



KEEPING IT FRESH **fpef** fresh produce EXPORTERS' FORUM SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 07 December 2022

Dear FPEF Members,

Here is another edition of our newsletter in which we bring you a summary of the most pertinent information which was shared with you during the past two weeks as well as reminders of important upcoming events. These include logistical matters (primarily the readiness of the Port of Cape Town for the stone fruit and table grapes export season, specific export requirements/documentation, transformation activities, promotions, financial matters and others).

Thank you to those of you who took advertisements in the 2023 edition of our Export Directory. Such support enables us to publish a high-quality information document and translate the digital version in Mandarin and Spanish. **The Export Directory 2023 will be launched at Fruit Logistica Berlin 2023.**

Biodegradable packaging saves tomatoes and the planet – A PHI (Post Harvest Innovation) article

Tomatoes are among the most consumed agricultural commodities in the world. They are also a highly perishable product that is prone to significant postharvest losses. While synthetic plastic packaging systems protect the delicate fruits and thus decrease losses, their harmful environmental impact is becoming indefensible, leading to the growing demand for biodegradable packaging.



The environmental benefits of biodegradable materials are well-documented, but their impact on the quality attributed of South African tomatoes remains largely unknown. A PHI-industry supported study evaluated biodegradable packaging materials in terms of their effects on the physiological, biochemical and microbiological qualities of tomatoes in the SA supply chain. The key results show that the different packaging options yielded significant variations in colour and physiological weight loss.

The study concluded that two of the biodegradable options and one of the synthetic options could be recommended for maintaining freshness of tomatoes. The micro-environment created by biodegradable packaging shows promising indications of optimum gas holding capacity that retarded the respiration process, and therefore ripening round tomatoes. A study of more environmentally friendly packaging techniques can be beneficial to the South African supply chain, especially when considering the risks posed because of regulatory changes in the European Green Deal.



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TRANSFORMATION NEWS – FPEF GRADUATE NETWORKING LUNCH

Fruitworks in Paarl arranged and hosted a fantastic lunch and networking opportunity on the 24th of November for the graduates appointed over the past two years through the FPEF's Graduate Placement Programme. The FPEF would like to thank Fruitworks for taking the initiative to organise and host this event and for their generous support of the programme. The purpose of the FPEF's Graduate Placement Programme is to facilitate transformation in the industry through the placement of high calibre tertiary graduates in the industry in commercial, logistics and post-harvest technical positions. The FPEF provides recruitment services through Agrijob and a salary contribution of R5,000 per month for the first 12 months for every graduate appointed in an FPEF member company through the programme. If you would like more information on the programme or would like to place a graduate, please contact Johannes Brand at johannes@fpf.co.za.



Werner van Rooyen hosted the first Deciduous industry meeting on the 30th of November with TPT, TFR, PPECB and industry players in attendance. Key takeaways were that we currently have sufficient equipment and that depots are full, however this impacts on cleanliness pass rates and PPECB has provided additional training to depots. TFR reported that 80 reefers were railed from Belcon in November and the relocation of plugs points are progressing with the 16th of December the expected date of completion. Hauliers reported an increase in cable theft when positioning empty reefers and while waiting outside depots which will be escalated to the City of Cape Town. Our next meeting will be on the 14th of December.

At the final preparation meeting with Transnet, it was confirmed that no staff will take leave during December but that the port will be closed on Christmas day. The port currently operates with 21 RTG's and a possible 2 more. The additional port hauliers arrived from Port Elizabeth and the fleet now stands on a total of 56.

With the season in full swing, we provide members via our WhatsApp group with daily port updates providing a snapshot of vessels on berth, stack utilization, truck moves and a wind forecast.

On Friday the 2nd of December we had the opportunity to share industry insight and fruit with the colleagues at Transnet, outside the formal boardroom setting and meeting staff that loads our containers. We would like to thank Capespan for the grape donation, there were plenty of complements and the regional manager Andiswa Dlanga declared it an annual event. It was a great opportunity to build relations and we would like to thank the port for their work. We will take the learnings from this year to improve on the next!



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REMINDER: EUROPEAN UNION CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT - INCLUSION OF PRODUCTION SITES ON PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES FOR CAPSICUM, PEACHES, NECTARINES AND POMEGRANATES

This serves as a reminder to the relevant industry stakeholders that Production Unit Codes (PUCs) and their Orchard numbers are required on phytosanitary certifications destined for the European Union (EU) and those approved for future phytosanitary purposes. In light of the above, exporters/clearing agents are obligated to provide the PUCs and their orchard numbers inside "Box 4" on the distinguishing marks (e.g., X0000: 23) during the application procedure so that this information is represented on EU phytosanitary certifications. Therefore, exporters will be responsible for the expense of replacing phytosanitary certifications if this information was not included on the original application.

Kind regards

Anton Kruger