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## **Agbiz Press Statement**

### **Agbiz establishes desk for the fruit industry**

Stephanie van der Walt has been appointed as general manager of the Fruit Desk at Agbiz as of January 2019. The Fruit Desk is an initiative of Fruit South Africa, and specifically the Citrus Growers Association, Hortgro, SATI and the Fresh Produce Exporters Forum, in collaboration with Agbiz.

The Fruit Desk is the third industry desk to be instituted at Agbiz. The purpose of the desk is to ensure that the South African fruit sector is represented in matters of policy, regulation and market access.

Stephanie is an admitted attorney by profession, holding an LLM degree in international trade and investment, awarded jointly by the University of Pretoria and the Washington School of Law in the US. She is currently enrolled for an MPhil in development practice at the Department of Economic and Management Science of the University of Pretoria.

She joins the Agbiz team from the National Agricultural Marketing Council, where she served since 2010, first in the capacity of senior analyst: legal, markets and trade within the Markets and Economics Research Centre and later as manager: legal services in the office of the CEO. While at the NAMC, Stephanie's work focused on legal developments affecting agricultural markets and competitiveness at both the local and international level as well as advising on corporate governance, contracts and project management.

Stephanie gained international experience while stationed at the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

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