



Dear FPEF members,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017...

This year has started on an interesting note considering the outcome of the United States Presidential election, the 'Brexit' decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, the results of the South African municipal elections and the effects of the drought that is plaguing our country.

These changes will inevitably have some impact on our exports. At the same time, I have always been impressed with the resilience and adaptability of our fresh fruit export industry. Please read more in this newsletter about the FPEF's recent efforts to provide value for our members on a local and international level.

In addition, the FPEF hosted a successful and well-attended Annual General Meeting at Rhebokskloof in Paarl on 24 November, during which a new FPEF Board was elected; the FPEF's audited financial statement for the past year, the budget for this year, as well as amendments to the FPEF's Memorandum of Incorporation (MOI) were approved.

All of the previous FPEF Board members were re-elected for 2017, except for Irving Davelaar who has left the fresh fruit export industry to pursue other interests. There will also be no increase in fees payable by FPEF members – the good news is that membership fees and pallet fees remain unchanged.

A significant and exciting change is the broadening of the scope of the FPEF's MOI to include all fresh produce.

Best regards and enjoy this newsletter!

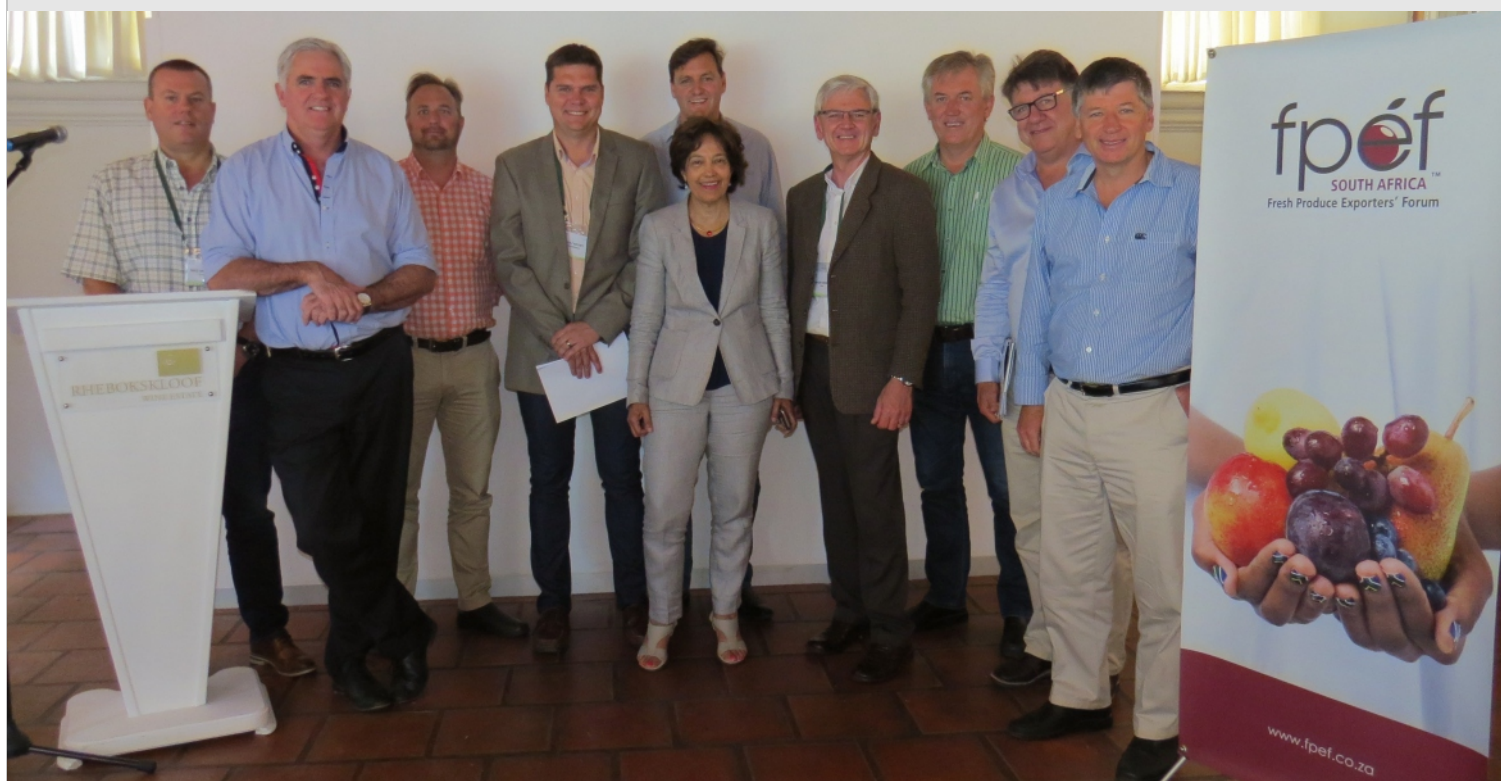
Anton Kruger  
FPEF CEO

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- Adolf Kieviet (Chairman) – Freshworld
- Craig Jensen – SAFPRO
- Geoff Croxford – Seaworld International
- Gerald Gant – Dole South Africa
- Juliette du Preez – SRCC Marketing
- Leon de Kock – Grape Alliance Marketing
- Lucien Jansen – Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB)
- Dr Mono Mashaba – Independent Consultant & Fruit South Africa
- Nico van Staden – Core Fruit
- Sarel Joubert – In2Fruit
- Stuart Symington – Capespan South Africa
- Trevor Dukes – The Fruit Farm Group
- Wiekus Hellmann – Green Marketing



Some of the FPEF Board members with the FPEF CEO at the AGM, from left to right: Nico van Staden, Stuart Symington, Craig Jensen, Adolf Kieviet, Wiekus Hellmann, Anton Kruger (FPEF CEO), Trevor Dukes, Gerald Gant, Geoff Croxford and Juliette du Preez (in front).



FPEF members at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), hosted at Rhebokskloof in Paarl on 24 November 2016.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Post-Harvest Innovation Symposium was hosted by the FPEF on 21 and 22 November at the Spier wine estate in Stellenbosch.

Titled, 'Competitiveness through innovation', the Symposium served as:

- a showcase for current postharvest research, development and innovation (RDI) projects, supported under the PHI Programme and its industry partners; and
- a platform for networking with mutually beneficial partners.

A comprehensive itinerary was followed over the two days of the Symposium. Proceedings commenced with a welcome speech by Anton Kruger (FPEF CEO), followed by the keynote address of Dr Chris Bishop – head of the Postharvest Unit at Writtle College in the United Kingdom on the first day, and by Dr John Purchase – CEO of the Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz), on the second day of the Symposium.

Principal investigators and students from different universities and research institutes had the opportunity to deliver in-depth presentations on their R&D projects. These were categorised under postharvest physiology and technology; postharvest disease and insect control, including mitigation techniques for phytosanitary compliance, as well as projects dealing with logistics and non-destructive fruit quality assessment techniques.

During his address on behalf of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Isaac Maredi – Chief Director: Sector Innovation & Green Economy, emphasised the importance of the PHI Programme. Mr Maredi stated: "PHI gave us the blueprint for how a public-private investment in research and development can and should work," and further explained the Programme's pioneering role in the establishment of the current Sector Innovation Fund (SIF) of the DST.

Other highlights of the event included dinner and a cultural experience – guests were treated with an extraordinary performance by 'Die Nuwe Graskoue Trappers'. This group of proudly South African 'rieldansers' from Wuppertal and surrounding villages in the Cederberg area has not only revived the ancient Khoisan Rieldans, but recently also won gold at the World Championships of the Performing Arts in Los Angeles.

A delightful dinner was hosted at Spier's Old Wine Cellar – a national heritage building and the oldest dated cellar building (1767) in South Africa! During the course of the evening, Prof. Linus Opara delivered an insightful and inspirational message, which emphasised how important it is for researchers to be proactive in addressing postharvest and food security challenges.



Isaac Maredi (DST), Dr Chris Bishop (Writtle College), Junette Davids (PHI/FPEF), Anton Kruger (FPEF CEO) and Sunita Kalan (DST).

The PHI Symposium was a great success. Approximately 150 guests attended the event and although the majority were part of the postharvest scientific community, it was good to note that the industry represented about a third of the participants. The positive feedback and compliments received afterwards, proved the value of the Symposium.



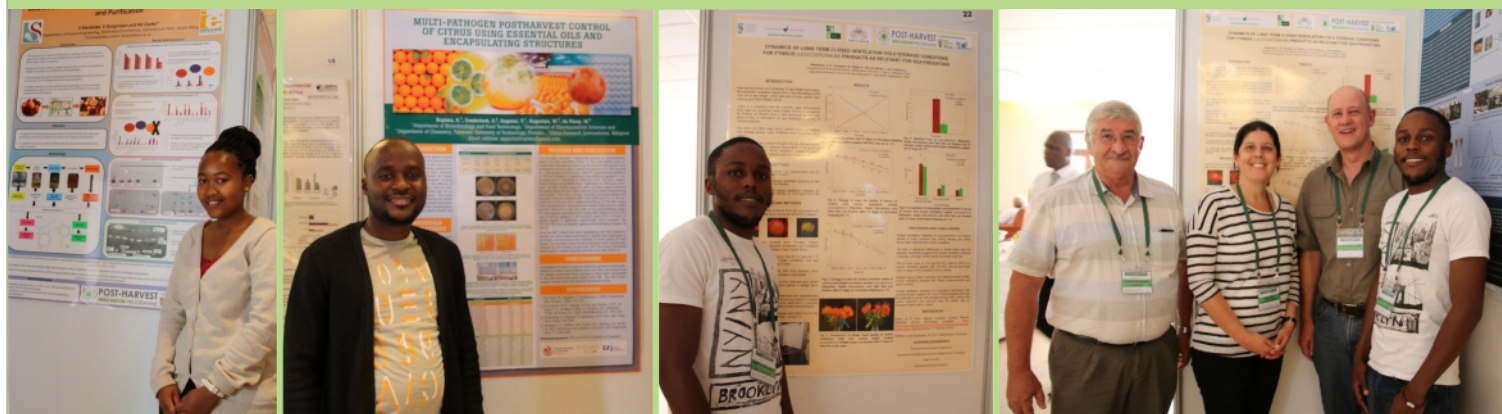
Representing the POMASA group at the PHI Symposium: Photograph 1 (left to right): Prof. Linus Opara, Dr William Mavengere, Dr Olaniyi Amos Fawole and Matia Mukama in the back row; and Karen Munhuweyi, Elrita Venter, Dr Cheryl Lennox and Dr Rebogile Mphahlele in the front row. Photograph 2 (left to right): Dr Wafeeka Vardien, Stenford Matsikidze, Anton Huysamer, Dr Shelley Johnson and Dr Lynn Hoffman (in front).

### PHI poster competition

The PHI Programme offered an exciting incentive – a poster competition – to all of the students involved with PHI-supported projects. They each had the opportunity to design a poster to illustrate their respective projects. The students jumped at the challenge and a total of 26 entries were received. At the end of the first day of the PHI Symposium, an independent panel of judges evaluated the posters according to strict criteria. The judges were impressed by the quality of the entries – the majority of the posters seemed to be of an international standard.

#### Poster competition winners

- First place: Ms Sebenzile Mazibuko (MSc student). Poster title: 'Downstream processing for optimal lipopeptide concentration and purification'. Principal investigator: Prof. Kim Clarke (Stellenbosch University);
- Second place: Mr Sinclair Bopima (MSc student). Poster title: 'Multi-pathogen postharvest control of citrus using essential oils and encapsulating structures'. Principal investigator: Prof. Sandra Combrinck (Tshwane University of Technology);
- Third place: Mr Stenford Matsikidze (MSc Student). Poster title: 'Dynamic of long-term cold storage conditions for Fynbos cut flowers as relevant for sea freighting'. Principal investigator: Dr Lynn Hoffman (Stellenbosch University).



PHI poster competition winners (left to right): Sebenzile Mazibuko (first place), Sinclair Bopima (second place) and Stenford Matsikidze (third place). On the far right: Kobus van der Merwe (Independent Industry Consultant), Anel Botes (Researcher, ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij), Prof. Marius Huysamer (Independent Industry Consultant) and Stenford Matsikidze.



## POST-HARVEST INNOVATION (PHI) PROGRAMME

### Best Presentation Award

In November 2016, the 18th International Conference on Bioprocess Systems Engineering (ICBSE) was hosted in Cape Town. At this significant event, Postdoctoral researcher, Vivek Rangarajan, received the Best Presentation Award for the oral presentation: 'Purification of Bacillus lipopeptides for diverse applications'.

This work forms part of a current PHI-supported project, conducted in collaboration with HORTGRO Science, under the leadership of Prof. Kim Clarke of the Stellenbosch University Department of Process Engineering.

This Best Presentation Award incidentally refers to the same project for which Sebenzile Mazibuko (MSc student) has won the first place in the PHI Symposium poster competition. It is a wonderful coincidence that the same PHI project has been awarded twice!



For more information on PHI, please contact Junette Davids at [junette@fpef.co.za](mailto:junette@fpef.co.za)

## TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

### FPEF Graduate Internship programme

Following the successful launch of the FPEF Graduate Internship programme in 2016, we are expanding this programme in 2017. During the past year, four interns were placed at four fruit export companies, each receiving excellent reviews from their colleagues. More importantly, three of these interns have subsequently been appointed on a permanent basis, whilst the fourth can expect permanent placement as soon as a position in the company concerned becomes available.

#### FPEF Graduate Internship programme – goal and vision:

- The goal of the programme is to place high-calibre tertiary graduates in junior commercial roles at South African fruit export companies for one-year internships. This would create long-term career opportunities for successful interns.
- The vision of the programme is to integrate a growing group of talented black individuals into the commercial heart of the industry. Potentially, many of these individuals could become future leaders in the industry in executive management and ownership roles.

In August last year, graduates were urged to apply for the 2017 FPEF internship programme through nationwide advertisements at tertiary institutions and online platforms. Within just over a fortnight, more than 750 résumés were received, at which point we closed the application window. With the assistance of Sandra Kruger and Associates (SKA), a preliminary shortlist of 30 applicants was drawn up. These candidates were interviewed in September to set up a final shortlist of the top 12 candidates.

## TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

### FPEF Graduate Internship programme

We have confidence in the calibre of the top 12 candidates and believe they have a bright future given the right opportunities. Thus far, four interns have been appointed at three export companies and the interview process is well advanced at a further three export companies. In addition, the FPEF, assisted by SKA, will provide guidance and support to the participating exporters and the interns throughout the year.

We are excited about the FPEF Graduate Internship programme – it has the potential to contribute to meaningful and successful transformation in the industry! We also invite and encourage exporters to participate in this valuable initiative.



Tandiwe Mzilikazi (Human Resources Manager at Ideafruit Export) with Karabelo Motsei - 2016 intern.

### FPEF TOC and L&M training programmes

The Top of the Class (TOC) and Leadership and Mentorship (L&M) training programmes were developed by the FPEF for the benefit of the South African fresh fruit industry. TOC is aimed at emerging producers, fruit packers and marketers and provides training on the fresh fruit export value chain – from harvest to home, whilst L&M is intended for employees in junior to middle management and focused on leadership and personal development.

A total of 123 industry employees and unemployed youth in three provinces completed the TOC and L&M programmes in 2016. Although these initiatives have different target groups and objectives, both programmes provide a comprehensive training package. Training is usually presented over a couple of full-day sessions; grouped into a number of two-day or four-day sessions to make up a total of 8 to 12 days.

The TOC and L&M programmes serve as valuable human resource development tools for the fresh fruit export industry. We therefore encourage companies within the industry to make use of these programmes.

For more information on the TOC, L&M and Internship programmes, please contact Johannes Brand [johannes@fpf.co.za](mailto:johannes@fpf.co.za)

Project Titan was established by the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) to enhance the speed, accuracy and credibility of the export certification process. It is a mobile technology initiative, in which PPECB inspectors use an Android tablet rather than the manual clipboard and pen. This will not only eliminate the manual processes involved in quality inspections and export certification, but also help to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

Project Titan is conducted under the leadership of Ms Yanesh Ramiah (Chief Information Officer at the PPECB), who has provided the following information:

### **TITAN: Latest statistics at 31 January 2017**

- 477 sites are currently using Titan.
- 106 million cartons have been captured on Titan.
- 1610 electronic addendums have been processed.
- 27 exporters are using Titan for their export certification.

Product	No. of Activity Points
Avocados	8
Citrus fruit	112
Grapes	291
Other fruit	8
Pome fruit	63
Stone fruit	74

### **What to expect in 2017:**

#### Automated booking

The client manually captures a service request and has to manually make all inspection bookings that are required. This project generates an Automated Booking so that duplication can be eliminated and the process is more streamlined.

#### Cold Chain Phase 1

The HP22 (Catalogue File of Products with their respective Carrying Temperature Regimes) will be loaded into a library, which will allow for an automated reference search for required Carrying Temperature Regimes for a requested product. This will increase efficiency and accuracy of data whilst eliminating manual file referencing.

Translating the Q67 (Booking/Export Notification Form) to one that is electronic, efficient and simple. It will include audit-trailed amendments, history, validations and event notifications.

For more information on Project Titan, please contact  
Tina-Louise Rabie at [Tina-LouiseR@ppecb.com](mailto:Tina-LouiseR@ppecb.com)



### FRUIT LOGISTICA BERLIN 2017

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Fruit Logistica Berlin. It was also a record year with more than 75 000 trade visitors from over 130 countries – a 5% increase on the previous year's visitor count!

The Department of Trade and Industry (dti) sponsored the large (400 m<sup>2</sup>) South African pavilion, which was located in a different hall this year. The FPEF and 22 other co-exhibitors, of which the majority were FPEF members, shared this space, which included a few reception desks, an enclosed meeting room and two general meeting areas.

Our national pavilion was not quite as busy as in previous years due to its new location, but positive feedback on a successful show was still received from exhibitors and visitors, including two important first-time guests – Mr Shabeer Khan (Chief Financial Officer of the dti) and Advocate Mohamed Cassimjee (Minister Plenipotentiary at the South African Embassy in Berlin).

We would like to thank staff members of the FPEF, the PPECB, the dti and the South African Embassy in Berlin for their efficient and professional assistance with managing the activities at our national pavilion.

In addition, it is a pleasure to announce that the dti confirmed it will fund South African participation in Asia Fruit Logistica this September, as well as Fruit Logistica Berlin 2018!



Fruit Logistica Berlin 2017: FPEF CEO, Anton Kruger, with two of the assistants at the reception desk - Yongamela Mboxo and Gina Wallbach, and a view on the South African pavilion.



### FRUIT LOGISTICA BERLIN 2017

#### South African cocktail reception in Berlin

In keeping with tradition, the FPEF hosted a cocktail reception at the South African pavilion to conclude the activities of the first day of Fruit Logistica Berlin. Max MacGillivray, founder member of 'The Great Fruit Adventure' – the two-man team of explorers that very recently completed an epic motorcycle journey across Europe and Africa to raise awareness about the importance of fruit and vegetables, shared some of his amazing experiences with guests at the cocktail function.



This wonderful evening was only made possible, thanks to our sponsors: the PPECB, Seven Seas, the FPEF, SAFPRO, Freshgold SA Exports, Prophet, The Fruit Farm Group SA, Lona Citrus, Komati Fruits, GoGlobal, X-Treme International, Fruits Unlimited, LCL Logistics Southern Africa, Stems Fruit and The Grape Company.

#### WOP Dubai 2016

WOP Dubai, also known as the World of Perishables Expo Middle East, is the only trade fair dedicated to fresh produce in the entire Middle East. In November 2016, this international trade fair celebrated its eighth year and attracted around 235 exhibitors from 34 countries.

It was the first time that the FPEF participated in WOP Dubai – made possible by the Sector Specific Assistance Scheme (SSAS) of the Department of Trade and Industry (dti), which also funded the attendance of eleven emerging producer-exporters.

The fair not only provided the emerging producer-exporters with valuable exposure to the international fresh produce industry, but it also enabled the FPEF to gather trade leads and raise awareness about South African fruit.



The South African delegation at WOP Dubai 2016.



The Produce Marketing Association (PMA) is a global trade association, based in the USA and established more than sixty years ago. Amongst other things, the PMA is focused on creating marketing and business opportunities by connecting people across the international fruit and vegetable supply chain.

Around 21 000 visitors from 60 countries attended the PMA Fresh Summit convention and expo, which was hosted in Orlando, Florida, in October 2016. There were also 100 exhibitors, of which South Africa was one.

Anton Kruger (FPEF CEO) and Adolf Kieviet (Chairman of the FPEF Board) represented our industry at this event. Not only is the FPEF a member of the PMA, but Mr Kruger and Mr Kieviet are also members of the PMA Country Council in South Africa and served as Career Ambassadors to provide South African students with exposure to the fresh produce industry.

In the end, representation of our fresh fruit export industry was of strategic importance, since we have recently received market access for South African litchis; are hoping to gain market access for avocados as well, and will be permitted to export citrus fruit from all regions in South Africa to the USA during the 2017 season.



PMA Fresh Summit convention and expo 2016: Career Ambassadors Anton Kruger (FPEF CEO) and Adolf Kieviet (Chairman of the FPEF Board) with students; the FPEF CEO and two South African Embassy staff members, based in the USA; and a view on the fresh produce exhibition.





### Market access and development

Between 26 October and 2 November 2016, a Fruit South Africa (FSA) delegation represented the South African fresh fruit export industry during a market access and development mission to South Korea, Japan and China. The delegation consisted of Dr Konanani Liphadzi (FSA CEO), Anton Kruger (FPEF CEO), Willem Bestbier (SATI CEO), Derek Donkin (Subtrop CEO), Justin Chadwick (CGA CEO), Lucien Jansen (PPECB CEO), Dr Mono Mashaba (FSA), and Paul Hardman (CGA).

These visits were successful and provided the FSA delegation with the opportunity to follow up on market access and development matters with the relevant Government authorities; to meet with importers and staff members at South African Embassies, and to participate in the China World Fruit and Vegetable trade fair.



The South African pavilion at the China World Fruit and Vegetable trade fair in Beijing, and the FSA delegation meeting with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in Tokyo.



The FSA delegation and the Japanese Citrus Association meeting in Tokyo, and Ambassador Beryl Rose Sisulu of the South African Embassy in Tokyo.



*We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter.*

*FPEF members are welcome to send comments, contributions or queries to the editor, Desireé Thompson: [desireethompson@mweb.co.za](mailto:desireethompson@mweb.co.za)*