



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

**News from the FPEF – 10 February 2021**

**Dear FPEF Members,**



Usually, we launch the new edition of our **Fresh Produce Export Directory** this time of year at Fruit Logistica Berlin - but COVID-19 continues to change things and we need to adapt to it. Thus, there is no official launch of the publication this year in the format we have used in the past; however, the “launch” is in digital format with the electronic/digital copies distributed with a covering letter to relevant stakeholders and you, our members. This unique directory is published annually as a service to and a source of information for the international fresh produce trading community. The FPEF Export Directory contains comprehensive information about South African fresh fruit and vegetable exports, including the contact details of FPEF members – updated regularly

on the FPEF website: [www.fpef.co.za](http://www.fpef.co.za)

The publication features different fruit and vegetable types and provides the latest statistics about South African fresh fruit and vegetable export volumes, export periods and export destinations.

**The FPEF’s strategic intent - Review 2021**

Each year at the first board meeting, the FPEF board evaluates the strategy and revises it if necessary. This version is the result of the January 2021 board meeting and was shared with you via e-mail, but here is the abbreviated version:

1. **Market Access and generic market development**
2. **Ensure that the fresh produce exporters’ “voice is heard” by representing the industry in various work groups, committees and forums**
3. **Obtain and provide relevant and value-adding information**
4. **Safeguarding for members**
  - a. Provide a mediation service to solve disputes between exporters and suppliers.
  - b. Notify and “warn” exporters about rogue traders.
  - c. Engage grower associations to ensure that growers understand their responsibility towards exporters, especially with regards to plant breeders’ rights.
  - d. Ensure credibility of FPEF members by enforcing compliance with the *Code of Conduct*.



5. Transformation assistance (FPEF = Level 7 BBBEE contributor)
6. Export process assistance – Identify and address technical and operational matters with regards to export requirements
7. Research, Development, and Innovation via the Post-harvest Innovation Programme

### **PHI-supported R&D**



The Post-Harvest Innovation Programme (PHI) continues to play a pivotal role in overcoming industry challenges, especially relating to the lucrative export markets. Despite the challenges related to the CoVid pandemic, R&D projects managed to progress reasonably well, with minor impact on financial resources. Thus far, the CRI and Stellenbosch University rallied to the support of their respective project shortfalls. Although a number of projects had to extend their completion dates, they are still geared towards addressing their R&D objectives.

So far, the project titled ‘*Disinfestation of Ceratitis capitata and Bactrocera dorsalis fruit fly-infested blueberry using cold treatment*’ as well as the ‘*Market access training in the deciduous fruit industry*’ projects are completed. The two phytosanitary fruit fly species investigated during the execution of the blueberry project may limit market access if no mitigation treatment is available to the industry. The study was therefore specifically designed to address the coldest tolerant life stage, which was first identified before larger-scale verification was conducted. The research provides proof of satisfactory cold treatment eradication of phytosanitary *Ceratitidis capitata* (and, inferentially, *Bactrocera dorsalis*) of various life stages.

A significant number of postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows and interns are involved in a number of R&D projects currently underway, a vital resource for the future sustainability of the industry. Among these are Makhonza Mbeki (MSc Agric) in Biotechnology at the University of the Western Cape investigating a *possible mechanism and efficacy of various storage treatments for Granny Smith and scald control as well as early risk indicators during long term storage of when scald is likely to develop*. This is a multi-institutional project conducted jointly at 4 institutions (Stellenbosch University, University of the Western Cape, ARC Infruitech-Nietvoorbij and Experico). Also, Moditja Thema (M Tech) in Crop Science at Tshwane University of Technology investigating the *impact of commercial elicitors on avocados postharvest quality*.

Some of the contributions to industry competitiveness envisaged during 2021 include:

- An ideal temperature x time combination to trigger the host plant immune system to control latent infections of freshly harvested avocado fruit
- Maturity and cold storage/postharvest handling protocols for South African grown Golden Kiwis
- Quality of Pomegranates after storage at different temperatures
- Post optimum harvested Forelle orchards that do not meet FEMA criteria
- Cold treatment of false codling moth-infested nectarines and plums
- Cold treatment of oriental fruit fly-infested pome and stone fruit



**Blueberry Innoculation**





**PHILIPPINES: ACCESS FOR CITRUS**

Please note that we are still waiting on the Philippines’ Bureau for Plant Health to publish the *Administrative Circular for SA Citrus*. As soon as that has been done, importers can apply for import permits.

**APAC (Agricultural Produce Agents’ Council)**

Some of you might have already received information from APAC regarding audited statements. For clarity’s sake we have engaged with the Registrar and it was confirmed that a full audit is not required - only a review of your trading accounts.

**REMINDER: SHAFFE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

A reminder about the SHAFFE virtual conference on **25 March**. Attendance is free, but you need to register beforehand on the website:



**SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE  
FRESH FRUIT TRADE CONGRESS  
ONLINE (Zoom) 25th March 2021**

**11am CET  
Asia & Oceania  
5pm CET  
Europe/America**

<https://shaffe.net/shaffe-congress-2021/>. The SA speaker and panellist will be Professor Ferdi Meyer from BFAP.

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

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b><i>New Directions issued</i></b> | <a href="#">Amendment to advance level 3</a><br><a href="#">Amendment railway transport</a><br><a href="#">Amendment public transport</a><br><a href="#">Amendment cross-border transport</a><br><a href="#">Amendment air services</a> |
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Please stay safe!

**Kind regards,  
Anton Kruger**

