



“Keeping it Fresh”

News from the FPEF – 16 January 2019

Dear FPEF members,

Welcome to our first edition of *Keeping it Fresh* for 2019!

On behalf of everyone in the FPEF offices; thank you for all the kind wishes which we have received during December. It is hoped that you all have enjoyed some time with family and friends during the festive season.

The new year brings its own opportunities and challenges – both domestically and on an international level. Where possible, we as FPEF will continue to be involved and endeavor to influence decisions and/or ensure that our industry's "voice is heard"; especially with regards to market access, policy and regulations. In order to further strengthen such efforts, Fruit South Africa, of which we are a member, have created a **Fruit Desk at Agbiz**. FPEF is also a member of Agbiz – and Agbiz is involved in various strategic bodies such as NEDLAC (National Economic, Development and Labour Council), BUSA (Business Unity SA) and other high-level Work Group where/if needed.

Stephanie van der Walt has been appointed as General Manager of the Fruit Desk as of January 2019. She is an admitted attorney by profession, holding an LL.M degree in international trade and investment, awarded jointly by the University of Pretoria and the Washington School of Law in the US.

She joins the Agbiz team from the National Agricultural Marketing Council, where she focused on legal developments affecting agricultural markets and competitiveness at both the local and international level. She also gained international experience while stationed at the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

She will report directly to the CEO of Agbiz, Mr John Purchase with a Steering Committee led by FruitSA guiding her as well.

Fruit Logistica Berlin takes place from 6 to 8 February at Messe Berlin where South Africa will participate via a National Pavilion - funded by the dti (Department of Trade and Industry). FPEF, in its capacity as the official Fresh Produce Export Council, registered with the dti, was instrumental in engaging with the dti to secure funding of the Pavilion. We are also assisting with the design of the stand and other logistical and practical arrangements. The Pavilion will again be in **Hall 26 stand D-14**. More information will be provided by Marletta Kellerman in due course; especially with regards to the launch of our annual *Export Directory*.

As mentioned on various occasions in the past, **Transformation** is critical for the future of the industry. Successful transformation at a sensible level must be driven by the board and CEO of companies at the highest level.

The pressure from Government on transformation is increasing and, if businesses and our operating body do not take it seriously, it is a significant risk to all. Thank you to those of you who have responded to the request from our Transformation Coordinator, Johannes Brand, to provide information. If you have not done so yet, please do so by Friday **18 January**.

RISK MITIGATION SYSTEMS

With regards to complying with import requirements in our various markets, your attention is once again drawn to risk mitigations systems such as the **FMS** (especially in relation to PhytClean). Detail regarding the amendments to the FMS of 2019 was distributed to all members. Some important points to highlight are:

- **Timelines for FMS changes on PhytClean:** Continues communication in this regard will be made available through the distribution of the citrus FMS bulletin updates.
- **New Control Point Status values:** Previously “complaint” and “non-complaint” were the only two control point values. In 2019 the additional control point values include: Not started, Due, Late Start, Compliant, Interval Issues, Insufficient Data and Not Required – giving users more feedback.
- **User Interpretation Guide:** USER INTERPRETATION GUIDE to be published on PhytClean to describe and understand what the new statuses will mean.

If you require more detail, please contact our Operational Manager, Werner van Rooyen: werner@fpéf.co.za

REMINDER: REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN

As communicated on 18 December to all FPEF members, the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry administers the Certificate of Origin both manually and electronically.

Please also take note of the process with regards to the registration for electronic certificates of origin.

- Registration is required before you can do Certificates of Origin electronically and the Chambers Indemnity has to be completed - form available on request.
- Please make sure the customs office, in the country of destination, accept electronic Certificates of Origin. Kindly engage with your importer to verify acceptance of electronic certificates of origin.
- If you have any queries, please contact glynnis@CapeChamber.co.za

Best regards
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