



## AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS

# Tobacco Production, Curing and Grading

5 day course

Classroom, online or in-house

## Course overview

Tobacco is paid on grade, and grade is decided as much in the curing barn as in the field, which is why two growers with the same crop can be paid very differently. This course follows the leaf from seedbed to sale. Delegates work through seedbed and float tray production, transplanting and the plant population that suits the market type. Nutrition is addressed with the nitrogen management that determines leaf quality rather than only yield. Topping and sucker control follow, since these decide leaf body and weight. Pest and disease control is covered, including the residue limits buyers enforce. Reaping is addressed by leaf position and ripeness, which is the judgement the whole crop depends on. Curing is covered in operational detail for flue cured and air cured leaf: yellowing, colour fixing, drying and the fuel cost that increasingly decides margin. Grading is addressed against buyer classes. The course closes on baling, presentation, the auction or contract floor, and on grower profitability.

## What you will learn

- Raise seedlings and transplant to the right population for the market type
- Manage nitrogen for leaf quality rather than yield alone
- Top and control suckers to build leaf body
- Control pests within the residue limits buyers enforce
- Reap by leaf position and ripeness
- Cure flue and air cured leaf through yellowing, fixing and drying
- Grade to buyer classes, present bales well and assess profitability

## Who should attend

- Tobacco growers and farm managers
- Curing barn operators and supervisors
- Leaf technicians and graders
- Extension staff in tobacco growing areas
- Contractors and merchants buying leaf

## Course outline

- 01 Paid on grade, decided in the barn
- 02 Seedbeds, float trays and transplanting
- 03 Nutrition and nitrogen management
- 04 Topping and sucker control
- 05 Pest control and residue limits
- 06 Reaping by leaf position and ripeness
- 07 Flue and air curing schedules
- 08 Fuel cost, grading, baling and the selling floor

## Upcoming dates

| Dates                          | Venue                | Format    | Fee per delegate |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|
| 28 September to 2 October 2026 | Durban, South Africa | Classroom | R19,950          |
| 2 to 6 November 2026           | Maseru, Lesotho      | Classroom | R19,950          |
| 18 to 22 January 2027          | Online               | Online    | R8,500           |



## Fees and how to register

This 5 day course is **R8,500** per delegate online, **R19,950** in the classroom in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Eswatini, and **USD 1,325** in the classroom elsewhere in Africa. In-house training is quotation on request. Book 2 or more delegates on this course and save 10%.

To register or request an in-house proposal, visit [www.afrisciencegroup.com](http://www.afrisciencegroup.com), email [info@afriscience.co.za](mailto:info@afriscience.co.za), or WhatsApp us on **+27 63 479 1136**.

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