

“Keeping it Fresh”

News from the FPEF – 03 June 2020

Dear FPEF members,

We trust that you are still healthy and well and that your exports are also going well – as far as it is possible in the ever-changing COVID-19 environment. Be assured that from FPEF's side we continue to try and be part of solutions and remove obstacles which are in your way. Please continue to alert us to challenges and hindrances which you experience, in order for us to bring it under the attention of the relevant authorities.



With the move to **Level 3 of the COVID-19 restrictions**, we have received enquiries from some members on whether companies with 10 or less employees also need to have a Workplace Plan in place - and the answer is yes. All businesses must have a COVID-19 compliance officer who must develop a plan for the phased-in return of employees, and which must contain the following:

- A list of which employees are permitted to work
- Plans for phased-in return to work
- Health protocols; and
- The details of the COVID-19 compliance officer

The compliance officer must ensure that health and safety protocols are adhered to.

CIPC certificates

The North Gauteng High Court, on 2 June, delivered an important judgement relating to the CIPC certificates, namely that:

“There is currently no provision or need for the issuing of CIPC certificates, even if the issue thereof was previously lawful. No enforcement officer is therefore entitled to demand the production of a CIPC certificate by any business, whatever the nature of the business, and will act unlawfully if he does so or if he or she arrests or fines or takes any action against any person for failing to produce such a certificate.”



According to Wandile Sihlobo, Agbiz's Chief Economist, the economic outlook for the following years will, in part, depend on the magnitude of the economic shock of COVID-19. In an event of a massive shock and slow recovery, as some analysts expect, it is plausible that the demand for high-value agricultural products could somewhat be impacted in South Africa's traditional markets. This also means that South Africa should, after the pandemic, continue its efforts of developing the export market for agricultural products, specifically to China and India. In a nutshell, while the pandemic will result in a loss of incomes in various regions of the world, and in turn, a decline in demand for goods; the agriculture and food sector is one of the few that might not be as hard hit.



As such, for the year, South Africa's agricultural exports could increase from the US\$9.9 billion of 2019. The key catalysts this year will be the increase in grains and horticulture output and to some extent the weakening domestic currency. Therefore, as in the previous year, trade will continue to be a key driver of South Africa's agricultural sector, at least in 2020.

It is interesting to note the important role of our industry, as he mentions, we (the SA Government and industry jointly) need to continue (and increase) our efforts with regards to **market**

access. We are trying this amidst COVID-19, but the governments of most of the countries where our market access applications have been submitted before COVID-19, are also now focussed on managing COVID-19.

FRUIT SOUTH AFRICA APPOINTS NEW CEO

Fhumulani Ratshitanga has been appointed CEO of Fruit South Africa (Fruit SA), effective 1 June 2020. This follows her appointment to the role of Acting CEO on 1 April.

Having joined Fruit SA as Industry Affairs Manager in July 2019, Fhumulani's expansive experience and affinity with the agricultural sector and the fruit industry will continue to stand her in good stead as she progresses into this dynamic role. Her career in the agricultural sector spans over 18 years: she has worked for the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the Perishable Products Export Control Board. Currently completing her BCom Honours degree in Economics at the University of South Africa, Fhumulani also holds a master's degree in Agriculture (MInstAgrar) specialising in plant protection from the University of Pretoria.

We congratulate Fhumulani and wish her all the best.



INTERNATIONAL MARKET CHALLENGES RELATING TO COVID-19



South Korea

Acceptance of electronic phyto-sanitary certificates:
The Korean government granted permission to accept these certificates electronically until 31 May and would then have evaluated the situation to determine if it could be extended. We have worked with DALRRD on this and are awaiting the outcome.

Greece

Challenges were experienced in Greece regarding the interpretation of the Additional declaration for Citrus from South Africa. Three exporters, with 50 containers in total were affected (with their consignment rejected at the port of entry) because Greece did not accept the wording that is currently accepted by other EU member countries but the SA Embassy in Greece, together with DLARRD were able to resolve it.

Fruit Attraction Madrid 2020

Due to the uncertainty regarding the availability and possible price increases of flights and accommodation, linked with the possibility of a smaller *Fruit Attraction event* due to social distancing regulations, as well as the health risk of exhibitors and visitors, the FPEF Board as well as the FruitSA Board have decided that we will not participate in the event this year.



Deciduous Coordination Meetings

Please note that the 2020 Annual deciduous Coordinating Meeting has been cancelled.

Ports

Please note that a **daily report** on the status and operations in all the fruit terminals are compiled by the FPEF and CGA. These reports are shared with the relevant authorities and are also distributed to you.

Herewith, a summary of the COVID-19 Regulations and Directives issued during the past week:

<i>New directives issued: Transport and Education</i>	Railway services Air services Public transport Basic education
<i>Operation of courts under level 3</i>	Operation of Courts under level 3
<i>Latest judgements: CIPC certificates, High Court judgements</i>	Sakeliga v The President et al order and reasons Permitting requirements for small businesses

USEFUL LINKS – COVID-19

You can find relevant information about **COVID-19** on our website: www.fpef.co.za

Official SA Government information site: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>

All official government **regulations and guidelines** are available at <https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>

Emergency Hotline: [0800 029 999](tel:0800029999)

WhatsApp Support Line: [0600-123456](tel:0600123456)

Be safe!

Kind regards

Anton

