their participation as soon as possible, but no later than 1 July 2025, as only 12 speaker slots are available. Previous conferences have reached capacity, requiring organizers to turn away potential presenters.
6. Furthermore, the conference aims to foster engagement with future industry leaders by hosting BSc and MSc (final-year) students in the audience. During the 2025 Gauteng Undercover Farming Conference, these students actively participated in Q&A sessions, contributing to insightful and lively discussions that were highly appreciated by both speakers and delegates.

Should potential speakers have suggestions for additional relevant topics, they are welcome to submit their proposals for consideration.

Kind Regards,



SUZANNE OOSTHUIZEN

Managing Director
C: +27 (0) 82 832 1604
F: 086 518 3430
P: P O Box 759,
Montana Park,
0159



www.nufarmer africa.com
suzanne@nufarmer africa.com

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www.undercoverfarmingexpo.com
suzanne@undercoverfarmingexpo.com

