

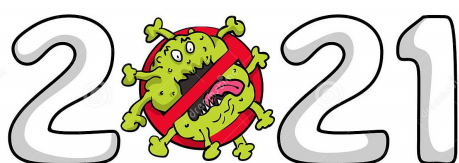


KEEPING IT FRESH

fpef
fresh produce
EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 13 January 2021

Dear FPEF Members,



And here we are at the beginning of a new year - a year that will (again) be different to what we are used to due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As you are aware the country is now in adjusted Alert Level 3 to contain the rapid rise in infections - and our industry is still regarded as an essential service. The increase in COVID-19 infections may have an impact on some critical activities, such as the ports and availability of inspectors. We are in constant interaction with the relevant authorities in order to try and ensure uninterrupted flow of fresh produce exports.

Other challenges with regards to new acts, such as the APAC Amendment Bill and the moratorium on transport of high-cube containers (which lapses on 30 June) as well as access for our produce to new markets will also still be with us. However, the resilience showed by our industry during 2020, should again enable the production and export of fresh produce to continue.

During 2020 there were some instances where the importance of **plant breeder rights** was highlighted. These issues again showed the necessity of proper contracting between exporters and suppliers/growers as well as the need for exporters to conduct full and proper due diligence on their suppliers before concluding contracts. If you have not yet received the generic **marketing agreement template** which was developed by the FPEF's legal adviser, you can obtain it from Claudia Walklett (claudia@fpf.co.za). During engagements with FPEF members on these issues it also transpired that it is not only an exporter matter, but growers have a responsibility towards exporters too.

20 YEARS OF REPRESENTING SOUTH AFRICAN FRUIT TO THE WORLD

The Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum turned twenty last year and CEO Anton Kruger talked to FreshPlaza about the organisation which, since he joined it nine years ago, has grown and represents 90% of South Africa's fresh exports. You can read the complete article by using the link below.

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9282709/20-years-of-the-representing-south-african-fruit-to-the-world/>



TABLE GRAPE NEWS

Packing in the Orange River table grape production region of South Africa has been disrupted and delayed in week one due to heavy rains in the Northern Cape. Again, the advantage of the geographical diversity of the five table grape grower regions in South Africa becomes evident as the industry is confident that it will continue to meet the weekly demands of all its markets.

EXPORTS TO SOUTH KOREA

A workshop will be held via **Video Conference on 21 January 2021 from 09:30 to 11:30** to highlight the problematic levels of interceptions for mealybug on citrus fruit destined for the South Korean market. DALRRD has advised that participation is compulsory for all producers (PUCs) and packhouses that have applied for registration to export to South Korea in 2021. **Please contact Elma Carstens with any queries ec@cri.co.za.**

CITRUS EXPORTS TO THE PHILIPPINES

As you are aware, market access for citrus exports to the Philippines was obtained in the latter part of 2020. Enquiries were received regarding the process and the following information was obtained:

- Importers can only apply for a permit once the Philippine Department of Agriculture have published the Administrative Order. This AO has not been published as yet.
- Some importers have informed FPEF members that the deadline for applications is 31 January. We have requested clarity on this.

Staff at the SA Embassy in Manila and the SA Agricultural Counsellor in Tokyo (who is also responsible for the Philippines) are in constant contact with the Philippine department regarding these matters. As soon as more information is available, we will inform you.



FRUIT LOGISTICA BERLIN 2021

It is a strange feeling to not be preparing at this time for Fruit Logistica Berlin. It has been re-scheduled to take place in May in a hybrid format. You will be kept abreast of developments regarding participation.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PHI CONTRIBUTION THROUGH AN AWARD - SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, UKZN

The School of Engineering, University of KwaZulu-Natal acknowledged the PHI Programme and the Tomato Producers' Organisation through a Silver Donor Award in December 2020 for supporting one of their flagship Engineering R&D projects 'Evaluation of Biodegradable Packaging Materials in Terms of Their Effects on Physiological, Biochemical and Microbiological Quality of Tomatoes in South African Supply Chain'. The PHI Review Committee recently reviewed the project's annual progress report and reported that the research team is to be commended for the scientific outputs to date. The intended primary output of the study is to evaluate the impact on post-harvest quality of tomatoes when packaged and transported in alternative biodegradable packaging materials.

Congratulations and well done Junette Davids for the excellent way in which you manage the PHI programme!

Herewith, a summary of the latest COVID-19 Regulations and Directives:

SA back to alert level 3	Amended alert level 3 Determination of hot spots
New directions issued - Sport, Arts and Culture	Amendment to directions 060121
New directions issued - Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	Amendment to advance level 3

Wishing each and everyone, all of the best for the remainder of 2021! The FPEF remains here to assist you.

**Kind regards,
Anton Kruger**