

31ST COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

1-5 NOVEMBER 2026 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



Holland.



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU

ANTHONIJ RUPERT
WINE



pm

Organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) and hosted by Agri-Expo

RASC 2026 COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES OF CHANGE IN A CONNECTED WORLD - FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE WORLD

1-5 NOVEMBER 2026 | CAPE TOWN | SOUTH AFRICA

MAIN CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2026 | CENTURY CITY CONVENTION CENTRE

12:00 – 13:30 **REGISTRATION** (FOR MAIN CONFERENCE DELEGATES) & LUNCH

13:30 – 14:10 **WELCOMING & OPENING**

Sir Nico Bacon, Chairman of the RASC

Hon Shirley Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretary General (joining online)

Chris Fourie, Agri-Expo President & RASC Trustee

Dr Mogale Sebopetsa, Head of Department, Western Cape Department of Agriculture

Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development & Tourism: Western Cape

Programme Director: Breyton Milford, Agri-Expo General Manager & RASC Trustee

14:10 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

14:10 – 14:40 **THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A CHANGING WORLD**

Keynote Speaker: **Johann Rupert**, South African Business Leader, Conservationist & Philanthropist

14:40 – 14:50 **RASC PRESIDENT'S REPLY**

Chaired by Sir Nico Bacon, Chairman of the RASC

14:50 – 15:30 **AFTERNOON TEA & GROUP PHOTOGRAPH**

15:30 **SESSION 1: GLOBAL AGRICULTURE: FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE WORLD**

15:30 – 16:00 **UNDERSTANDING THE DIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA & ITS AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

Christo van der Rheede, Former CEO of Agri SA

16:00 – 16:30 **THE MOHAIR EMPOWERMENT TRUST: A TRUE EXAMPLE OF UBUNTU IN AGRICULTURE**

Beauty Mokgwamme, General Manager, The Mohair Empowerment Trust, Mohair South Africa

16:30 – 16:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Chaired by William Prichard, RASC Trustee

16:45 – 16:55 **DAY 1 REFLECTIONS**

John Bennett, OAM, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales, Australia

17:00 – 17:15 **AGM**

19:00 – 22:00 **CEO DINNER @ DE GRENDDEL WINE ESTATE**
(CEO registrants only)



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WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2026 | CENTURY CITY CONVENTION CENTRE

09:00	SESSION 2: AGRICULTURAL SHOWS & EVENTS – CHANGING LIVES
09:00 – 09:30	THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS AT SHOWS & EVENTS <i>Robyn Sermon, Chief Executive of the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia</i>
09:30 – 10:00	EDUCATING THE CONSUMER <i>Joel Cowley, Chief Executive of the Calgary Stampede, Canada</i>
10:00 – 10:30	COMPETITIONS ARE CHANGING LIVES <i>Mark Nicholas, Chief Executive of the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, UK</i> <i>Chaired by Ray Allison, Chairman: International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE)</i>
10:30 – 11:00	MORNING TEA
11:00	SESSION 3: AGRICULTURAL SHOWS & EVENTS – ADAPT OR DIE
11:00 – 11:30	BIOSECURITY IN A CHANGING WORLD <i>Elmarie Prinsloo, Chief Executive of Bloem Show, South Africa</i>
11:30 – 12:00	FIELDAYS: WHERE AGRICULTURE, BUSINESS & COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER <i>Jenni Vernon, Board Member of New Zealand National Fieldays Society</i>
12:00 – 12:30	PANEL DISCUSSION <i>Chaired by Dr Bernard Moonga, Immediate Past President: Agricultural & Commercial Cooperative Society of Zambia</i>
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30	SESSION 4: THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
13:30 – 14:00	CITY, FARM & BEYOND: THE NEVER-ENDING OPPORTUNITIES <i>Shannon Robertson, 2025 Western Cape Prestige Agricultural Worker of the Year</i>
14:00 – 14:30	THE LESSONS WE LEARN ALONG THE WAY <i>Emily Norton, Chair of the Agricultural & Horticultural Development Board (AHDB), UK</i>
14:30 – 15:00	PANEL DISCUSSION <i>Chaired by Lynda McDonald, PhD Candidate – Farm Resilience (Global Food Systems Alliance)</i>
15:00 – 15:30	AFTERNOON TEA
15:30	SESSION 5: RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY
15:30 – 16:10	DO THE RIGHT THING: A COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES <i>Melt Loubser, MD: Fair Cape Investment Holdings, Chair: South African Milk Processors' Organisation</i>
16:10 – 16:20	Q&A <i>Chaired by Will Rayner, Chief Executive, Royal Adelaide Show, Australia</i>
16:20 – 16:30	DAY 2 REFLECTIONS <i>John Bennett, OAM, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales, Australia</i>
18:30 – 22:00	CONFERENCE DINNER @ NOOITGEDACHT, STELLENBOSCH



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THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026 | CENTURY CITY CONVENTION CENTRE

09:00	SESSION 6: SHAPING THE FUTURE
09:00 – 09:30	INSPIRATION ON AND OFF THE FARM – AND THE COURSE! <i>Roux Steenkamp, 4th generation sheep farmer, Carnarvon, Northern Cape, and World Nr 1 disabled golf player</i>
09:30 – 10:10	THE CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT <i>Nigel & Tanya Lok, Co-owners of Robhoek Dairy Farm, Eastern Cape, South Africa</i>
10:10 – 10:40	WHERE THERE IS WOOL, THERE IS A WAY <i>Stefan Gerber, Wool Producer & Founder of Gerber & Co, South Africa</i>
10:40 – 11:00	PANEL DISCUSSION <i>Chaired by Andries Wiese, Hollard: Head of Agriculture</i>
11:00 – 11:10	DAY 3 REFLECTIONS <i>John Bennett, OAM, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales, Australia</i>
11:10 – 11:30	MORNING TEA
11:30	CLOSING SESSION <i>Programme Director: Chris Fourie, Agri-Expo President & RASC Trustee</i>
11:30 – 11:50	NEXT GENERATION & CEO REPORT <i>Will Streatfeild, Next Generation Facilitator</i> <i>Aled Rhys Jones, CEO Facilitator</i>
11:50 – 12:10	VOTE OF THANKS <i>Breyton Milford, Agri-Expo General Manager & RASC Trustee</i>
12:10 – 12:30	INTRODUCTION: 32ND COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA <i>Chris Riddle, RASC Honorary Secretary</i> <i>Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales Delegates</i>
12:30 – 12:45	CLOSING <i>Sir Nico Bacon, RASC Chairperson</i>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH

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