



Dear FPEF Members,

As was, and still is being reported in the media, there is currently much speculation and uncertainty on what the impact of the outcome of the elections will be, on individuals, but also on our industry. Of particular interest for us is who the **Ministers of Agriculture** and of **Trade**, as well as **Transport**, will be and how the departments will be structured. We will ensure that we continue with and/or establish new relationships with the relevant officials.



Yesterday, we shared the view of Agbiz's Chief Economist, **Wandile Sihlobo** with you on the potential impact on the agriculture sector. Herewith, the matters which might have the most important impact on the fresh produce export industry:

- *The Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) should remain the primary programme for the government to drive inclusive growth in South Africa's agriculture.*
- *If there is a change in the DALRRD's political leadership, Wandile doesn't expect any immediate changes to the civil service leadership. With the current Director-General and the deputies set to remain in their positions for some time, the DALRRD policy will likely be sustained.*

While the abovementioned processes take place, we need to continue exporting.
On a day-to-day basis, the following is happening:

MEMBERSHIP



We would like to extend a hearty welcome to our **new members** and trust that we will have a mutually rewarding association together.

Exporter Category:

Farm Fruveg Supplies t/a Down South

Fresh 365 International

Rainbow Produce Company SA

Sonlia Marketing

Zonnehaven

Associate Category:

Single Point of Truth

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

Asia Fruit Logistica 2024



4-6 September 2024

ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA

The next edition of **Asia Fruit Logistica** returns to **Hong Kong's AsiaWorld-Expo** on **4-6 September 2024**. The FPEF will host the National Pavilion together with Fruit South Africa and is funded by the different associations under the Fruit South Africa umbrella.

A 108 m² stand is secured in **Hall 5 stand number Q02**. There will be tables available for meetings on a first come, first served basis.

Fruit Attraction Madrid 2024

The next edition of **Fruit Attraction** will take place from **8 to 10 October 2024** at **IFEMA Madrid**.

The FPEF will host the National Pavilion together with Fruit South Africa and is funded by FPEF, CGA, Hortgro, SATI and Subtrop.



A 128 m² stand is secured in **Hall 4 stand number C22**.

There will be tables available for meetings on a first come, first served basis.

Agrilink Philippines 2024



The next edition of **Agrilink Philippines** is from **3 to 5 October** in the **World Trade Center, Manila**. The FPEF will participate in this event and our members are welcome to visit us at the 18m² Fruit SA stand. Stand number to be confirmed.



Market Access

Provide Information

Government Engagement

Transformation

Export process assistance

Research, Development and Innovation

One of the comments minister Gordhan made during his Cape Town visit in December 2023 is that Transnet will undergo a cultural change. We are starting to see the changes taking place, although slow, it is encouraging. Last year Transnet's position was that what happens inside the port is the port's business and outside the port is for industry to address. This was detrimental to finding efficiencies in the end-to-end supply chain.

Value chain mapping



Last week a project team visited Cape Town and together with industry representatives followed the Six Sigma methodology, mapping the end-to-end process in the value chain. The purpose was to find the pain points and then form workgroups to address these issues. Flowing from the process mapping session, the Transnet team had an opportunity to visit SAFT Atlantic where **Christiaan Pienaar** (Cold Store Manager) shared a presentation laying the theoretical foundation prior to taking the group on a Gemba walk through the facility. Thank you, Christiaan for your time and contributing to the project.

Additional haulers for Cape Town

The **Seaspan Tokyo** will bring 10 haulers, loaded on 5 x 40ft flat racks to Cape Town and she is expected to berth late on the 7th of June. These are secondhand units that will increase the fleet to 49 hauler combos which is the ideal number to support seven ship to shore cranes (STS) and will greatly assist until the new units arrive.



Rail Network Statement

The Acting Infrastructure Manager gave participants in the public consultation session an overview of the next steps in the process and that evaluating slot applications is planned for December 2024. Awarding of the slots and the start of operations could be as early as January 2025. Between the Industry presenters, a significant portion of time was spent on how costing was calculated with the suggestion that historical debt should be partially funded by the Government to make the cost structure viable. It is common in other countries for Government to fund the rail infrastructure. One of the FPEF recommendations was to ensure slot capacity to the port matches port capabilities.

Eastern Cape

Severe weather, including flooding affected communities and port operations in the Eastern Cape the past week. While citrus is still moving into cold stores, it might slow down next week while producers in the Patensie area wait for orchards to dry. Less rainfall was recorded in the Kirkwood area, and it is mostly business as usual. Our thoughts are with those who suffered loss.

Provisional Registration for Table Grape Exporters:

The **Philippines' Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)** visited South Africa in February/March 2023. The visit to South African table grape production processes was successfully concluded. Upon BPI's return, a list of additional questions was submitted to the NPPOZA (**National Plant Protection Organisation of South Africa**) for feedback. The NPPOZA provided an official answer to the BPI whereas the procedure reached the final stage of conclusion.

During market access negotiations, the BPI insisted on various technical matters, which remains out of the norm. After much deliberation, industry and the NPPOZA pushed as far as we can to eliminate some technical matters. Hence, provisional registration opened for all exporters wishing to export table grapes to the Philippines. This serves as the first step towards compliance, should the protocol

be signed between South Africa and the Philippines. Exporters to please take note that no payment is required upon registration.



Best regards
Anton Kruger

