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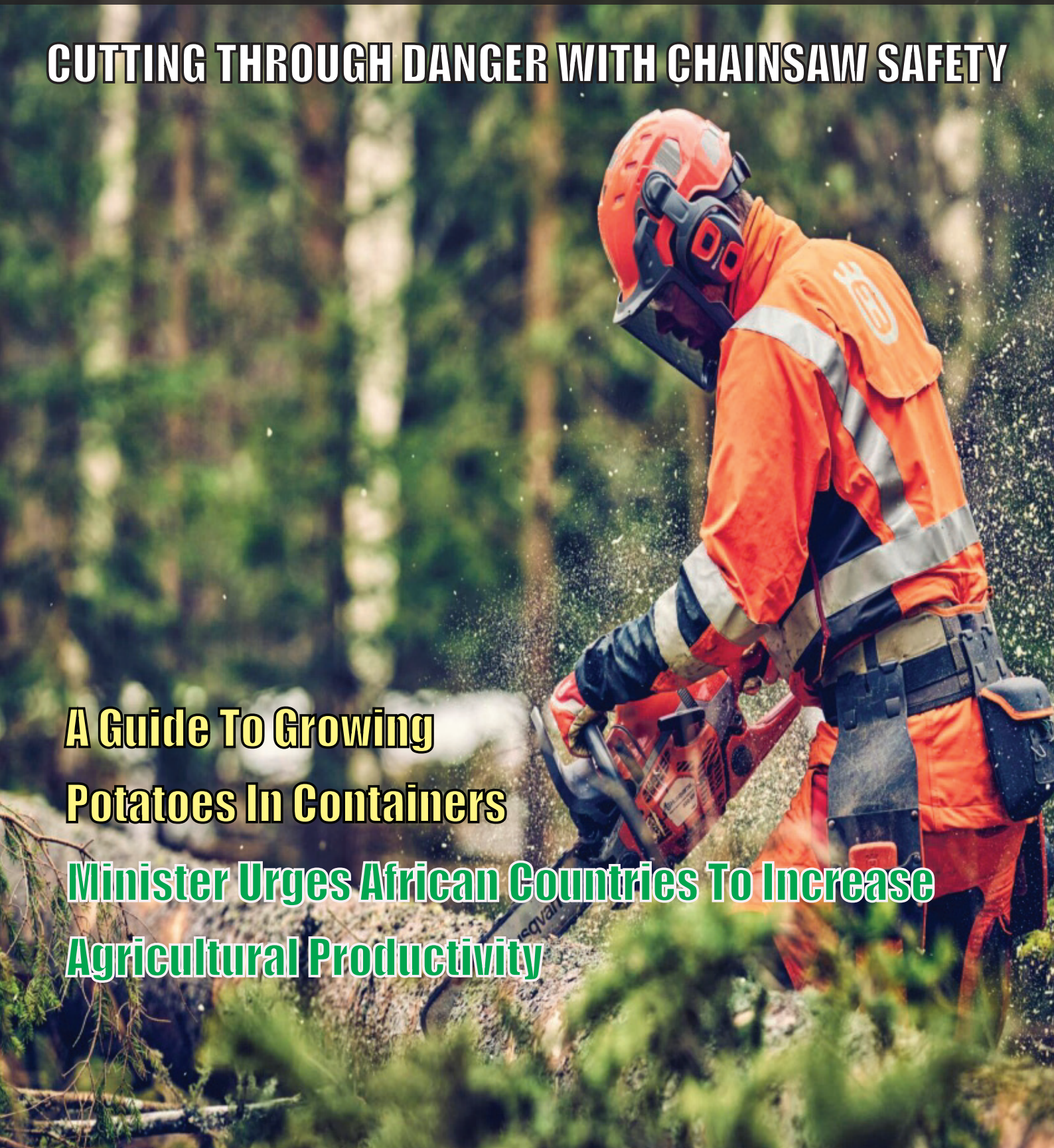
Vol.24 / Issue: 4 October - December 2023

Premium Agriculture News In Real Time

CUTTING THROUGH DANGER WITH CHAINSAW SAFETY

**A Guide To Growing
Potatoes In Containers**

**Minister Urges African Countries To Increase
Agricultural Productivity**





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AFRICAN AGRI-INVESTMENT INDABA

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Cape Town, South Africa

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As a key player in the agri-food sector, we understand that you are always on the lookout for opportunities, innovative projects, and strategic partnerships. That's why we're thrilled to introduce you to the Investment Discovery Sessions (IDS) taking place during the African Agri Investment Indaba.

Why be part of the Investment Discovery Sessions?

1.Showcase Your Vision: Present your bankable projects to a panel of accredited investors and financial institutions who are eager to invest in the next big thing.

2.Expert Guidance: Benefit from the wisdom of our seasoned investor panel, who will provide invaluable review and guidance to take your project to the next level.

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Whether you're at the seed stage or looking for growth finance, IDS caters to a variety of investment types including Equity, Debt, and Blended options. The project selection criteria are comprehensive, focusing on factors like market opportunity, team capabilities, and climate change adaptation

To sponsor, exhibit or attend contact Loudon Cito (loudon.cito@agricouncil.org)

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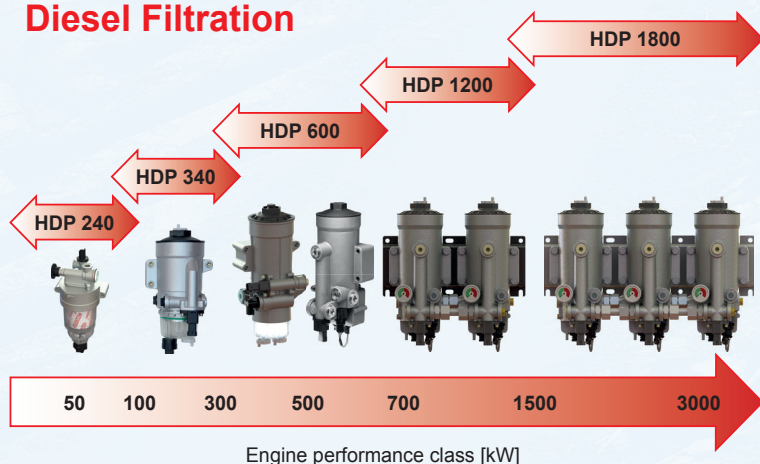
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A Guide to Growing Potatoes at Home in Containers

Introduction:

Growing your own potatoes at home can be a rewarding and satisfying experience. Whether you have a spacious garden or a small balcony, container gardening offers a convenient way to cultivate this versatile and nutritious crop. In this article, we'll walk you through the steps of successfully growing potatoes in containers, from selecting the right varieties to harvesting your delicious homegrown spuds.

1. Choosing the Right Potato Varieties: When it comes to selecting potato varieties for container gardening, consider those that are suitable for small spaces and have a shorter growing season. Some popular choices include fingerling potatoes, Yukon Gold, and Red Norland. These varieties are well-suited for containers and produce good yields.

2. Selecting Containers: Choose containers that are at least 10-15 inches deep and provide ample space for potato plants to grow. You can use various containers such as plastic buckets, fabric grow bags, wooden crates, or specialized potato grow bags. Ensure that your chosen containers have drainage holes to prevent waterlogging.

3. Preparing Seed Potatoes: Purchase certified seed potatoes from a reputable source. Avoid using grocery store potatoes, as they may carry diseases. To encourage sprouting, place the seed potatoes in a cool, dry,

and well-lit area a few weeks before planting. Cut larger seed potatoes into smaller pieces, each containing at least one "eye" or sprout.

4. Planting: Fill the containers with a well-draining potting mix or a blend of compost and soil. Plant the seed potatoes with the sprouts facing upward, about 4-6 inches deep. Space them roughly 8-12 inches apart, ensuring that each piece has enough room to develop.

5. Care and Maintenance:

- **Watering:** Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Avoid overwatering, as this can lead to rotting. Water when the top inch of soil feels dry.

- **Fertilizing:** Potatoes are heavy feeders. Consider using a balanced, slow-release fertilizer or adding compost to the soil before planting. Side-dress with additional fertilizer as the plants grow.

- **Sunlight:** Place your containers in a location that receives at least 6-8 hours of sunlight per day. If you're growing potatoes indoors, consider using grow lights.

6. Managing Growth: As the potato plants grow, they will develop stems and leaves. Once the plants reach a height of 6-8 inches, begin "hilling." Gently mound soil or straw around the stems to encourage tuber development and protect them from sunlight, which can turn them green and make them toxic.

7. Pests and Diseases: Keep an eye out for pests such as aphids, Colorado potato beetles, and slugs. Regularly inspect your plants and take appropriate measures, such as using insecticidal soap or natural predators. Rotating crops annually can help prevent soil-borne diseases.

8. Harvesting: Potatoes are ready for harvest when the plants have flowered and the foliage begins to yellow and die back. Carefully dig into the soil to retrieve your potatoes. You can start harvesting "new potatoes" earlier or wait until the plants have completely died back for larger, mature potatoes.

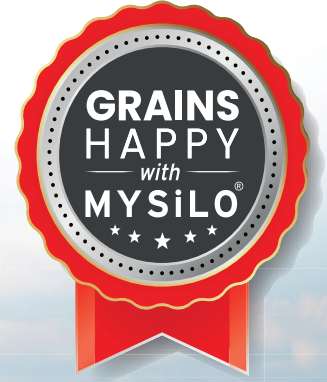
9. Storing Your Harvest: After harvesting, gently brush off excess soil and allow the potatoes to dry in a cool, dark place for a few hours. Store them in a cool, humid, and dark environment, such as a root cellar or a cool basement, to prolong their shelf life.

Conclusion:

Growing potatoes at home in containers is a gratifying way to enjoy a fresh and nutritious crop. With the right varieties, containers, and care, you can successfully cultivate your own spuds, even in limited spaces. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, the process of planting, tending, and harvesting potatoes can provide you with a sense of accomplishment and a bountiful harvest.

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Included in BMG's extensive portfolio of industrial slurry valves is a range of pinch valves, which have been developed to control the flow of liquids, powders, solids and abrasives in many industries.

"BMG's Fluid Technology division's strategy to meet constantly changing market demand encompasses the introduction of new products, with the latest developments in design technologies, materials and coatings," explains Willie Lamprecht, Sales Manager, Fluid Technology division, BMG. "Pinch valves have been added to our product offering, enhancing our wide range of industrial slurry valves, that also includes butterfly, gate, diaphragm, ball and check valves.

"The Fluid Technology team

boosts specialist services with dependable technical support to customers in all sectors, to ensure optimum safety, efficiency and extended service life of every system. Failure of a valve and subsequent leaking of corrosive media can have devastating effects on the safety of personnel and equipment, leading to premature system failure and costly downtime. With broad technical capabilities, our specialists advise on correct valve selection and installation for every application and are able to solve problems, even in corrosive environments, where conventional components have failed after short periods of service."

BMG's range of pinch valves - which meets stringent quality and safety specifications - is

available with nominal bore sizes from DN50 up to DN500, in either short or long open frames, with safe working pressures up to 25 bar. These valves can be tailored to suit specification application requirements, with Stainless Steel frames if required. Standard pinch valves can withstand operating temperatures between -20°C and +80°C and higher temperatures on request. These valves have manual, gearbox, pneumatic and hydraulic actuation. bmg-fluid-technology-pinch-valve-control&isolation-abrasive-slurries...two

The working element of a pinch valve - also known as a clamp valve - is an elastomeric tube or sleeve, which can be squeezed at its mid-section by a mechanical system until ultimately the tube walls are pinched or clamped



together, producing full closure of the flow path. This flexible tube is either exposed (an open frame) or enclosed (a closed frame) in a body.

In its simplest form, a pinch valve can comprise a length of elastomeric tube, fitted with a pinch bar mechanism, incorporating a closure stop to prevent over-pinching of the tube.

More commonly, the moulded rubber tube is housed in a metal body, which also incorporates the pinching mechanism. This can be a simple screw operated mechanism, where the pinch is applied only to one side of the tube, or a differential screw controlling two pinching mechanisms working in vertical opposition.

BMG's open frame pinch valves, which have been developed on the successful design of BMG KLEP's patented FPV diaphragm valves, are 100% locally manufactured and are available in many different materials, with various pressure ratings, to meet exact requirements.

This range is available from BMG with different linings – for example, soft rubber, hard rubber, Butyl rubber, Halar and jumbo rubber.

The lining and diaphragm design increases the service life of the valve, due to high abrasion and chemical resistance properties of individual linings and diaphragms.

BMG's full range of industrial slurry valves is highly efficient for the control and isolation

of abrasive slurries in many industries, including power generation, chemical and petrochemical, cement handling, water treatment, mining, quarrying, pulp and paper.

BMG's extensive range of components for fluid technology systems and general industrial applications comprises valves,

accumulators, cylinders, heat exchangers, pneumatics, hydraulic motors and hydraulic plumbing, as well as pumps and reservoir accessories.

Fluid technology services also cover project engineering and consulting, cylinder design and manufacture, training, repair and testing, as well as onsite container services.



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Agri-startup profits skyrocket after the Shoprite Group gives them a boost

Agrikool, a small agricultural business, is showing exponential growth after securing a deal with the Shoprite Group, delivering fresh produce worth over R3 million to the retailer in just over a year.

The Pietermaritzburg-based business solves challenges in the farming value chain, develops small to medium-scale local farmers, and sustains regional food security, by connecting buyers, growers, producers, and transporters of agricultural products. They have also developed an e-marketplace to connect these growers with consumers.

Founded by farmer and agricultural engineer Zamokuhle Thwala in 2018, who co-owns the

business with agricultural scientist Palesa Motaung, AgriKool, trading as Gro-Agro (Pty) Ltd, currently works with over 22 farms in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands and outlying areas.

This ecosystem has created a local economy that's boosted employment within the farming community and food security in the region.

Zamokuhle pounded the pavement in search of retail partners and reached out to Freshmark, the Shoprite Group's fruit and vegetable procurement and distribution division.

"It was a true hustle, and it must have made an impression on someone because we got a meeting with Shoprite," explains Motaung.

The Group placed its first order with the small business in December 2021 giving the farming entrepreneurs a much-needed foot in the door to supply formal retail in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

"This deal has helped our business achieve incredible growth in such a short space of time," Motaung continues. "And when it comes to compliance, the Group is known for being very strict.

They have taught us a lot about retail and how to handle our produce from farm to shelf."

"The Group understands the key role we can play in the success of small suppliers like AgriKool through access to our large consumer market to grow their businesses and create much-needed jobs," explains Maude Modise, GM: Enterprise & Supplier Development.

"We launched Shoprite Next Capital last year specifically to assist small suppliers with compliance, working capital and training to ensure their businesses are commercially viable and sustainable in this tough economic climate."





High-performance power products keep the country's wheels turning

High-performance power products keep the country's wheels turning. South Africa's crippling electricity problems, which leave the country without power for many hours a day, are causing grave difficulties for businesses and households.

"The inability of the country's primary electricity supplier to meet demand, has called for the private sector to step up and provide solutions that help keep businesses, educational facilities, hospitals, farms and homes running, even in the event of power outages and load shedding," says Ryan Robertson, Vert Energy's Sales and Marketing Director. "Through our specialist divisions - Electric Power Generation (EPG), Industrial Power Products and Energy on Call - Vert makes sure all sectors are able to keep their power on.

"The main focus of our business is on electric power generation, by delivering solutions to marine and land-based applications. Our range of products are used in diesel, petrol, gas, steam, hydro and PV-hybrid applications. One of the strongest drivers in our product selection has been to opt for environmentally-conscious class rated products that optimise fuel consumption, reduce emissions and boost energy savings across our diesel and petrol engine ranges.

"Our team of service engineers and product specialists offer a dependable technical advisory service when product selection is required and a skilled engineering support service to ensure a seamless power generation experience from purchase to commissioning, thus ensuring

every system performs to exact sites requirements. Vert Energy's maintenance and repair service to customers throughout Africa ensures all systems operate at peak performance for an extended service life. Our qualified and experienced technicians travel throughout Southern Africa and the rest of Africa to service small and large generators. The team has recently completed projects in Rwanda and Madagascar.

"By working closely with market-leading partners, we are able to meet our customers' exact electro-mechanical requirements and as our company adapts to constantly changing demand, we strive to create a brighter, greener future for our team, our customers and our suppliers." Vert Energy has expanded its operation significantly since its inception in 2011 and has recently moved to larger premises in Westlake View, Modderfontein. The new 4 500 m² bespoke facility has been designed with specialised material handling facilities, additional workshops and mezzanine parts stores to optimise service capabilities of the company. The rationale for the expansion is to continue providing high levels of operating efficiencies and service delivery throughout the African continent, in line with continued growth of the business.

Vert Energy's range of quality branded products includes AGG and Yanmar engines, Leroy Somer EPG, NSM 2 pole alternators for portable products, DEIF power management controllers, lighting towers and load banks.

The first half of 2023 has seen fur-

ther product launches within the portfolio of AGG diesel engines, offering a range that extends from 16 kW to 800 kW. The company also introduced the AS25000 series of diesel engines to the market in February this year. These engines deliver optimised power, from 500 kW to 800 kW and feature Tier3 Emission compliance as a standard. The delivery of a Tier3 engine is a first, where most other products in this power band are sold as a non-regulated emission engines, with an additional charge for emission optimised engines.

Although South African legislation does not enforce these standards as strictly as other countries in Europe and Asia, Vert Energy has pursued this strategy in line with its environmentally-conscious approach. The company has received positive feedback from OEM's and end users who use AS25000 engines in applications like mining, retail, industrial and water treatment facilities, achieving results of excellent load acceptance and fuel efficiency.

Vert Energy has also launched its own range of Vert Industrial Power Products. The extensive range of power products - available in both diesel and petrol options - offers the maximum permissible power output, ensuring optimum performance and efficient fuel consumption.

Vert Energy's petrol engines, which conform to Stage V emission regulations, are available in 6 HP (4.5 kW) units to 35 HP (26 kW) and are used mainly in construction equipment and power generation applications.



Minister urges African countries to increase agricultural productivity

Botswana's Minister of Agriculture Fidelis Molao speaks at the 8th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture in Gaborone, Botswana, on Sept. 26, 2023. African countries cannot ignore the adoption of new technologies in research and development, said Molao, who stressed the importance of establishing strategic collaborations aimed at enhancing resilience and increasing agricultural productivity. GABORONE, African countries cannot ignore the adoption of new technologies in research and development, said Botswana's Minister of Agriculture Fidelis Molao, who stressed the importance of establishing strategic collaborations aimed at enhancing resilience and increasing agricultural productivity.

Speaking Tuesday at the 8th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture, scheduled from Sept. 26 to 29 in Gaborone, the capital of

Botswana, Molao urged both organizers and participants to seize the opportunity presented by the conference to find solutions that can enhance food security in Africa.

Research and development are pivotal to improving livestock and poultry production, Molao said. He also emphasized the need for adequate funding of research and extension services in Africa to address the challenges facing the agriculture sector.

Molao said that according to the African Development Bank's 2022 report, most African countries allocate less than 1 percent of their gross domestic product to research and development, while the global average stands at 1.7 percent.

This underscores the necessity for all countries to shift their

approach and increase funding for research and development, he added.

The government of Botswana has initiated various projects to transform the agriculture sector, create employment opportunities, and sustain the livelihoods of the people in rural areas who rely directly and indirectly on agriculture. These initiatives include breeding and disseminating high-quality livestock breeds to farmers and employing assisted reproductive technologies to enhance livestock quality.

The conference, themed "Sustainable African Animal Agriculture: Challenges and Future Prospects," takes place every four years to provide a platform for animal science professionals and the farming community to stay informed about the latest developments in animal agriculture.

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Regenerative Agriculture: Africa's Sustainable Solution To Boosting Productivity Amidst Global Challenges



Can Africa's farmers produce "more with less"? Recently, profound global food supply shocks, intensified by climate change, the war in Ukraine and the effects of the pandemic, have disproportionately affected poorer and vulnerable populations in Africa. The Food Crises 2022 Global report revealed over 140 million people in Africa are confronted with food insecurity. This has sparked an array of concerns around the ability of the continent to feed its growing population.

Most of Africa's farmers cannot afford agro-inputs, including fertilizers, and they face high pricing or rationing. Yet, profitability from using agro-inputs on major crops has been reduced, further threatening food security.

At the continental level, achieving sustainable and resilient food systems requires a comprehensive plan to enhance agricultural productivity, improve infrastructure, foster

access to global markets, and implement climate-resilient practices. However, at the farm level, it has become evident that Regenerative Agriculture (RA) may bear promise in innovative soil fertility management. This could propel the transformation of agri-food systems amidst current challenges.

Recently, RA has become popular as an initiative to make farmland more productive, sustainable, and resilient. This is achieved by increasing soil fertility and improving soil health by boosting biodiversity and the ecosystem as a vital aspect of food production. Regenerative agricultural systems manage naturally occurring beneficial soil-plant interactions and enhance the sustainability of farmland and food systems.

For over three decades, Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), an international NGO, has actively promoted improved crop varieties and good agricultural practices that increase crop productivity for smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda.

Building on this foundation, in the past two years, SAA has also been advocating for and demonstrating RA practices to enhance the health of degraded soils.

SAA now stands as a prime exemplar of RA in action, through advocacy for crops of water and nutrient use efficient, minimum tillage, and diverse cereal-legume cropping systems, that fosters not only soil health, but also a thriving tapestry of micro and macro flora and fauna – a cornerstone of vibrant ecosystems often overlooked. Additionally, a resolute stand on responsible agro-chemical use underscores its commitment to human well-being and ecological equilibrium. Through focusing on innovative fertilizer applications aimed at curbing nitrous oxide emissions, it underscores the resolve to tackle climate change at its core.

In combination of improved varieties, RA reduces the overall cost of production for smallholder farmers while increasing net returns on investment.

For example, in Ethiopia, where teff farmers culturally plough as much as seven times in a season, minimum tillage has reduced mechanical soil disturbance while reducing ploughing costs significantly. SAA in Ethiopia is promoting different composting technologies, including vermicomposting that expedites the decomposition process. Consequently, beneficiary farmers in Ethiopia have reduced their expenditure on chemical fertilizer by half, after incorporating the application of compost in their farming systems.

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Belarus Seeks Partnership With Nigeria On Agriculture



The Ambassador of Belarus to Nigeria, Vyyacheslav Bril says the eastern European country is looking to partner with Nigeria in the area of agriculture as part of efforts to boost food security in Africa's most populous country.

The Ambassador was speaking when he paid a courtesy visit to Nigeria's Minister of Information, Mohammed Idris at his office in Radio House, Abuja.

Ambassador Bril said that Belarus had a deep agricultural experience that has led to trade with new markets in Africa. As a result, the Ambassador said; "Belarus was looking to move forward on the continent by partnering with Nigeria in the

area of food security."

"We can assist Nigeria with cattle farms, food processing plants, storage facilities many other things," the Ambassador said, stressing that the strength of Belarus in terms of mechanisation of agriculture can be deployed in boosting Nigeria's food security efforts.

Bril said that the Republic of Belarus had a strong export-oriented agricultural sector, noting that Belarus accounts for almost 30% of global fertilizer production, which is very important for food security in the world.

His country, he said, has had long and fruitful relations with Nigeria since 1992.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris welcomed the offer of agriculture partnership with Belarus, saying "Nigeria is ready to work with the country to boost food security in Nigeria."

Idris said; "We have the arable land and we have the people. What we lack is the technology and the necessary investment in the value chain. And this is where we want Belarus to come in to help Nigeria. I'm sure that the Nigerian government is ever ready to cooperate in that regard."



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Sorghum Production Fails to Meet National Demand

By Ibrahim Musa Giginyu

Nigeria's Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, has revealed that Sorghum production in Nigeria has not met the national demand. The minister also attributed the nation's inability to meet its sorghum demand to low productivity of the crop as some farmers still use grains for seeds.

The minister made this known in Kano during a two-day training on technology transfer on sorghum community-based seed production for farmers in sorghum producing states organised by the ministry in collaboration with International Crops Research Institute for the

Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Represented by the NorthWest zonal director of the ministry, Mr. Musa Raji, the minister revealed that it is worthy to note that sorghum is one of the two major grain crops produced in the semi-arid regions of Africa, and Nigeria is the highest producer and second in the world ranking, adding that with the development, there is a great need for improvement in sorghum production hence the training for farmers to produce their seeds under expert's supervision.

In his remark, national president of Sorghum/Millet Farmers Association of Nigeria Alhaji

Yusuf Adams stated that aside the use of grains as seeds, sorghum farmers are facing a serious threat due to the insecurity in most of the sorghum producing states, but with the newly adopted technologies and sustainable security, farmers will meet up with the national demand of sorghum.

Earlier in his address, ICRISAT Country Representative, Dr Angarawai Ignatius, stated that the institute had conducted several trainings to community seed producers to address the issue of using grains as seeds, adding that the move by the ministry is a timely one which will address sorghum production along the value chain.



Quiz: Which Chainsaw is Best for You?

Looking for the perfect chainsaw that fits your needs? According to Charles Henderson, Business Development Manager at Husqvarna South Africa and a seasoned Tree Professional, the world of chainsaws has come a long way from its traditional roots. It now caters to a wide range of tasks for both homeowners and professionals. "With so many options out there, picking the right chainsaw can be a bit overwhelming," he says.

He adds that Husqvarna has designed a quick and interactive method that considers elements such as your experience level, intended usage, wood type, and desired features. "This quiz serves as a navigational tool, leading you through the landscape to uncover your ultimate chainsaw partner. It will also empower you to precisely identify the chainsaw that perfectly syncs with your unique needs."

Question 1: How experienced are you in using a chainsaw?

1. a) I'm a beginner with little to no experience.
2. b) I have some experience but am not an expert.
3. c) I'm an experienced user and comfortable with chainsaws.

Question 2: How often do you anticipate using the chainsaw?

1. a) Rarely, only for occasional home use.
2. b) Moderately, for occasional woodcutting and maintenance tasks.
3. c) Frequently, as part of professional or regular heavy-

duty use.

Question 3: What type of wood will you be sawing most often?

1. a) Softwood (e.g. pine, cedar).
2. b) Mixed types of wood.
3. c) Hardwood (e.g. oak, maple).

Question 4: What tree size do you expect to be felling most often?

1. a) Small trees and branches.
2. b) Medium-sized trees.
3. c) All of the above plus large and hardwood trees.

Question 5: How important are ergonomics to you?

1. a) Nice to have but not essential.
2. b) Moderately important.
3. c) Very important, I need optimal comfort during use.

Question 6: How important is the ease of stretching and replacing the chain?

1. a) Not a major concern.
2. b) Somewhat important.
3. c) Very important, I want quick and easy chain maintenance.

Question 7: What's your proficiency and experience level with chainsaws?

1. a) Beginner.
2. b) Intermediate.
3. c) Experienced professional.

Question 8: How would you describe your intended usage of the chainsaw?

1. a) Light home use, occasional

firewood cutting.

2. b) Regular woodcutting and maintenance tasks.
3. c) Heavy-duty professional use.

Question 9: What's your preferred size and weight range for the chainsaw?

1. a) Small and lightweight for easy manoeuvrability.
2. b) Medium-sized and manageable.
3. c) Larger and more powerful for demanding tasks.

Question 10: What's your comfort level with handling different guide bar lengths?

1. a) Not comfortable with varying guide bar lengths.
2. b) Somewhat comfortable, willing to learn.
3. c) Very comfortable, experienced in handling different sizes.

"Remember, this quiz is a general guideline. Always consult with a Husqvarna dealer before making a final decision," Henderson advises. He adds that if you are in the market for a chainsaw, remember to also invest in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

"Head-to-toe protection is available from Husqvarna including helmets, eye protection, earplugs, safety shoes and the newly-launched chainsaw pants. Ideally, all of these should be worn but, as an absolute minimum, gloves and chainsaw pants are non-negotiable," he concludes.

Chainsaw Safety: Cutting Through Danger with Safety First

Proper clothing and equipment are fundamental prerequisites for chainsaw users. According to Henderson, most chainsaws come equipped with safety features. This includes chain brakes which allow the user to stop the chain quickly should it not automatically engage through inertia.

Lacerations, which occur when individuals come into contact with the chainsaw chain, represent the most frequent type of chainsaw-related injuries. Surprisingly, however, even though nearly half of all chainsaw-related injuries affect the legs, the importance of chainsaw pants is frequently underestimated. To mitigate

these risks, wearing the appropriate protective gear is essential. Ensure you have the following:

Chainsaw Pants: Engineered to stop a chain immediately when encountering their sprocket clogging material. For example, Husqvarna now offers locally made chainsaw pants which conform to the latest international standards, namely ISO 11393.

Forestry Jackets: Vital for safeguarding your upper body.

Helmet with Hearing Protection and Safety Visor: Essential for protecting your head against falling debris, shielding your eyes and safeguarding your hearing

from loud noise.

Boots with Toe Protection: Designed with reinforced material in the toe area to protect your feet.

Gloves: Protect your hands from cuts, vibrations, and debris.

Safe Chainsaw Handling:

1. Grip: Maintain a secure grip on both handles of the chainsaw. Ensure that your thumbs and fingers are wrapped entirely around the handles. Position your left thumb under the front handle to reduce the impact of a potential kickback.

2. Close Contact: Hold the



chainsaw close to your body to improve balance and reduce the sensation of its weight.

3. Balance: Stand with your feet apart for better stability, positioning your left foot slightly in front of your right.

4. Bend Your Knees: Prevent back strain by bending your knees rather than arching your spine when working in low positions.

5. Moving/Transport: Ensure the chainsaw's chain remains stationary as you transition to a new location by activating the chain brake or switching off the engine during multiple moves or transportation.

6. Safety Distance: Maintain a distance of 3 – 5 meters from others while working with a chainsaw. When felling trees, it is important to sustain a greater distance of two tree lengths.

7. Beware of Kickback: Kickback, a sudden and forceful reaction of the chainsaw, primarily occurs in the upper quadrant of the guide bar. Use a chainsaw equipped with a functioning chain brake to minimise kickback risks.

8. Maintenance: It is essential to ensure that regular maintenance of the chain brake is performed in

accordance with the service schedule in the operator's manual.

"Safety must always come first," Henderson emphasises. It is not just about the right equipment but also knowing how to use it properly. Ensuring you wear the appropriate protective gear, mastering correct chainsaw handling techniques, and maintaining responsible work practices are non-negotiable aspects of chainsaw operation."

please visit the following:
<https://www.husqvarna.com/za/personal-protective-equipment/>

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Cage fish farming could be the future in East Africa



This underscores the necessity for all countries to shift their approach and increase funding for research and development, he added.

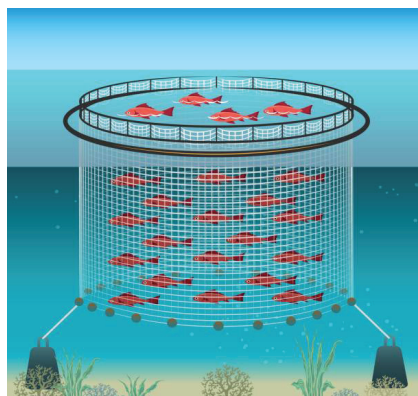
Molao stated that research and development are pivotal to improving livestock and poultry production; adding that the need for adequate funding of research and extension services in Africa to address the challenges facing the agriculture sector.

Speaking Tuesday at the 8th Pan-African Conference on Animal Agriculture, scheduled for September 26-29 in Botswana's capital Gaborone, Botswana's Minister of Agriculture, Fidelis Molao, urged both organizers and participants to seize the opportunity provided by the conference to find solutions that can improve food security in Africa.

According to Molao, African countries cannot ignore the adoption of new technologies in research and development.

He also stressed the importance of establishing strategic collaborations aimed at enhancing resilience and increasing agricultural productivity.

Molao also stated that research and development are pivotal to improving livestock and poultry production; adding that the need for adequate funding of research and extension services in Africa to address the challenges facing the agriculture sector.



Furthermore, Molao said that according to the African Development Bank's 2022 report, most African countries allocate less than 1 percent of their gross domestic product to research and development, while the global average stands at 1.7 percent.

This underscores the necessity for all countries to shift their approach and increase funding for research and development, he added.

Official data shows that the government of Botswana has initiated various projects to transform the agriculture sector, create employment opportunities, and sustain the livelihoods of the people in rural areas who rely directly and indirectly on agriculture. These initiatives include breeding and disseminating high-quality livestock breeds to farmers and employing assisted reproductive technologies to enhance livestock quality.

The conference, themed "Sustainable African Animal Agriculture: Challenges and Future Prospects," takes place every four years to provide a platform for animal science professionals and the farming community to stay informed about the latest developments in animal agriculture.



Business DIRECTORY



Listings

Agricultural Consultancies

- ICS France
- Valtra Inc. - Africa

Agricultural Equipment - General

- Alvan Blanch Development Ltd.
- Baldan/Pan Trade Services Ltd.
- Bentall Rowlands Storage Systems Ltd.
- Briggs & Stratton AG
- Case IH
- Deutz-Fahr
- Eurodrip SA
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- ICS France
- Micron Group
- New Holland Agriculture
- Nogueira/Pan Trade Services Ltd.
- SAME
- Valtra Inc. - Africa

Agricultural Projects

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- Eurodrip SA
- ICS France
- Symaga SA

Animal Health Products

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Applicators for Granular Insecticides, Herbicides

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Centre Pivot Equipment

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- KEPLER WEBER
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Crop Drying and Ventilation

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- Jacto/Pan Trade Services Ltd.
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- LEMKEN GmbH & Co. KG
- Poettinger

Cultivators - Tined

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- Briggs & Stratton AG
- Maschio Gaspardo S.p.A

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- Intraco Ltd. n.v

Drills

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- Big Dutchman International GmbH
- Fairtrade GmbH & Co. KG
- Lubing Maschinenfabrik
- GmbH & Co. KG

Dryers

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Egg Collection

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Egg Layer Breeding Stocks

- Lohmann Tierzucht GmbH

Egg Layer Parent Breeders - Brown

- Lohmann Tierzucht GmbH

Egg Layer Parent Breeders - White

- Lohmann Tierzucht GmbH

Egg Layers

- Lohmann Tierzucht GmbH

Exhibitions and Conferences

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Extruders for Food, Feed

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Feed Additives

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- Coprex
- Evonik Industries AG
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- OLMIX
- Varied Industries Corporation (Vi-COR®)

Feed Concentrates

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Feed Ingredients

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Feeding Systems

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Fertiliser Spreaders

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Fertilisers

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- Fertilizer Co. Ltd.
- Omex Agrifluids Ltd.

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Fish Feeds - General

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- Swingtec GmbH

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- Omex Agrifluids Ltd.

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Forage Harvesters

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Horticultural Fertilisers

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Soluble Fertilisers

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- Jacto/Pan Trade Services Ltd.
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- Jacto/Pan Trade Services Ltd.
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Sugar Cubing Machinery

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Threshing Machines

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Tillage

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Trace Elements

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- Fertilizer Co. Ltd.
- OLMIX
- Omex Agrifluids Ltd.

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- Deutz-Fahr
- John Deere (Pty) Ltd.
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- Valtra Inc. - Africa
- Vellag Ltd.

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- Deutz-Fahr
- New Holland Agriculture
- SAME
- Vellag Ltd.

Trade Shows

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Traders in Agricultural Equipment, General

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Turnkey Operations

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Turnkey Operations

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- Valmont Irrigation

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- Guarany Ind. Com. Ltd.
- Swingtec GmbH

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Ventilating Equipment

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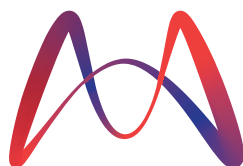
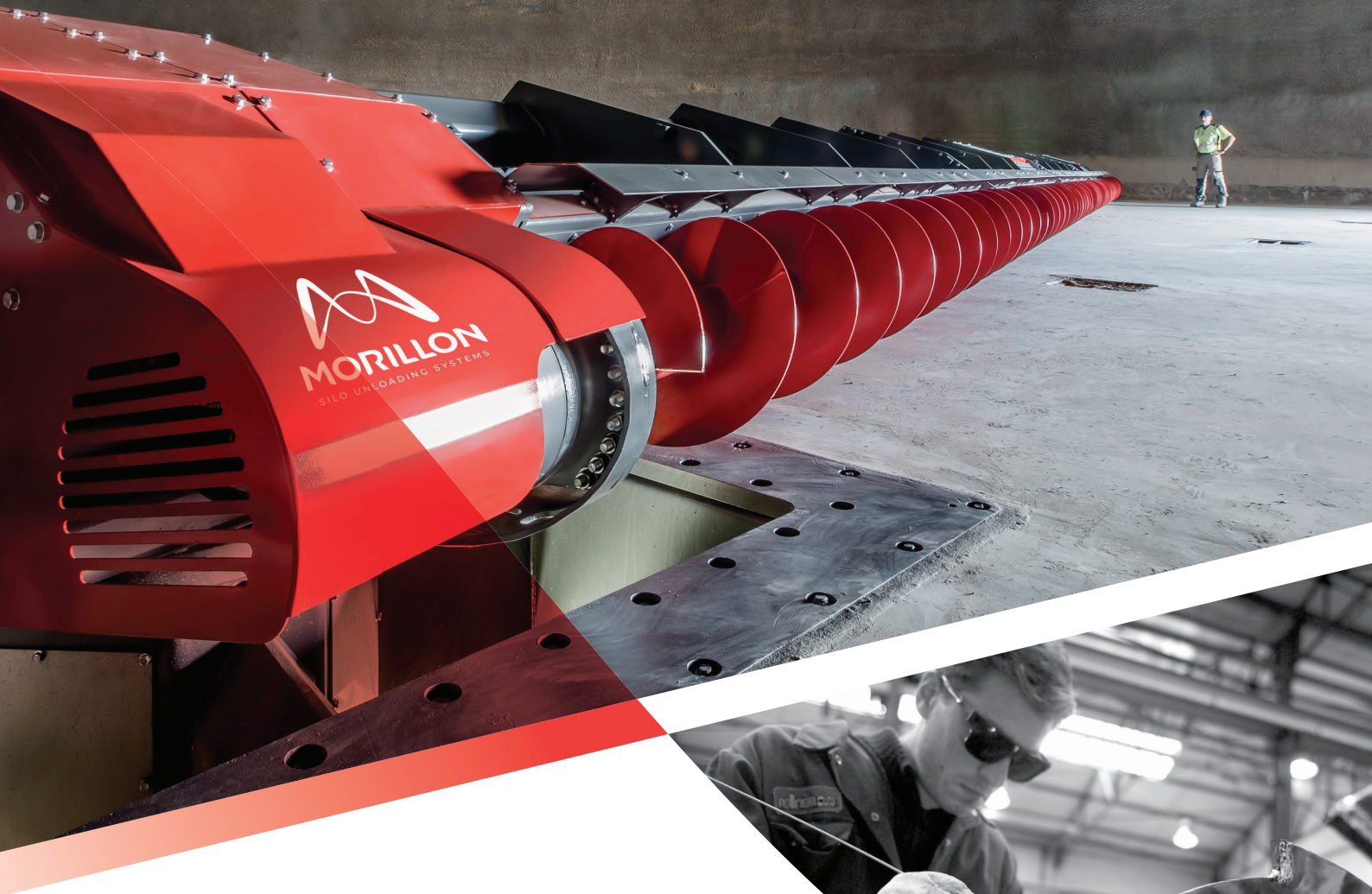
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