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EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 19 July 2023

Dear FPEF Members,



It seems that quite a few of you are/were on holiday and we hope that you enjoyed it. Our Financial Manager, **Marinda Roux** completed her fourth Camino Pilgrimage in Spain, the **Camino Del Norte** - walking from **San Sebastian to Gijon** in the North of Spain. The total km for this route is ±890km but due to time constraints, she only walked a distance of 450km in 25 days.

We trust that those of you whose businesses have been affected by the recent storms and cold weather are recovering well. To help you get up to speed with the most pertinent matters in the industry, we bring you this week's newsletter with summaries of events, issues, etc.

TRANSFORMATION

On the 28th of July the FPEF participated in a **Fruit SA Transformation Initiative Showcase** at Batlhako Temo Farm, Brits, North-West Province. The initiative forms part of the activities of the Fruit Industry Value Chain Round Table (FIVCRT) Transformation Working Group which is a public/private partnership to further transformation in the industry. The event was attended by the Chief Director for Land Reform Support and representatives from DALRRD, dtic, NAMC and the AgriBEE Charter Counsel as well as growers and industry representatives from Fruit South Africa and its members including the CGA-GDC, Hortgro and the FPEF. The FPEF's transformation manager served as programme director and the event provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the transformation impact of industry lead transformation initiatives. The event was also attended by media representatives.



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LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS

The conclusion of the Durban Container Terminal Pier 2 tender has taken over the headlines this week with **International Container Terminal Services (ICTSI)** emerging as the new terminal operator and the NCT tender award will be advised in due course.

A network outage caused the port system to grind to a halt across all terminals yesterday. Durban and Port Elizabeth terminals were back online after 23h00 last night and Cape Town only came back online this morning around 06h00. The disruption is being investigated and the outcome will be shared.

The National Logistics Crisis Committee (NLCC) kicked off its first process to review equipment required per terminal and falls under the logistics workstream. The workgroup established a baseline for required equipment based on the current terminal setup and the next step would consider increased trade volume scenarios. In the case of the Cape Town container terminal, a volume throughput increase is planned from 1 million teu to 1.4 million teu and feasibility studies are under way. Shared assets such as tugs, workboats, and pilot boats should take seasonality into account especially during deciduous season which coincides with the cruise season and reduce container berth vacancy. The current equipment replacement plan calls for 27 RTG's, however 32 are considered optimal and 35 will allow for redundancies.

Longer-term equipment replacement plans must be in place to ensure continuity. According to the TNPA Port Development Framework plans, to achieve a berth capacity of 1.4 million teu certain handling rates and crane rates must be achieved by the terminal operator.

It is not only equipment that is needed to get ports back to world class standards and must be include sufficient staff to support the equipment and processes. An example of such processes is the increased rail volumes expected, not only from Belcon but other lines out on tender and developments such as Uitvlucht. These rail facilities could take pressure off the port plugs with "just in time" rail schedules giving the port visibility of off-dock stacks, calling trains by vessel or discharge port.

POST-HARVEST INNOVATION (PHI) PROGRAMME

The fifth phase of the Post-Harvest Innovation (PHI) Programme is well underway with a total of 13 research and development (R&D) projects, conducted at various research institutions, including ExperiCo, AgriSMART SA, Stellenbosch University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Jerusha Pillay has recently left the FPEF, and the PHI Programme, to pursue a new career path in marketing. **Desireé Thompson** was appointed in her place as Administrative Assistant to the PHI Programme Manager. Desireé is no stranger to the FPEF or PHI, having been involved as the writer and/or editor of several of our publications over the years. Some of these include four of the PHI books, the FPEF Basic and Intermediate Trade Chain Manuals, as well as various editions of the FPEF Fresh Produce Export Directory and the FPEF Annual Report.



Best regards

Anton Kruger



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