



UNDERCOVER FARMING EXPO (Pty) Ltd, Reg No: 2011/147244/07, VAT No: 4160260727
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Call for Speakers – Undercover Farming Expo & Conference 25 - 26 March 2026 | Gauteng

Invitation to Speak at the Undercover Farming Expo & Conference 2026

Dear Esteemed Speaker

We are delighted to extend a formal invitation for you to participate as a speaker at the **Undercover Farming Expo & Conference**, hosted at the **CSIR International Convention Centre in Tshwane** on **25–26 March 2026**. This flagship event has grown into one of South Africa's most respected gatherings for the protected horticulture sector—bringing together visionary producers, agribusiness leaders, researchers, innovators, and solution-driven suppliers shaping the future of modern agriculture.

Year after year, exhibitors report exceptional commercial value, while delegates praise the programme's depth, credibility, and relevance. For 2026, we are elevating the experience even further by curating a speaker line-up that delivers **powerful insights, future-ready strategies, and practical solutions** to help growers thrive in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Your expertise would be an invaluable contribution to this mission.

Why Your Voice Matters in 2026

Producers in Gauteng—and across South Africa—are operating in one of the most complex agricultural environments of the past decade. They continue to face:

- Escalating input, fertiliser, and production costs
- Water scarcity, regulatory constraints, and compliance pressures
- Energy volatility affecting climate control and production stability
- Climate-driven crop risks and unpredictable weather events
- Rapidly shifting consumer and retail market expectations
- The accelerating need for technology-enabled systems and real-time decision making

The **Undercover Farming Expo & Conference** exists to help producers navigate these realities by connecting them with leaders who bring clarity, innovation, and actionable guidance. This is where your contribution becomes incredibly important.

Conference Themes for 2026

(Presentation topics that attract the highest delegate engagement)

1. Production Systems & Structures

- Low- to mid-tech undercover solutions
- Automation, AI-assisted growing methods, and precision structures
- High-tech greenhouse innovations for local climate realities

2. Resource Efficiency & Sustainability

- Irrigation breakthroughs and moisture-control strategies
- Fertigation optimisation and nutrient-use efficiency
- Water recycling, run-off recovery, regulatory compliance
- Soil-health improvement and climate-resilient cropping systems
- Energy-smart production and alternative energy integration

3. Crop Innovation & Protection

- Vegetable seed innovation and cultivar development
- Berry production trends and protective-growing advancements
- New techniques in fruit production under shade nets
- Biological IPM, chemical strategies, and hybrid pest-management models
- Digital production tools, sensors, and real-time monitoring

4. Markets, Logistics & Sector Intelligence

- Fresh-produce market insights and short-term forecasting
- Export pathways, logistics, and compliance requirements
- Bio-friendly and sustainable packaging
- Robotics, drones, mechanisation, and the future of farm automation
- Farm-security technologies
- Risk management, future-farming financial insights
- The global volatility landscape and its implications for South African agriculture

If you wish to propose a topic outside these themes—especially one addressing current or emerging pressures in protected horticulture—we welcome the suggestion.

Speaker Format & Requirements

Each session is **45 minutes**, including a brief **5-minute Q&A**.

To confirm your participation, please submit:

- Completed speaker registration form
- Professional head-and-shoulders photograph
- Brief biography
- Presentation title and summary (for programme and marketing use)
- Final presentation (submitted via Dropbox or WeTransfer when ready)

Speaker Benefits

While speaker fees and travel costs are not covered, presenters receive:

- Complimentary lunch and refreshments on the day of speaking
- Full Expo-floor access on their presentation day
- Optional discounted access to the second day of the conference for **R1 800.00**

Our programme accommodates **only 12 speakers**, and slots fill quickly each year. We kindly ask you to confirm participation by **19 January 2026**.

We Would Be Honoured to Host You

Your experience, insights, and practical knowledge could help shape the direction of protected horticulture in South Africa. We sincerely hope you will consider joining us as a thought-leader contributing to a stronger, smarter, more resilient agricultural sector.

Please feel free to contact us for any additional information or discussion regarding your potential topic.

Warm regards,

Suzanne Oosthuizen

Organiser: Undercover Farming Expo & Conference

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