



KEEPING IT FRESH

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EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 12 January 2022

Dear FPEF Members,

On behalf of the FPEF team, I trust that those of you who were able to take a break during the festive season, had a good rest and time with your family and friends and are now ready for 2022. To those of you who did not have the opportunity to be on leave, may 2022 treat you well!



In this first edition of our newsletter, we bring you information in summarised format. The detail has been shared with you already or will be shared in the coming days. Should you require the detail, please contact Claudia Walklett, who will send it to the relevant FPEF staff member. Her e-mail address is: claudia@fpef.co.za

It is a new year with new opportunities and challenges.

One important opportunity is **pear exports to China** – after the protocol was signed and access agreed upon by the Chinese Minister of GACC (General Administration of Customs China) on 29 November 2021. The agreement was subsequently couriered to South Africa and signed on 13 December by Minister Thoko Didiza of DALRRD. This comes after many years of dedication and hard work by a team of industry and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) officials.

We are still awaiting final communication regarding the **in-transit cold treatment for pome fruit exported to India**. Although the Indian authorities gave approved the in-transit treatment in September last year, the Indian officials need to officially inform us (via DALRRD) on when we can physically ship using in-transit cold treatment. The prescribed 60-day WTO (World Trade Organisation) notification period has passed, and now the Indian authorities have to publish/notify internally.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

The 2022 edition of the FPEF's annual **Export Directory** is currently in the process of being finalised. It will be available in February.



We are still awaiting information on whether the dtic (Department of Trade, Industry and Cooperation) will fund a National Pavilion at **Fruit Logistica Berlin** - which will take place from 5 to 7 April.

A reminder that the FPEF has a virtual stand at the **Dubai Expo 2020** until March 2022. If you want video recordings of some relevant discussions at the event, please send your request to marletta@fpf.co.za and she will forward you the links.

If you have not done so yet, have a look at the **FPEF's website** of which the content is now also available in Mandarin.

TRANSFORMATION NEWS

FPEF Graduate Placement Programme

Recruitment for the FPEF's 2022 graduate placement programme is well underway and several appointments have already been confirmed. Agrijob, our recruitment service provider, has a short list of high calibre graduates available for commercial, logistics and post-harvest quality positions. The FPEF will make a salary contribution of R5,000 per month per graduate for up to twelve months to any FPEF member who appoints a graduate through the programme. To appoint a graduate or find out more about the programme, please contact Johannes Brand, johannes@fpf.co.za.

LOGISTICS

The ports remain a major challenge – especially the port of Cape Town now in the midst of table grape and stone fruit exports. The power outage in December was, and still is, of big concern seeing that there were no back-up generators and thus about 1 300 refrigerated containers were not plugged in for a couple of days. We took this up immediately with the Transnet Executive Management team and urgently requested the following:

- That the *Force Majeure* measures, declared by Transnet, be lifted. It was done after about two days.
- That a thorough evaluation and assessment on the power outage situation and risk mitigation measures be done to avoid such an incident in the future.
- That scenario planning be done for the port of Cape Town, in the event of weather delays, equipment breakdowns and the terminal's operational response after such events. As an industry, we undertook to assist, provide support and work together with the relevant Transnet teams to develop scenario planning concepts, responding to foreseeable adverse events. Should financial assistance be needed to achieve this, we will consider it positively (together with grower associations).
- That flexibility of the truck booking system be geared up urgently (especially after wind delays).

Following the abovementioned, the FPEF/SATI/Hortgro and Agbiz had a positive and robust engagement with the CEO of the Transnet Group and her team. The discussions were candid and forthright.

Transnet has re-emphasised its commitment to cooperation and engagement with a smaller grouping of the deciduous fruit industry instead of large meetings. This engagement will be on a more continuous basis in order to particularly boost productivity at the Cape Town Container Terminal.

This follows FPEF's multiple interactions in December, highlighting the crisis at hand and the impact on deciduous fruit exports. Frequent meetings, directly with the Transnet CEO and her team, will take place to ensure that productivity in the terminal remain high and is sustained for the duration of the deciduous fruit season.

It is foreseen that these high-level meetings will also continue in the citrus season.



Stay safe!

***Kind regards,
Anton Kruger***