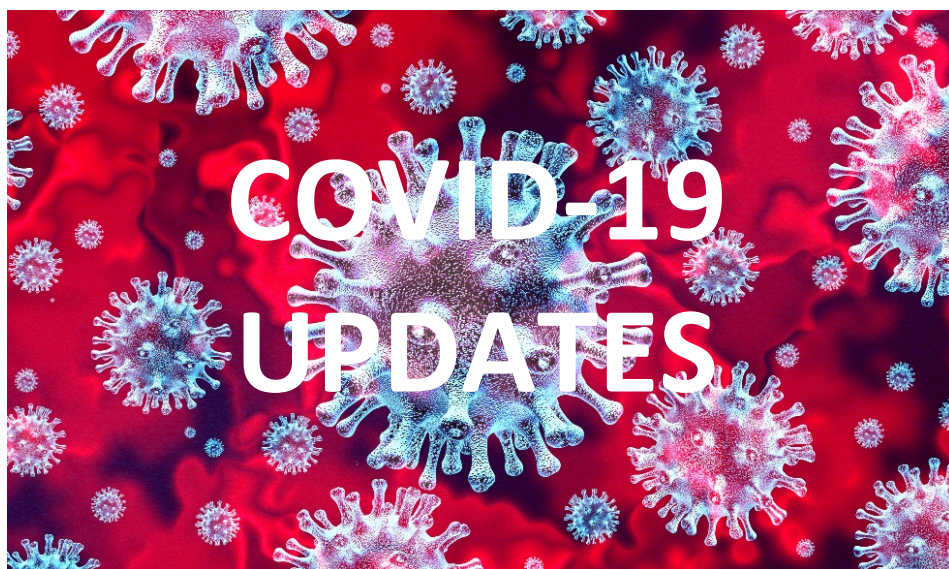


# *“Keeping it Fresh”*

News from the FPEF – 01 April 2020

*Dear FPEF members,*

As was mentioned in the previous edition of this newsletter, for the next few editions, the focus will be on the COVID-19 situation – and specifically how it impacts our industry.



We realise that you receive quite a lot of information from us about it – including requests to provide information. These requests are based on information needed to engage with Government regarding the sustainability of our industry.

- It can assist the various Government departments and institutions with their strategies and support provided to our industry.
- The information is also needed to respond to media enquiries and to be pro-active in utilising the media to encourage continuous consumption of fresh fruit in the northern hemisphere.

**Herewith, a summary of the most pertinent matters and developments since last week's edition of the *Keeping it Fresh*:**

1. The **dti** is currently contemplating an **export stabilisation and incentive fund** for companies where export disruptions occur within key export markets. The support may have an element of short-term bridging finance; consideration for alternate market access or entry; and other plausible elements as deemed necessary. The FPEF has an opportunity to provide inputs and comments into the process and it is important that we have information available every two days by 16:00. **Marletta Kellerman** will send such a questionnaire every second day where you can provide new information and/or updates of issues mentioned before.
2. The creation of a **portal by BFAP** (Bureau for Agricultural Policy) to get information through to the Government group which deals with COVID-19, as quickly as possible.

- BFAP needs to know what issues, challenges or hindrances growers, exporters and other role players in the supply chain are having. The FPEF has been identified as a critical value chain actor who can serve as a source of early-warning insight into the impacts of COVID-19. We have the opportunity to log our issues via this web-based system every 48 hours. The information will be captured in a report which goes directly to the Task Team which deals with the agricultural food value chain.
- In order to utilise this opportunity to the utmost, we rely on you as our members to provide information regarding the challenges/hindrances encountered, including who should be responsible for finding a solution. Information can be sent to the FPEF: [anton@fpéf.co.za](mailto:anton@fpéf.co.za). The information supplied every second day by Marletta's survey, will also be fed into this portal.

### 3. Movement permits:

With the enacting of the lockdown measures, persons who are required to travel/move between places to perform essential tasks, need permits. We have provided the guidelines and templates for such permits, but if you need it again, please contact Claudia Walklett and/or visit our website where you will be able to find it under News and the article COVID-19 Information. Please note that the original permit has been changed and you now need to include the hours during which the employees carrying the permit, will be working.

It is however important, to again stress that movement of people should be limited in order to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

### 4. Challenges in the South African ports:

This issue was escalated to the Ministers of the relevant Government departments.

## OPERATIONAL ISSUES AND UPDATES

### **QATAR**

Qatar was planning to introduce as of 25 March the necessity for exporters of fruit and vegetables to Qatar of a certificate or statement that the consignment is not contaminated with COVID-19 whether it relates to workers or procedure.

We engaged with the Department of International Relations, Department of Health and DALRRD for a blanket statement to ensure compliance to the requirement as fruit is not a pathway for COVID-19.

Please follow the following link issued by the EU Food Safety Authority, providing sufficient scientific evidence: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/coronavirus-no-evidence-food-source-or-transmission-route>

### **SAUDI ARABIA**

After extensive engagement with DALRRD regarding the conditions for clearance for fruit sent to Saudi Arabia, and especially given the other challenges being experienced due to COVID-19, the following changes to the conditions for clearance have been agreed with DALRRD. These changes are effective immediately (31 March 2020).

These are the conditions going forward:

1. Registration of food businesses etc. on the Saudi Arabia side must continue.
2. Labelling of cartons must continue as required.
3. Heavy Metal and Microbiological testing at the PHC level will continue, with samples drawn every 12 weeks per packhouse.
4. Fruit can flow while results are awaited but the fruit must be diverted to alternative markets if issues arise from the sampled fruit (i.e. MRL exceedance).

5. In terms of Pesticide residue sampling and the Standard MRL SOP will apply. The understanding is that we are reverting to what was in place BEFORE the Saudi Arabia SOP was implemented (i.e. what was in place during 2019). Further engagement with DALRRD will be taking place around the Standard MRL SOP in due course so if packhouses experience issues here then please make these problems know to the FPEF.

#### **EXPORT DOCUMENTATION DURING COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY LOCKDOWN MEASURES**

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Cape, PE and Durban) responsible for issuing the Certificate of Origin document, is supporting this service electronically during the lockdown period. Limited cargo flights and reduced courier services are impacting the normal running of these logistics activities. Many exporters are currently sending colour copies of documents electronically to the different trading partners accepting this approach.

However, some exporters experience delays in original documentation courier services due to limited flights or trading partners not accepting electronic copies of documentation to clear consignments at destinations.

Completely new challenges arise and as such we intervened to mitigate the situation in India.

#### **PORTS: VESSEL UPDATES**

<b>CTCT - CAPE TOWN</b>						
<b>VESSEL</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>Actual Time of Arrival</b>	<b>Estimated Time of Berth</b>	<b>Estimated Time of Departure</b>	<b>DAYS AT PORT</b>
MSC MAUREEN	MSCEM	WORKING ALONGSIDE	24-Mar	29-Mar	31-Mar	7
CSCL BEACH	LONG ASA	ANCHORED	24-Mar	01-Apr	02-Apr	9
MAERSK CONAKRY	MESA	ANCHORED	25-Mar	02-Apr	03-Apr	9
SANTA ISABEL	SAECS	ANCHORED	27-Mar	03-Apr	05-Apr	9
NORTHERN JADE	MSCING	ANCHORED	27-Mar	05-Apr	06-Apr	10
CARLOTTA STAR	SAMWAF	ANCHORED	29-Mar	UNKNOWN		
MSC GABRIELLA	MSCAS	ANCHORED	31-Mar	UNKNOWN		
<b>CTMPT - CAPE TOWN</b>						
<b>VESSEL</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>ATA</b>	<b>ETB</b>	<b>ETD</b>	<b>DAYS AT PORT</b>
NORTHERN DEBONAIR	AMEX	ON ROUTE	01-Apr	01-Apr	02-Apr	1

**MSC Florentina** currently working at Ngqura Container Terminal has been working over a period of 7 days with reefer containers loading 30/31 March (initially reefer intake was scheduled to close on 24 March). The vessel will go to DCT (Durban Container Terminal) and scheduled to berth 8 April with departure 12 April. At the moment, we do not know if the vessel will call at Cape Town Container Terminal. Cargo would be approximately 25 days from date of packing the containers by the time the vessel is around Cape Town. This may significantly impact fruit quality before the vessel sails from South Africa.



## INDIA

After extensive engagement with DALRRD and the Indian Plant Quarantine authorities, the plant health authorities in India agreed to receive electronic copies of export documentation (e.g. phytosanitary certificates) for the clearance of SA consignments.

Communication from DALRRD was as follows:

“The agreed mode of operation therefore is that SA exporters will email the phytosanitary certificates to the receivers in India and DIS will communicate the list of phytosanitary certificate numbers to the 2 official email addresses weekly.

This should allow the India authorities to verify the presented phyto copy against the official DIS list for authenticity.

The first list of phyto numbers will be sent to India on 31 March 2020 before 14:00 and this consists of phytos issued as from 01<sup>st</sup> March 2020.”

## CITRUS INSPECTION FOR KOREA AND APPLE INSPECTIONS FOR TAIWAN

- DALRRD communicated a formal response with industry’s quarantine proposal and we are currently waiting on feedback from the Korean authorities on the way forward.
- The Taiwanese inspector will not visit SA this season but Taiwan - BAPHIQ provided a tick list for exports whereby an official report is required from DALRRD, after the season.

## AgriSETA MANDATORY GRANTS APPLICATIONS

Kindly see below for information regarding Mandatory Grants Applications:



**2020-2021** Mandatory Grants applications  
extension to 31 May 2020

**Notice to all AgriSETA Stakeholders**

Dear Stakeholders,

We wish to inform you that the Mandatory Grants window for the 2020/21 financial year has been extended from 30 April 2020 to 31 May 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

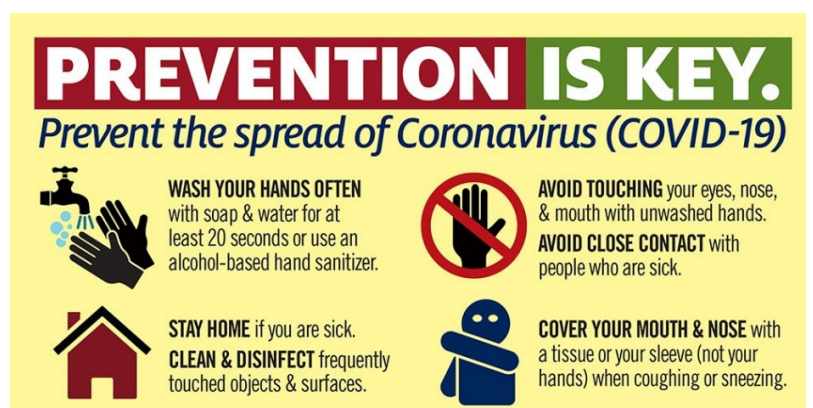
Email us on [mandatorygrants@agriseta.co.za](mailto:mandatorygrants@agriseta.co.za)

Sincerely  
Z. Myeza  
Chief Executive Officer




As we have said before (and no doubt will continue to say) – the COVID-19 situation keeps evolving and thus we need to adapt our processes and procedures continuously in order to ensure that our industry’s “voice is heard”.

Wishing you all of the best in these challenging times. May you, your family and colleagues be safe.

*Kind regards*  
**Anton**



**PREVENTION IS KEY.**  
**Prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

-  **WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN** with soap & water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
-  **AVOID TOUCHING** your eyes, nose, & mouth with unwashed hands.  
**AVOID CLOSE CONTACT** with people who are sick.
-  **STAY HOME** if you are sick.  
**CLEAN & DISINFECT** frequently touched objects & surfaces.
-  **COVER YOUR MOUTH & NOSE** with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.