



UNDERCOVER FARMING EXPO (Pty) Ltd,

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CALL FOR SPEAKERS

2026 Undercover Farming Conference, Western Cape

Dear Colleague,

The organisers of the 2026 Undercover Farming Conference hereby invite qualified industry professionals, technical specialists, researchers, innovators, and agricultural thought leaders to submit proposals to present at the upcoming conference, which will take place on 21 and 22 October 2026 at Allée Bleue, Groot Drakenstein, Western Cape.

The conference serves as a respected platform for knowledge-sharing, professional engagement, and industry advancement within South Africa's undercover farming sector. It brings together growers, buyers, suppliers, agri-business stakeholders, and students to engage with current developments, emerging technologies, and strategic opportunities in protected agriculture.

For the 2026 event, speaker proposals are invited within the following six core themes:

1. Next-Generation Undercover Farming Systems
Including greenhouses, tunnels, shade net systems, and modern growing infrastructure.
2. Smart, High-Tech and Automated Growing Environments
Including automation, AI, climate control, sensors, mechanisation, drones, and precision agriculture.
3. Water, Energy and Eco-Efficient Production
Including Regenerative principles, irrigation, fertigation, water reuse, solar power, and alternative energy solutions.
4. Crop Performance, Plant Health and Technical Production Excellence
Including seed genetics, new varieties, plant nutrition, pest and disease control, and yield optimisation.
5. Market Access, Packaging, Distribution and Supply Chain Innovation
Including logistics, packaging, compliance, export readiness, and route-to-market strategies.
6. Finance, Risk, Investment and the Future of Undercover Agriculture
Including insurance, capital investment, business resilience, and risk management.

Each presentation slot will be 45 minutes in duration, inclusive of a short question-and-answer session.

Prospective speakers are requested to submit the following:

- A completed registration form
- A recent head-and-shoulders photograph
- A short biography
- A brief synopsis of the proposed presentation

These materials may be used for the conference programme, website, and promotional activities.

Please note that speaker fees are not covered. Speakers will be provided with lunch and refreshments on the day of their presentation, together with access to the expo floor on their speaking day. **Should a speaker wish to attend the second day of the conference on a non-speaking day, a fee of R1 750.00 will apply to cover venue costs.**

As only 12 speaker slots are available, early submission is strongly encouraged. The closing date for speaker applications is 1 July 2026.

Should you wish to propose an additional topic relevant to the future of undercover agriculture, such submissions will also be considered.

We would be honoured to consider your participation in this important industry gathering.

Yours faithfully,

Suzanne Oosthuizen

Organiser

Undercover Farming Conference and Expo

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