



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

News from the FPEF – 11 August 2021

Dear FPEF Members,

We are indeed living in interesting and challenging times. Recent events such as changes to the South African Cabinet, unrest and looting, a cyber-attack which left Transnet non-operational for more than a week, ongoing drought in certain regions and increases in Covid-19 infections and deaths all impact the sustainability of our industry. True to the nature of our industry, we seek solutions to the challenges which we can/are able to influence.

The unrest and cyber-attack on Transnet which has disabled electronic systems and disrupted container terminals in all **South African ports** caused a backlog of fruit across the citrus supply chain leading to delays when it comes to fruit being exported to key markets. Meetings were held daily between the FPEF, CGA, Transnet, PPECB and DALR RD to try and find solutions. During these meetings, an important factor was identified, namely that exporters and growers were cautioned about the congestion in the ports in Durban, Nqura and Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth). Fruit should only be sent to port after ensuring that there is space to accommodate such fruit.

The unrest and looting incidents in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Gauteng have negatively impacted livelihoods and the South African food system. Managing and mitigating the adverse impacts required accurate and current information. **BFAP (Bureau for Agricultural Policy)** was tasked to track the impact of the unrest and related disruptions on South African's food system. The FPEF have been identified as a critical value chain actor that can help BFAP by providing insight into the impacts and risks of the current unrest. We have thus provided such information every two days.



HIGH CUBE CONTAINERS

The issue is still not resolved, but there has been some progress insofar that the Director-General of DALRRD met with his counterpart in the Department of Transport (DoT) and a meeting took place between the DoT, SAMSA (SA Maritime Authority), Agbiz, CGA and the FPEF. The primary outcomes of the meeting were:

- that a technical team of no more than 10 people will be tasked to review the suitability of extending the moratorium for a number of years vs a complete exemption vs the use of lower trailers. Werner van Rooyen is one of the members of the task team.
- The DoT acknowledged that high cube is the way for the future and that South Africa cannot go against international norms.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

Fruit Logistica Berlin 2022

The dtic invites companies to submit applications to participate and showcase their fresh produce at the world's largest fresh produce trade show, **Fruit Logistica Berlin**, scheduled to take place from 09 – 11 February 2022 in Berlin, Germany. The deadline for submission of complete National Pavilion application forms with supporting documents is **09 September 2021**. Applications must be sent only by email to VMbuyisa@thedtic.gov.za. For more information, please refer to the email sent on the 4th of August or contact Marletta Kellerman at marletta@fpef.co.za.



TFSA webinar on Navigating EU Markets Digitally

TFSA invites you to a webinar on *Navigating EU Markets Digitally* hosted on the 25th of August. This webinar will showcase a two-step process for export to the EU: using the [ITC Market Potential Map and TradeMap](#) to identify export opportunities; and a live demonstration of how to use the [EU MyTrade Assistant](#) to identify customs duties, taxes, rules, regulations and standards for exporting physical products to the EU. These steps help exporters simplify their research process by going straight to the key resources and information. To register, please refer to the email sent on the 4th of August or contact Marletta Kellerman for more information.

The dtic's Company Survey: Impact of the Unrest

South African businesses have come under immense strain due to the recent events of violence and looting that have swept through the country during the past week. This survey requests information on the impacts of the unrest and the support that would be required by affected companies. The results from the survey will assist the dtic and other organisations to propose support measures to enable the rebuilding and economic stabilisation of the country. The dtic kindly request about 5 minutes of your time to complete the online survey and thank you in advance. All information provided will be strictly confidential and aggregated anonymous data will be used to inform decision making.

<http://www.thedtic.gov.za/the-dtic-survey-on-the-impact-of-the-looting-to-business-operations-in-the-country/>
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftA9kNFs-nMS2MjNyaBoFLMID8Wc51CYnEf2EdZr3tRq-YXQ/viewform>

CITRUS INTEGRATION MEETINGS

These meetings take place every **Wednesday at 10am** and is hosted by **Vis Loganathan from Transnet**.

Below is the link to the meetings which are being held via MS Teams:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetupjoin/19%3ameeting_YmE3YTJiYWMTODdlOS00MGZlWJkODItMTAwYTVkNmExMDJk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22a1a39996-f913-4016-a58a-361c60dec580%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22d20d4677-097d-465e-96d4-5c2239b48d6f%22%7d

COVID-19



With the vaccination drive gathering momentum we thought it opportune to draw members' attention to the provision of the latest Occupational Health and Safety Directive as it relates to time off for vaccinations. Clause 4 (l) of the current OHS Directions issued by the Minister of Labour requires an employer to:

"(l) give its employees paid time off to be vaccinated on the day and time that may be required provided that the employee provides proof of the vaccination that has occurred or is to occur during hours that the employee is ordinarily at work."

We express our condolences to those of you who have lost someone due to Covid. Please do whatever you can to mitigate your risk.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2022

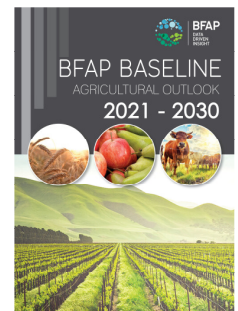
Our Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) will take place on **26 November** and as usual, a new Board will be elected. Based on the changes to our Memorandum of Incorporation, which were approved at last year's AGM, the Board composition and election process will see some changes:

- Associate members will now have four seats instead of only two. The Directors representing the associate members will now be nominated and elected (and not directly appointed as is the case currently)
- Exporter members will have 11 seats
- One seat is reserved for an ex-officio member
- The term of Board members will now be limited to five consecutive years
- The term of the Chairperson will be limited to three years.

The Board should as far as possible be representative of all the fruit types, vegetables, logistics service providers and should also reflect the diversity of our country (females and black people). Given all of this, you are thus requested to start applying your minds about possible candidates and/or your availability.

BFAP BASELINE

The 2021 edition of the BFAP Baseline will be launched 15 September, at 14h00 in a virtual event. The 2021 edition of the Baseline presents a 10-year outlook for South African agriculture and its contribution to inclusive growth, economic prosperity and food security. More details related to the format and the registration link will be distributed soon.



B4SA Webinar – “Mental wellbeing during a pandemic” – resources for business

Business For South Africa (B4SA), in conjunction with [The South African Depression and Anxiety Group](#) (SADAG), invites corporates and colleagues to an interactive webinar with mental health experts who will provide useful mental health resources and practical examples of support organisations can offer their staff. The webinar will be chaired by SADAG Operations Director Cassey Chambers as she interacts with industry experts to address topics such as:

- How to generate hope in tough times
- Tools to help with anxiety, panic and insomnia
- Burnout and stress-related conditions
- Benefits that can be offered in the office environment to improve staff wellbeing

Date: Friday, 13 August 2021

Time: 12:00 to 13:00

Webinar link details: Please click this [link](#) to join our Mental Wellbeing Webinar on Friday.

FRUIT DONATION FOR MINISTER DIDIZA'S PROJECT

FruitSA successfully donated close to 3 pallets of citrus and 20 boxes of avocados over the past weekend for a project of Minister Thoko Didiza (DALRRD). The Minister identified four NGO's and the fruit was divided according to the number of beneficiaries. *We will distribute the full report to our members shortly.*

In total about 321 less privileged children and young adults benefited from this worthy cause.



Please stay safe!

**Kind regards,
Anton Kruger**