



KEEPING IT FRESH



News from the FPEF – 2 August 2023

Dear FPEF Members,

The International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) – previously the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) – is hosting its Southern Africa Conference this week at the Century City Conference Centre in Cape Town. Quite a number of our FPEF members are also IFPA members and a few of us serve on the Country Council – including the chairperson, Jaco Oosthuizen. FPEF members participating as speakers and/or panelists, include Tommie van Zyl (ZZ2), Charl du Bois (Capespan South Africa) and Paulina Theologou Criticos (Westfalia Marketing).

A report will be shared after the conference with IFPA members.

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the IFPA, which will give you access to international news on our industry, please contact the country manager for the IFPA Southern Africa, Stephanie van der Walt, at svanderwalt@freshproduce.com

Another important event is the launch of the BFAP (Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy) Baseline – an online event, scheduled for 16 August at 14:00. This year's theme, 'Decisive Action to Forge a Sustainable Future', promises to be an insightful and inspiring journey into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the agricultural landscape of Africa. To be part of this enriching experience, please ensure that you register on www.baseline.bfap.co.za to gain exclusive access to the live stream on YouTube. Don't miss out on the opportunity to gain valuable insights and projections to guide strategic decision-making in the food and agricultural sectors!

MARKETING

Fruit Logistica Berlin 2024

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) extends an invitation to all exporters of fresh produce to apply for participation in Fruit Logistica Berlin 2024 – scheduled for 7 to 9 February 2024 in Berlin, Germany. The deadline for the submission of complete National Pavilion application forms is set for 7 September 2023 at 16:00. Applicants need to complete the EMIA application form, together with the required documents, and only submit these via e-mail to VMbuyisa@thedtic.gov.za / SMtimkulu1@thedtic.gov.za

For any enquiries pertaining to applications, please contact Ms Virginia Mbuyisa / Ms Sizakele Mtimkulu
Tel: 012 394-5988 / 012 394 1409



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Asia Fruit Logistica 2023

Asia Fruit Logistica is scheduled for 6 to 8 September 2023 at the AsiaWorld Expo in Hong Kong. South Africa will have a dtic-funded National Pavilion. There will be tables available on a first-come, first-served basis. The dtic requests that all companies that make use of the South African pavilion for their business meetings, must provide an estimate Rand value of business conducted during the event. The FPEF will be responsible for the collection of this information after the event. Please note that your information will be treated as highly confidential.

TRANSFORMATION



TRANSFORMATION WEBINAR

19 September 2023 10h00 - 12h00

Please RSVP to Johannes Brand johannes@fpef.co.za



We invite executives, decision makers and senior managers to join us for the FPEF's annual transformation webinar, where our aim is to inspire and equip you towards leading effective transformation in your business. This year's speakers are Mr Athol Trollip and Mr Jonathan Goldberg.

Athol will share valuable perspectives on transformation from his long political career and extensive business exposure, while Jonathan will be unpacking the implications for businesses of the new Employment Equity Amendment Bill.

MR ATHOL TROLLIP

Athol Trollip is a well-known politician, motivational speaker and ex-farmer. In his long political career spanning from 1995 to the present, he served amongst others as the Provincial Chairperson of the Democratic Party in the Eastern Cape, National Chairperson of the Democratic Alliance, served on the National Assembly and as Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality. He is currently the Provincial chairperson of ActionSA in the Eastern Cape. He has represented his city, province and country abroad in official delegations to multiple countries across the globe. Athol has also recently worked extensively with SAFPRO assisting them with their transformation initiatives in the Eastern Cape.

MR JONATHAN GOLDBERG

Jonathan Goldberg is the Chairman of Global Business Solutions and has been a business leader in the changing labour law landscape over the past twenty years, heading negotiations at plant, industry and NEDLAC levels and assisting clients in navigating the dynamic regulatory environment. Jonathan is a sought after advisor and speaker, leading from the front in social partner negotiations as well as in respect of business strategy. Several of the key roles he fulfils include being a Commissioner on the National Minimum Wage Commission, the Labour Market Convenor at NEDLAC for business as well as a representative on the Employment Services Board. He is a chartered director of the Institute of Directors South Africa.



LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS

TAIWAN

As you may recall, due to phytosanitary interceptions, South African pome fruit exports to Taiwan were temporarily suspended.

BAPHIQ had multiple inquiries about these phytosanitary interceptions. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is currently conducting a comprehensive investigation, with production sites



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undergoing a second round of evaluations. DALRRD is in the process of gathering further data on bordering orchards, host vegetation, and using aerial photographs to collect more information.

The Taiwanese have just announced the renaming of their national executive agriculture authority – an indication of a changing environment, looking at biosecurity controls.

The name and acronym of the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) will be changed on 1 August 2023 to 'Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency (APHIA), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)'. The name change is in accordance with the 'Organisation Act of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency, Ministry of Agriculture', which was announced by the President on 31 May 2023.

FRUIT SA SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The FPEF is participating in the newly established Fruit SA Sustainability Committee. The second meeting of the committee was held on 20 July.

The committee will be responsible for anticipating and preparing for the pressure coming mostly from Europe and other trade partners over sustainability issues that may impact the South African fresh fruit export business. This forum will be used to exchange common and commodity-specific difficulties experienced by the fresh fruit export sector – in an effort to devise solutions and reduce possible trade obstacles resulting from sustainability standards.

A draft list of potential topics was compiled for consideration by the committee during its recent session. The scope of this committee will be re-evaluated at least every six months, in order to accommodate shifting sustainability needs.

One such example:

Presently, the European Union (EU) is debating a proposal to restrict the production for export of prohibited chemicals inside the EU. The primary obstacles presented by this suggested policy are as follows:

- A strategy that disregards the diverse agronomic demands of other areas and nations disregards the fact that agriculture, pests and diseases vary across regions and countries.
- It does not provide a fair playing field and does not narrow the gap between rich and developing nations.
- It may 'displace' the issue, since other nations with potentially worse production standards than the EU would fill the void in the supply of these prohibited compounds, which will have detrimental effects on farmers' and consumers' health, as well as on the environment.
- This will probably exacerbate the illicit trade of pesticide issue in underdeveloped nations.
- Because pesticides are not approved in Europe, it does not always make them 'more dangerous' or 'less essential'.
- It would result in a shortage of vital pest control products (on crops or for vector control).
- The majority of nations have established their own review and authorisation processes, whilst the EU's planned unilateral move strips them of this authority.
- All stakeholders had the opportunity to make their voices heard through a public consultation process, which the EU launched on 8 May and closed on 31 July 2023.

More information on the proposed regulation can be accessed here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13750-Hazardous-chemicals-prohibiting-production-for-export-of-chemicals-banned-in-the-European-Union_en

Fruit SA members submitted responses on behalf of industry, before responses to the public consultation process closed on 31 July. This signals the vital role of the Fruit SA Sustainability Committee, anticipating changes in the sustainability landscape.



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Eastern Cape truck booking system

On Friday 28 July, Transnet introduced the truck booking system to truckers in the Eastern Cape and follow-up sessions have been planned to work through all the questions. The plan had been to implement the system after the reefer season and PECT will go live on 27 September. However, the NCT requires system modification which is in the procurement phase and indications are that it will go live in November or December.

Boegoebaai

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has shortlisted three respondents to submit proposals for the design, funding and construction of a planned port and rail infrastructure project in the Northern Cape. The development of the new port and associated rail infrastructure, to be located in the Boegoebaai area, will improve connectivity to the Northern Cape. It will also provide the necessary logistics for manganese, green ammonia and other commodity exports in the province. It supports the opening up of the province as a mining destination.

Richards Bay

Following a successful Request for Information (RFI) process, the TNPA called on interested parties to respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP) to fund, design, develop, operate, maintain and transfer a Container Handling Facility for a twenty-five (25) year concession period in the Bayview Precinct at the Port of Richards Bay. The growth capacity is estimated at 200 000 TEUs on a site footprint of approximately 675 000 square meters. The Richards Bay geographical location will reduce both logistical cost and transit time.

Best regards,
Anton Kruger