



KEEPING IT FRESH

fpef
fresh produce
EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 27 January 2021

Dear FPEF Members,

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter of 2021. Apart from Covid-19 and the severe storms in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country, quite a number of other things also happened during the past two weeks and therefore, we provide you with a summary of the most important aspects which impact our industry.



The Covid-19 Disaster Regulations have been extended to 15 February due to the 2nd wave of the pandemic in SA. Sadly, we learnt of the passing away of at least two high-profile people who were friends of our industry, namely **Prof Mohammad Karan** and **Mr Gerrit van Rensburg** (a former MEC for Agriculture in the Western Cape). I believe that there are also some of you who have lost someone due to Covid-19. Another stalwart of our industry and one of the FPEF Board members in the early days of the FPEF's existence, **Bokkie Strauss**, also passed away. Our deepest condolences to all who have lost someone.

JOINT MARKETING FORUMS (JMF'S)

Currently, the grape, stone fruit, pome fruit and recently established berry JMF's are meeting regularly to discuss market trends, production forecasts and actual intakes, export statistics and factors affecting these commodities. One theme that is on the agenda of all these meetings is logistics, especially the **ports**.

- We are currently sending you lockdown reports with regards to the operations in the ports. We also have weekly meetings with Transnet to discuss the mitigation of risks which occur as a result of workers in the ports being infected with COVID-19 as well as wind delays.

Another important agenda point is **the capacity constraints** within the *Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development* (DALRRD) with regards to phyto-sanitary inspections in the peak table grape and stone fruit season. The FPEF (under the leadership of our Operational Manager, Werner van Rooyen) and SATI have developed and implemented a **pilot programme** utilising ex-government and PPECB employees to assist. An agreement was signed with DALRRD in this regard. The FPEF and SATI are funding this initiative.

Some preparations for the **citrus season** have also commenced. One of it was the recent **South Korea Workshop**: Please find below the link to download or listen to the recording of the South Korea Workshop for members involved in citrus exports to South Korea in 2021 as received from the CRI.

<https://citrusresint.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/SouthKoreaWorkshop/EcZaUa6PzGpOkxQXNb5rL4B7Zj75e1ji0qRLxmtAtcDvw?e=tGxth>

BREXIT

It seems that all implications for our industry with regards to the implications of BREXIT are not clear and therefore Agbiz Fruit is compiling a summary of all the aspects.

AFRICA CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (AfCFTA)

The AfCFTA was signed between most countries on the African continent which should boost trade and eliminate tariffs and duties. However, feedback from some of our members, indicates that they have not seen the reduction/elimination of duties and are still paying it. We want to address this with the dtic (Department of Trade, Industry and Competition) and would welcome your input with regards to this matter. All the implications of the AfCFTA are not 100% clear and thus Agbiz Fruit is also compiling a summary (one-pager) on it.



ADDITIONAL LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTING TO RUSSIA

We have received information that rules for the registration of the **Declaration of Conformity** have been implemented by the *Ministry of Economic Development of Russia*.

We have requested our industry representative in Moscow for clarification and he has engaged with the Russian authorities and feedback is as follows: *According to information received from Ministry for Economic Development (Department for state control over licensing, accreditation & self-regulations) implementation of Order 478 in the section providing for presentation of GLN/GTIN becomes not mandatory for a "transition period". Details are to be published shortly.* Therefore, it is not in force yet.

EXPORT DIRECTORY

The 2021 edition of our **Fresh Produce Export Directory** is currently being finalised to go to the printers. As soon as it is ready, it will be distributed to you.

FRESH PRODUCE INDIA 2021

This event will be hosted online on 22 April 2021. The programme will consist of live interviews, discussions, and presentations, bringing you the best insight on the biggest trends in India's fast-growing fresh fruit and vegetable business. For more information, please visit www.freshproduceindia.com



FPEF MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

As was mentioned at our Annual General Meeting in November 2020, we have issued certificates of recognition to our members. If you have not received yours, please contact Marletta Kellerman: marletta@fpf.co.za

NEW MEMBERS



We would like to welcome the following Exporter member:
Twente Partners South Africa (Pty) Ltd

REMINDER: FPEF MEMBERSHIP FEES

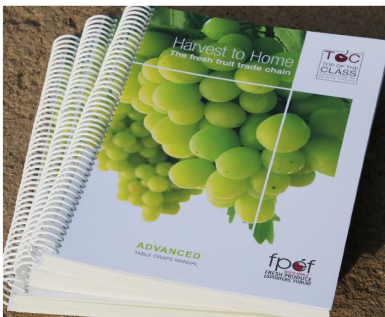
A kind reminder about the membership and pallet fees which are payable by **31 January**. Invoices were sent on **1 December 2020**. If you have not received your invoice, please contact our Accountant, Marinda Roux: marinda@fpéf.co.za. Thank you to those of you who have already paid.

TRANSFORMATION

- **FPEF Graduate Internship Programme** – We are grateful for the support for this initiative from FPEF members and 6 appointments for 2021 have already been confirmed with further interviews underway. We still have a number of strong, shortlisted candidates available for commercial, logistics and technical positions. The FPEF makes a monthly salary contribution of R5000 to FPEF member companies who appoint qualifying interns. Please contact Johannes (johannes@fpéf.co.za) if you are interested in appointing an intern or would like more information.
- **FPEF Annual Transformation Survey** – The FPEF conducts an annual transformation survey as this information is vital to keep the government updated on the consolidated transformation status of FPEF members. The short questionnaire was distributed to FPEF members towards the end of last year with a reminder in January and so far, only 44% of FPEF members have responded. The survey will take less than 5 minutes to complete and we kindly request that FPEF members who have not responded do so as soon as possible.



TRADE MANUALS



Herewith a reminder that we have updated the **Basic Training Manual** (Harvest to Home - The Fresh fruit trade chain) as well as the **Advanced Table Grape Manual**. We believe that these manuals will be of value to you in training your newly appointed staff as well as pack house workers and emerging exporters.

The manuals can be ordered from Claudia Walklett: claudia@fpéf.co.za.



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

<i>National State of Disaster extended</i>	<u>Extension of National State of Disaster</u>
<i>Amended directions for cross-border travel</i>	<u>Amendment to cross-border travel</u>

Please stay safe!

**Kind regards,
Anton Kruger**