

DECARBONISING THE COLD CHAIN

FROM FARM TO FORK...

A Strategy to Mitigate Global Food Loss



COLD STORAGE



COLD TRANSPORT



REFRIGERATION



COLD SUPPLY CHAIN



27TH - 28TH MAY 2026



BLAAUWBERG BEACH HOTEL -CAPE TOWN



Conference Sponsors

GOLD SPONSORS



ebmpapst

engineering a better life

BRONZE SPONSORS



EXHIBITORS



figorr



LogTag
TEMPERATURE RECORDER

MEDIA PARTNERS



RACA
JOURNAL®
Refrigeration & Airconditioning Africa

REIMAGINING THE COLD CHAIN FOR A LOW-CARBON FUTURE

Join industry leaders, innovators, and policy-makers at South Africa's Premier Cold Chain Logistics Summit — A dynamic two-day summit hosted by Empire Conferencing (ECC) dedicated to advancing the future of temperature-controlled supply chains across Africa and beyond. Whether you're part of a third-party logistics operations or manage in-house supply chains, this summit offers unmatched opportunities to engage with top-tier professionals and thought leaders shaping the sector.

Be Part of the Conversation That's transforming Cold Chain Logistics across Africa.

The conference aims to create a discussion that addresses strategies for:

- **PIONEERING** the Future of Cold Storage - Exploring Cutting-Edge Innovations Dive into the Latest Developments in Cold Chain Design, Digitalisation, and Decarbonisation Technologies.
- **BRIDGING** the Cold Chain Divide - Address Pressing Global Challenges around Cold Chain access in Low-Resource and Rural Communities.
- **FOSTERING** Strategic Collaboration across Industries — Agriculture, Logistics, Technology, and Sustainability — To Spark Impactful Partnerships.
- **EVERAGING** Data for Impact- Discover Data-Driven Strategies to Enhance Traceability, Efficiency, and Reduce Food Waste in Cold Chain Systems.
- **COOLING** with the Sun: Sustainable Infrastructure (Solar Power) for Energy-Efficient Cold Chains - Africa's Answer to Costly Food Waste.
- **BREAKING** the Ice: Rise of Female Powerhouses in the Cold Chain Sector.
- **REDUCING** Waste and Ensuring Safety of Temperature-Sensitive Goods.
- **INNOVATING** in Traceability and Supply Chain Transparency.
- **INVESTMENT** Opportunities and Policy Frameworks for Resilient Logistics.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Industry sectors



WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Engaging **Keynote Sessions** by Leading Experts Covering the Latest Challenges Facing the Industry Contributing to Food Loss and Waste.
- Practical **Case Studies** from Successful Cold Chain Implementations and Projects.
- In-depth **Discussions** on Policy, Investment, and Infrastructure Development.
- Unrivalled Networking with C-suite Executives, Innovators, and Policy-Makers.
- A Collaborative Platform to **Exchange Best Practices** and Actionable Strategies in Order to Streamline your Cold chain in a Climate Change Era

Join us at the 2nd Annual Cold Chain Logistics Summit as we explore the innovations, investments, and policies that are shaping the future of cold chain logistics in Africa and beyond.

Transforming cold-chains into sustainable, low-impact systems will require a paradigm shift away from the current 'business as usual' models. This transformation is not optional—it is essential.

Cold-chains should be regarded as core infrastructure for modern societies, on par with water, electricity, and internet services. They must be made resilient in the face of a changing climate, especially as rising ambient temperatures and more frequent, severe, and prolonged heatwaves place increasing strain on refrigeration systems. Equally important is ensuring equitable access to cold-chain infrastructure. This is especially crucial for the half a billion smallholder farmers in low-income countries who play a vital role in the current and future global food system. Empowering these farmers with sustainable cold-chain access can help reduce post-harvest losses, improve food security, and support climate resilience.

Just as people in economically developed countries expect water to flow from taps, electricity to come from wall sockets, and the internet to stream from the air around them, they also take for granted the ready availability of safe, high-quality food from restaurant kitchens, fast-food outlets, and supermarket shelves. This is not the reality for those living in low- and middle-income countries. But aspirations are rising. As these populations grow more affluent through economic development, billions more people around the world will rightly demand the same standards of food. Meeting this demand, however, poses a profound challenge—not just for global supply systems, but for the planet itself.

Rethinking the Cold Chain Food production and distribution already account for roughly one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions. These systems also consume vast amounts of land, energy, and water, and contribute significantly to environmental degradation—from deforestation and habitat loss to pollution of air, soil, rivers, and oceans. A key part of this transformation lies in rethinking cold-chains—especially those powered by fossil fuels and dependent on outdated, environmentally harmful refrigerants. In both food and health sectors, cold-chains are essential. They maintain a consistent, temperature-controlled environment for the distribution of perishable goods, from production to end-use. Yet today's cold-chains rely heavily on fossil fuel-based energy and refrigerants that contribute to climate change and environmental harm.

Cold-chains are made up of a continuous series of stationary and mobile refrigeration units. These systems consume substantial energy and generate a wide range of pollutants greenhouse gases, particulates, and chemical waste—during their operation. As such, cold-chains are not only a hidden driver of environmental degradation, but also a critical area for reform.

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY

Ryan on +27 83 300 4170



AGENDA: DAY ONE-27TH MAY 2026

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 08:30 | REGISTRATION MEET AND GREET | |
| 09:00-09:10 | Opening Remarks/Introduction: CHAIRPERSON Is Cold Chain Logistics the solution to Food Loss? Mr Andy Connell - A-bar-C Services | |
| 09:10-10:00 | Global Trends & Strategic Outlook within the Fresh Produce Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Cold Chain Expansion: Trends, Risks, and Opportunities • The Cold Chain of 2035: Strategic Scenarios and Innovation Pathways • Emerging Markets and the Cold Chain Divide: Bridging Infrastructure Gaps • Policy and Regulation Shaping the Future of Cold Chain Logistics Speaker: Mr Thabile Nkunjane - Senior Economist -NAMC |  |
| 10:00-10:45 | Frozen Space, Fluid Movement: Designing Cold Chain Warehouses for Humans, Machines & Margins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Unpacks how Smarter Storage System Designs Reduces Labour Exposure, Improves Safety, Maximises Frozen Space, and Enables Faster, More Predictable Movement of Goods. By Rethinking Storage Density, Material Flow, and Human-Machine Collaboration, Automation becomes More than Technology – it becomes a Strategic Advantage • This Session Challenges Static Layouts and Conventional Thinking, Showing how Well-Designed Automation Protects People, Unlocks Margins, and Future-Proofs Cold Chain Operations, and how Cold Chain Warehouses can Evolve from Cost Centres into Strategic, Revenue-Driving Assets. Speaker: Mr Fred Albrecht - Chief Executive Officer - Logistics Systems Engineering (LSE) |  |
| 10:45-11:00 | BREAK | |
| 11:00-11:45 | Revolutionising Citrus Transport: Rail as a Catalyst for Cold Chain Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced temperature stability • Larger volume, fewer trips • Lower carbon footprint. • Cost-effective over long distances • Integrated cold chain infrastructure Speaker: Mr Parton Khumalo - PPECB |  |
| 11:45-12:30 | Danfoss: Better Cold Chain Infrastructure a Must for Africa! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With around 14% of food worldwide lost due to a lack of effective refrigeration, enough to feed one billion people • Danfoss is calling for more attention on the need to establish sustainable and energy-efficient cold-chain infrastructure Speaker: Mr Louwrens Dreyer -Sales Engineer - Danfoss Climate Solutions |  |
| 12:30-13:00 | Controlled Atmosphere: Extending Postharvest Life and Supporting the Cold Chain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled Atmosphere (CA) has transformed apple storage worldwide by slowing fruit respiration and extending post-harvest storage life. • This session will trace the history of CA, explain the science behind oxygen and carbon dioxide management, and show how CA control underpins South Africa's competitive apple and pear exports. Speaker: Mr Andrew Brink - Gas At Site |  |
| 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH BREAK | |
| 14:00-14:30 | Automation solutions advancing the supply chain process that Apex has to offer in terms of streamlining packhouse operations Speakers: MrWayne Freel - Head of Business Development - Apex |  |
| 14:30-15:00 | Robotics in Cold Storage & Handling Speakers: Mr Martin Bailey -Industrial Logistic Systems |  |
| 15:15 - 16:00 | AFTERNOON TEA AND NETWORKING WITH EXHIBITORS | |
| 15:15-15:45 | Breaking the Ice!! Rise of Female Powerhouses in the Cold Chain Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting the Climate of Leadership • Real-World Female Trailblazers in the Industry • Addressing Systemic Challenges & Gender Equity Strategies. Speakers: Ms Lutendo Ndhlovu -Dffe (Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment) |  |
| 15:45-16:15 | Modified Atmosphere Packaging a Game-Changer for Fresh Produce Speaker: Ms Perm Mthethwa - Researcher ARC-Natural Resources and Engineering unit |  |
| 16:45-17:15 | Temperature as a parameter in Cold Chain Logistics Speaker: Mr Erik Kiderlen - Consultant |  |

END OF DAY ONE

AGENDA: DAY TWO -28TH MAY 2026

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 08:30-09:00 | End-to-End cold chain custody; the visualisation of unintended consequences! Speaker: Dr. Johan Ferreira - ColdCubed |  |
| 09:00-09:30 | Cold Chain Monitoring: Alarm Fatigue Research <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 - Testo South Africa |  |
| 09:30-10:15 | Farm to Packhouse: Monitoring during Field Harvesting and Transit to Cooling Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pre-cooling at harvest pointOn-site data loggingReal-time sensor tagging at harvestTransit condition monitoringTime-to-cool tracking Speaker: Mr Andy Connell - A-BAR-C Services |  |
| 10-15:10:45 | NETWORKING TEA/COFFEE WITH EXHIBITORS | |
| 10:45-11:30 | Ripening Facilities for "Optimum Results" <ul style="list-style-type: none">This session explores the critical role that well-designed ripening facilities play in delivering consistent, high-quality fruit to both local and export markets. Speaker: Mr Gjal't Hooghiemstra- Subtropico |  |
| 11:30-12:15 | Optimizing Energy Use in Cold Chain Logistics: Insights from Implemented Projects and casestudies Speaker: Mr Petrie Van Der Merwe- Energy Partners SA |  |
| 12:15-13:00 | MEPS compared to Fan Performance, Ascertaining System Efficiency. Speaker: Mr Francois Schoombie - Technical Director ebm-papst South Africa |  |
| 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH BREAK | |
| 14:00-14:45 | Designing Next Generation Cold Stores - the basics of good design for next generation Cold Stores <ul style="list-style-type: none">From a process flow, materials handling and a logistics perspective. Speaker: Mr Clayton Thomas- Managing Director, Industrial Logistic Systems |  |
| 14:45-15:30 | If not us, then who? Speaker: Mr Gert van Rooyen - Head of Design Engineering - HC Group of companies |  |
| 15:30-16:15 | Sustainability & Climate Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reimagining the Cold Chain for a Low-Carbon FutureSustainable Cooling Solutions for the Global Food SystemGreen Cold Chains: Innovations in Energy-Efficient RefrigerationDecarbonizing Cold Logistics: From Farm to ForkClimate-Resilient Cold Chains in Emerging Markets Speaker: Prof Leila Goedhals -Gerber -Stellenbosch University |  |
| 16:15 | CLOSING REMARKS | |
| END OF CONFERENCE | | |

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY:

Ryan on +27 83 300 4170

DECARBONISING THE COLD CHAIN FROM FARM TO FORK...



27 TH -28 TH May 2026 Blaauwberg Beach Hotel – Cape Town

RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY!

R 7490.00
Per Delegate | Excl. Vat

SELECT



Fill in the information & Send to: _____

Email: _____

372 Oak Avenue, Randburg 2160, Johannesburg, RSA
Tel: +27 11 568 9352 | www.empiretraining.co.za

AUTHORIZING PERSON:

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Company/ Organization: _____ Designation: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ CompanyVAT No: _____

Postal Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Person with Accounts: _____ Country: _____

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

DELEGATE ATTENDANCE FORM

Signature: _____

| Title | Delegate Name & Surname | Position | Email | Phone No |
|-------|-------------------------|----------|-------|----------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

SUBSTITUTIONS:

Delegate substitutions. Substitutions is welcome at any time and do not occur any additional charges. Please notify EMPIRE in writing of any such changes at least 3 days before the date of the event.

- Please note that the speakers and topics were confirmed at the time of publishing however circumstances beyond the control of the organizers may necessitate substitutions, alterations or Cancellations of the speakers and/or topics.
- As such, EMPIRE reserves the right to alter or modify the advertised speakers and /or topics if necessary. Any substitutions or alterations will be updated and sent to you as soon as possible.
- Delegate substitutions must be made in writing 7 days before the event.

PAYMENT BY MEANS OF BANK TRANSFER

- Please state your full names clearly on the money transfer.
- Please note, bank charges are of your OWN account and this should be stipulated to your bank. Please advise your bank that the charges should be included in your deposit
- A copy of the bank deposit receipt should accompany your registration form and must be posted, emailed or faxed.

By signing and returning this registration form, the authorizing signatory on behalf of the stated company is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Charge of 50% of the registration fees, plus R700 (+ VAT) Administrative charge will be made for cancellations received in writing at least 14 working days prior to the event.
- or any cancellations received in less than 7 working days before the date of the event, the full fee will be payable and no refunds or credit notes will be issued.
- If a registered delegate does not cancel and fails to attend the summit, this will be treated as cancellation and no refund or credit will be issued.
- By Completing and signing this form, the signatory accepts the terms and conditions as stated on the registration form.
- Registration fees above INCLUDES the following entitlements: Entrance to session, registration pack, lunch and refreshment breaks.
- Registration fees above EXCLUDES the following entitlements: Travel costs and accommodation.

BANKING DETAILS:

Branch: Fourways Mall | **Account Name:** Empire Conferencing & Training | **Name of Bank:** Standard Bank | **Branch Code:** 051001 | **Account number:** 10157386951 | **Swift Code :** SBZAZAJJ

PLEASE NOTE – EMPIRE HAS A STRICT NO CASH REFUND POLICY