



PRESENTS....



FROM FARM GATE TO EXPORT GRADE

PACKHOUSE INNOVATION & EXPORT SUMMIT 2025

SMART TECH. SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES. GLOBAL TRADE

5TH - 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

Protea Hotel, Marriot Stellenbosch, Cape Town

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The role of packhouses has evolved significantly in response to globalisation, increasing demand for high-quality fresh produce, tightening international food safety and sustainability standards. Packhouses are no longer just operational facilities, they are strategic assets that directly influence market access, profitability, and customer satisfaction.

As countries pursue export-led growth in horticulture, emerging challenges such as labour shortages, climate change impacts, market volatility, and stringent compliance standards are reshaping how packhouses are managed.

At the same time, emerging trends such as digitalisation, automation, traceability, and sustainable design are driving rapid transformation.

This summit offers a platform to explore, evaluate, and strategies around these global shifts and operational complexities.

Optimising packhouse operations through technology, streamlined workflows, and data-driven management is critical to reducing post-harvest losses, improving product consistency, and maintaining compliance with export standards. "Remaining stagnant in an evolving industry means missing the opportunity to grow. As packhouses waste time sourcing labour, battling with old equipment, and placing staff on labour-intensive processes, their export earnings potential continues to dwindle"

This two-day summit brings together industry leaders, technology providers, exporters, and supply chain experts to explore practical strategies, tools, and innovations that enhance packhouse performance.

Participants will learn how to apply the latest optimisation technologies, from automation to analytics while also gaining insights from real-world case studies while complying with the necessary standards.

Why Attend This Year's Packhouse Summit?

Following the success of last year's conference, the Packhouse Summit returns with even greater momentum. In 2024, industry leaders, packhouse operators, technology suppliers, and exporters engaged in powerful discussions around innovation, operational efficiency, and how to drive both performance and profitability through technology and smarter systems. This year, we take it a step further.

What's New in 2025?

We will revisit the insights, strategies, and solutions discussed last year—benchmarking progress and asking the tough questions:

- What has changed?
- What lessons have been implemented?
- Where are the gaps?
- What innovations are reshaping the future right now?

Why You Can't Miss Packhouse 2025

- Grasp the latest packhouse technologies in action – from automation and AI to cold chain integration.
- Hear from global experts on standards, sustainability, and post-harvest trends.
- Benchmark your operations against peers and industry best practices.
- Explore real-world case studies showing measurable impact.
- Network with stakeholders across the value chain
- Discover opportunities and smart partnerships for scaling.

Whether you're a packhouse manager, agribusiness owner, tech innovator, or policy maker, this year's summit is designed to equip you with actionable strategies, tools, and networks to drive transformation in your packhouse operations.

Highlights:

Case studies- illustrating how packhouse operations and innovation drive efficiency, quality, and trade

Impactful and leading discussions led by participating companies such as:

- Reemoon SA
- Gossamer Packaging
- Woolworths
- ErgoPak
- Farmtrace and more...

Strategies and models- Optimise operations, reduce losses, meet market standards, and ensure sustainability.

Processes and packaging- How packhouses can improve profitability with the latest sorting and grading solutions

Trade compliance and industry discussions -From Packhouse to Port logistics

Objectives:

- The future outlook of the Fresh Produce industry. What's NEXT for packhouses?
- Explore the latest technologies driving packhouse optimisation, including automation, AI, and IoT.
- Assess performance metrics and benchmarking tools for evaluating packhouse efficiency.
- Share best practices and case studies in packhouse modernisation.
- Automation -Resisting automation often leaves Packhouse behind
- Discuss data integration and real-time decision-making for process improvement.
- Foster collaboration between stakeholders across production, technology, and export markets.
- Strengthening Port Logistics to Support Fruit Export Growth
- Why GLOBALG.A.P. Matters for Packhouses?
- From Port to Packhouse: Investigating temperature breaks in the South African export cold chain
- Strengthening end-to-end Cold Chain integration at the Packhouse Level
- Optimizing Cold Chain logistics within Post-Harvest Operations

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding of the tools and technologies available for optimising packhouse operations.
- Actionable insights for improving productivity, safety, and quality control.
- A roadmap for technology adoption and performance benchmarking.
- New partnerships between technology providers, exporters, and packhouse operators.
- Industry-wide dialogue on future-proofing packhouse infrastructure for growth and resilience.

Target Audience - Who Should Attend?

- Packhouse managers and supervisors
- Fresh produce exporters and agri-business owners
- Agricultural engineers and post-harvest specialists
- Food safety and quality assurance professionals
- Agritech companies and solution providers
- Cold chain and logistics service providers
- Government agriculture departments and trade agencies

Packhouse 2025 empowers you to:

- **MEASURE** performance with precision
- **STREAMLINE** operations for greater efficiency
- **INTEGRATE** advanced technologies seamlessly
- **DELIVER** smart, market-ready solutions with impact to create The Packhouse of the Future

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: DAY ONE: 5TH NOVEMBER 2025

Chairperson: Mr John Gray -Managing Director- The SPOT



08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:05 Welcome Speech

Step into the future of fruit processing and export operations through innovative packhouse solutions and technologies. Packhouse management operations, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and compliance with export standards...

09:05-09:45 Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices are becoming increasingly vital in packhouses, especially in the agricultural and export sectors.

- Reducing carbon emissions through Net Zero strategies, which involve measuring current emissions and implementing plans to offset or eliminate them.
- Water and energy efficiency, with benchmarking projects identifying usage patterns and promoting recycling technologies.
- Minimizing packaging waste, especially plastics, and improving recyclability

Speaker: Dr Malcolm Dodd: Principal Cold Cubed Cold Chain



09:45-10:30 The Future Outlook of the Fresh Produce Industry. What's NEXT for PACKHOUSES?

Examining a Cross Section of Tools in Creating Optimised Packhouses: Automation & Robotics

- Automation & Robotics • Artificial Intelligence & Data Analytics • Sustainability & Waste Reduction • Digitisation
- Labour Shortages & Workforce Transformation

Speaker: Mr Michael Van Niekerk -BVi CONSULTING ENGINEERS



10:30 - 1045

BREAK

10:45 -11:30 Examining the Impact of Poor Port Operations on the Fruit Sector

- Current Port Productivity • Reasons for Poor Performance • How we Compare Internationally, Consequences – Negative Impact on Shipping Freight Rates • Loss of Shipping Capacity and Opportunities • Trucking Cost, Packhouse Bottlenecks
- Privatisation in African Ports

Speaker: Mr Chris Knoetze- LINK SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT



11:30-12:15 Why GLOBALG.A.P. Matters for Packhouses CGA-GDC

- Enhanced Product Safety and Quality Assurance: Implementing GLOBALG.A.P. protocols helps packhouses maintain strict hygiene, handling, and storage practices—reducing contamination risks and boosting buyer confidence.
- Operational Efficiency and Risk Management: The standard promotes structured record-keeping, staff training, and internal audits, which improve workflow, minimize waste, and support continuous improvement in packhouse operations.

Speaker: Mr Lukhanyo Nkombisa -CGA-GDC



12-15-13:00 Woolworths unveils Farming for the Future, a ground-breaking initiative promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity: How Woolworths' Farming for the Future (FFF) Programme impacts Packhouses and their Operations:

- Enhanced Wastewater & Water Management at Packhouses • Improved Traceability & Quality Control

Speaker: Mr Joseph Chauke- WOOLWORTHS SA



13:00-14:00

LUNCH BREAK

14:00-14:45 From Port to Packhouse: Investigating temperature breaks in the Cold Chain

- Cold Chain Integrity Starts at the Port: Efficient port handling, including fast unloading and access to refrigerated containers, is vital to maintaining fruit quality before it reaches the packhouse.
- Seamless Transport Minimizes Delays and Losses: Coordinated, time-sensitive logistics between ports and packhouses reduce transit times, preserving fruit freshness and reducing shrinkage or rejection rates.

Speaker: Ms Antoinette Van Heerden – FRESH PRODUCE EXPORT FORUM



14:45-15:00

BREAK

15:00-15:45 In the Fast-Paced World of Agricultural Exports, Efficiency and Product

- Integrity are Non-Negotiable. This Session Explores how Warehouse Automation is Transforming Cold Chain Logistics - from Streamlining Post-Harvest Handling to Reducing Spoilage and Energy Costs.

Speaker: Join Fred Albrecht, CEO of Logistics Systems Engineering, as he Unpacks the Pros and Cons of Automation in Refrigerated Environments and how Smart Storage Solutions are Reshaping the Journey from Farm to Global Markets.



15:45-16:00

BREAK

16:00-16:45 AI and Data Integration for Optimised Packhouses

- SA and Data Integration in Packaging for the Future is a rapidly evolving area where artificial intelligence and data analytics play a transformative role across the packaging value chain—from design and production to logistics, marketing, and sustainability.

Speaker: Mr Shaun Lamminga: FARMTRACE

Speaker: Mr Cornel Oosthuizen: FARMTRACE



16:45-17:15 Cold Chain Monitoring: Alarm Fatigue Research

- Investigating food safety risks, including microbial risk modeling, based on ambient air temperature monitoring compared to actual and simulated product temperature

Speaker: Mr Christian Tomanek | Managing Director of Testo South Africa



17:15 EXHIBITOR NETWORKING SESSION AND PRODUCT OFFERINGS

END OF DAY ONE

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: DAY TWO: 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

09:00-09:45	Packhouse Action Group's Water and Electricity Benchmarking Project Initiative: The PAG-Blue North benchmarking initiative provides a rigorous, data-driven framework for packhouses to measure, compare, and improve water and electricity usage—ultimately driving both economic and environmental benefits across the fruit sector.	
Speaker:	Mr Hugo Kriel: BLUE NORTH SUSTAINABILITY	
09:45-10:30	How Citrus Packhouses can Improve Profitability with the Latest Sorting and Grading Solutions. - Maximize Marketable Yield: Advanced optical and hyperspectral sorting technologies increase the percentage of fruit graded for premium markets by accurately identifying subtle defects and sorting accordingly. - Reduce Labour Costs and Human Error: Automation reduces the need for manual sorting, lowering labour expenses and increasing consistency, speed, and accuracy in grading. - Enhance Traceability and Quality Assurance: Integrated digital systems provide detailed data on each batch, supporting compliance with export standards and boosting buyer confidence through reliable product quality.	
Speaker:	Mr Evert Bekker: REEMOON SA	
10:30 - 1045	BREAK	
10:45 -11:30	Automation for Enhanced Efficiency - Join Gossamer Packaging in the Latest Automation Solutions for Achieving High Impact Results - High-Speed, Accurate Packing - Seamless Automated Flow with Shuttle Cars - Complete EndofLine Integration	
Speaker:	Mr Norman Nieder-Heitmann: GOSSAMER PACKAGING	
11:30-12:15	Practical AI in fruit sorting and new fruit sorting technologies	
Speaker:	Mr Chris Johnston -Tomra Food	
12:15-13:00	Recent Euro trends in Agri Weighing: SA Quo Vadis?	
Speaker:	Mr Nico Treurnicht: Ergopak	
13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00-14:45	An Investigation into Table Grape risk factors that affect quality along the Export Supply Chain A Look at Mitigation Strategies: - Focus upstream: Optimize pre-harvest conditions (microclimate control, harvest timing), and ensure packhouse rigor in sorting out decayed berries. - Improve packaging and airflow: Use perforated, vented packaging (e.g., New Gen Packs, SO₂ liner bags) to aid cooling and minimize mechanical stress. - Reinforce cold-chain integrity: Ensure fast precooling, reliable plug-in at ports, and container insulation/airflow engineering to prevent hotspots. - Plan for resilience: Integrate real-time monitoring, backup gensets, logistics contingency, and portfolio diversification to buffer against delays.	
Speaker:	Professor Leila Goedhals-Gerber: STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY	
14:45-15:30	Aerobotics' TrueFruit BinScan uses Machine Learning to empower Packhouses with Rapid, objective fruit assessments —Boosting consistency, Reducing waste, and Enhancing Quality Control. This enables packhouses to maintain human-led packing lines, but with automation-grade consistency, speed, and data visibility—from orchard through to final pack. Join Aerobotics in showcasing how this tech empowers packhouses and orchards through smart automation	
Speaker:	Mr Liaan Janse van Vuuren: AEROBOTICS SA	
14:45-15:00	BREAK	
15:30-16:15	Cost Effective Packhouse Optimisation and AI Camera grading	
Speaker:	Mr Conrad Schreuder: PACKMAN FRUIT SORTING EQUIPMENT SA	
16:15-16:45	Farm Management Software Technology, Facilitating and Streamlining Automation Processes between the Packhouse and Orchards DELVE into TECHNOLOGY that: - Encourages a tightly integrated management mindset, dissolving operational silos across orchard and packhouse functions. - Enhances traceability, compliance, and cost control—critical for both regulatory and market-driven supply chain demands. - Empowers packhouses and growers to scale efficiently, leveraging precise data to manage people, processes, and post-harvest flows in real time.	
Speaker:	Mr Roelf van Zyl- KEYPHASE	
16:45-17:15	Smart Livestream Technology for Packhouses: Driving Efficiency and Sustainability	
Speaker:	Mr Dewald Kirsten: LUCENTLANDS	
17:15	VOTE OF THANKS	
CLOSING REMARKS AND END OF CONFERENCE		

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