



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

News from the FPEF – 08 March 2023

Dear FPEF Members,

As the year progresses, it seems that some matters are normalising after Covid, especially trade shows. In February it was *Fruit Logistica Berlin* and currently we are attending **FOODEX JAPAN** in Tokyo. It is the first time in the last three years that the event is being hosted in physical format. The dtic (Department of Trade, Investment and Competition) is funding a South African National pavilion and the FPEF has a booth on the pavilion. Although South Africa have limited access for fruit to Japan, it's important to be present at the event as it gives the opportunity for closer interaction with the SA Embassy (and thus also the Japanese authorities).

Unfortunately, our ports remain a challenge, especially the port of Cape Town. The recent, and current delays are having a severe negative impact on our exports. We have (again) proposed some solutions to the Transnet management team but did not receive feedback at this stage.

It is important to note that our Logistical Affairs Manager, **Antoinette van Heerden** participates in all the **JMF meetings** and provides updates on logistics matters. If you need the latest information, you can obtain it by attending the meetings. Apart from the logistics challenges, there are also matters in the Regulatory environment which require our attention.

REMINDER: FINANCIAL MATTERS - MEMBERSHIP FEES



We want to express our sincere appreciation to all our members who have paid their 2023 membership fees on the due date of 31 January 2023.

Unfortunately, there are some who have not met the deadline and whose membership fees are still outstanding as of 28 Feb 2023.

We are making an urgent appeal to those who have not yet settled their fees to do so on or before 10th March 2023.

If there is any reason why you are withholding your membership fees payment, please contact Marinda Roux marinda@fpef.co.za to discuss.



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MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS



Asia Fruit Logistica 2023

The dtic extends an invitation to exporters of fresh fruit products to apply to participate in the **Fruit Logistica Asia 2023** exhibition, scheduled to take place from **06-08 September 2023 in Hong Kong**. The deadline for the submission of complete National Pavilion application forms is **06 April 2023 @ 16:00**.

Applicants need to complete the EMIA application form and submit it VIA E-MAIL ONLY together with the required documents to: Ms Batseba Morudi / E-mail: BMorudi@thedtic.gov.za

Distribution of ED's and Annual Reports

Members will receive a copy of the new Export Directory and the 2022 Annual Report during the next two weeks via Postnet courier.

Website

We are in the process of generating passwords for all members to be able to log into the members only page on our new website. The passwords will be sent to you in due course.

TRANSFORMATION NEWS – FPEF ANNUAL TRANSFORMATION SURVEY

The FPEF's Board Transformation Committee met recently, and the importance of our **Graduate Placement Programme** was again highlighted, as well as the **Top-of-Class** training. The FPEF has a short-list of vetted, high calibre graduates available for commercial, logistics and post-harvest quality positions through our appointed recruitment agent, Agrijob and will make a R5,000 per month salary contribution to FPEF members for every graduate appointed through the programme. Our Top-of-Class fruit export value chain training programme is primarily aimed at employees in junior to middle management and covers the entire value chain including primary production, quality management, cold chain management, accreditation, the export cost chain, logistics and marketing. The course spanning a total of six days will be offered twice this year in an interactive online format in May/June and again in Oct/Nov or for larger groups we can present the course in-house. For more information on the FPEF's graduate placement or TOC programme contact Johannes Brand - johannes@fpef.co.za.



PHI (POST-HARVEST INNOVATION PROGRAMME) NEWS

The DSI confirmed that the first tranche of their committed contribution to the PHI Programme will be paid to the FPEF within the next few days. Meanwhile, all FPEF/Industry contractual funding agreements have been drawn up, but not signed yet. These will be duly signed by the concerned parties as soon as the FPEF receives the DSI's first tranche. Meanwhile, established industries have already started their respective R&D projects.

The optimal weather conditions forecasted for Cape Town this week is desperately needed to improve/stabilize vessel productivity and open space in the reefer stack for new intakes. There are currently 9 vessels registered at anchor for the Cape Town Container terminal, some exceeding 16 days. As much as wind delays vessels, it has a corresponding impact on stack dates. For example, recently the MSC Alina experienced 80 hours of wind delay during her stack period. These serious concerns have been addressed to the Western Cape Regional Executive as part of the escalation process.

At the Agbiz – Transnet Strategic Engagement session, equipment was a topic of discussion especially if delivery timelines are realistic and perhaps more pertinent, can we advance the delivery date? Transnet did confirm that the specification for the RTG’s is that it includes anti-sway technology thus being able to operate during higher wind speeds. A second discussion taking place is mapping out public participation as a separate approach with the same goal in mind.

A reminder to all members relating to the SARS RLA process, although the RLA process is relatively simple, we urge members to attend to it soonest as one of the requirements in the e-filing screen is to “activate registered representative” otherwise known as the public officer. If such a public officer is not registered or changed, it could delay the process. The downstream impact on releases of entries prompted the question to SARS of the impact of missed deadlines.

Japan and Korea inspectors

After consultation with the industry, we submitted a request for arrival of both the Korean and Japanese inspectors on 19 March and 09 April respectively.

Presently, we are awaiting communication from both authorities on the requests.

Exporters should be aware that shipments cannot be packed for both markets until these inspectors (for both Japan and South Korea) have authorized both programmes and DALRRD has granted approval for the list of approved PUC/PHC for export to Japan and South Korea.

Citrus Pre-Season Meetings

The remaining schedule for the citrus pre-season workshops for the 2023 export season, in terms of technical requirements, regulatory functions, and training, is as follows: (These workshops are co-hosted by PPECB and DALRRD.)

The invitation is extended to role players in citrus that is intended for export to various export markets, however, attendance is mandatory for role players for citrus that is intended for export to the EU (growers, pack house managers, cold stores, exporters and clearing agents).

Paarl/ Ceres	10h00	14 March 2023	Virtual
Citrusdal	09h00	15 March 2023	Citrusdal Country lodge
Cape Town	09h00	16 March 2023	Virtual
Durban	09h00	20 March 2023	Virtual
Nelspruit	10h00	27 March 2023	ARC-TSC Nelspruit
Hoedspruit	10h00	28 March 2023	Francines Place
Tzaneen	10h00	29 March 2023	Hotel@Tzaneen
Groblersdal	10h00	30 March 2023	Loskop
Kakamas	09h00	12 April 2023	Lake Grappa

The regional PPECB offices will further communicate the platforms that will be used for mandatory registrations. Only the registered participants will receive the DALRRD’s certificate of attendance.



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Taiwan Verification Visit – Pome Fruit

Until this far, the verification of pome fruit production facilities and processes by the Taiwanese inspector is going well. On the next stage of the inspector's time in South Africa, visiting production facilities, the inspector will be visiting the Langkloof to verify South Africa's processes.

Up to this point, the Taiwanese inspector's inspection of pome fruit production facilities and approval of specific procedures, has gone well. The inspector will visit the Langkloof, during the next round of his inspections, to verify compliance of South Africa's production facilities to the Taiwanese protocol.

The Taiwanese inspector yesterday verbally confirmed that we may begin packaging apples for Taiwan on the approved lists for 2022.

Exporters are cautioned that there is still risk involved exporting consignments based on the 2022 approved PUC/PHC list, until official confirmation is communicated by Taiwan authorities.

Citrus Marketing Forum

The shared marketing forum (CMF) between the FPEF and CGA took place on March 7, 2023. The preliminary estimate presented, for the 2023 export season, does not include totals for late mandarins at this time. As soon as the late mandarin numbers are finalised, a thorough first estimate will be made public. The FPEF outlined the anticipated outlook for the international citrus market in 2023, from a South African perspective.

During the CMF, it was decided that more regular meetings would be conducted during the 2023 citrus season to discuss market reactions and make changes to production, volumes packed for export and official export volumes.

The arguably unjustified and unscientific compliance with EU requirements imposed on the South African citrus industry on June 16, 2022, with further restrictive measures entering into effect on January 1, 2023, is the greatest concern for South African citrus producers and exporters.



Kind regards from Tokyo!

Anton Kruger