



KEEPING IT FRESH



News from the FPEF – 11 June 2025

Dear FPEF Members,

It looks like winter has truly arrived across all provinces, and with it comes a mix of challenges for our industry - each one calling for different actions and approaches. Some of these, once again, really put your resilience to the test.

On a broader front, we remain actively involved in regulatory matters that continue to affect our industry. A significant recent development is a survey initiated by the Agricultural Produce Agents' Council (**APAC**). You may recall that, through detailed submissions and engagements with the **Parliamentary Portfolio Committee**, we successfully secured the withdrawal of the previous version of the **APA Amendment Bill**. Following this, we advocated for industry participation in the redrafting process. As a result, we are now working collaboratively with APAC to revise the new version—particularly the **Rules for Export Agents**, which are directly derived from the Act.



Take the Survey

It is thus of utmost importance that you provide your input by completing and submitting the questionnaire which was sent to you at the latest by **Friday 13 June 2025 before 16:00**. If you have not received the questionnaire, please request it from Claudia Walklett: claudia@fpf.co.za

USA matters

Our **Fruit Desk at Agbiz** is constantly involved with the rest of the **Agbiz team**, and **NEDLAC**, to seek clarity on the issues impacting us. According to the manager of the Fruit Desk, the South African Government's offensive (request) and defensive (offer) positions appear to accurately reflect our fruit sector interests.

Logistics

At the FPEF we believe in partnerships and cooperation with the Public Sector where and when necessary. One such area is the logistics environment. We communicated earlier about the provision of generators for the **Port of Cape Town** via a **Public-Private Partnership**. These gensets are necessary to ensure adequate plug points for reefers and play an important role in risk mitigation. Our Logistical Affairs Manager, **Antoinette van Heerden** was instrumental in obtaining these. You can read more about this under the heading of the Logistics portfolio.



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International trade shows

Being present and visible at international trade shows remains incredibly important for our industry. That's why we're stepping in to fund or co-fund the majority of these events when the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**) is unable to do so. Fortunately, the *dtic* continues to recognise the value of our industry and has confirmed funding support for **Fruit Logistica Berlin in February 2026**. This positive outcome is thanks in large part to the ongoing efforts and engagement of our Marketing Manager, **Marletta Kellerman**. More trade show news follows below:

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS – MARLETTA KELLERMAN

Asia Fruit Logistica 2025

The next edition of **Asia Fruit Logistica** returns to **Hong Kong's AsiaWorld-Expo on 3-5 September 2025**. 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 120 m² stand is secured in Hall 5 stand number T19.



Fruit Attraction Madrid 2025

The next edition of **Fruit Attraction** will take place from **30 September to 2 October 2025 at IFEMA Madrid**.

The FPEF will host and fund the National Pavilion together with the Fruit South Africa members (grower associations).

A 160 m² stand is secured in Hall 14 stand number D10 (new hall).

China International Import & Export (CIIE) 2025

The *dtic* extends an invitation to apply to participate in the **8th China International Import & Export (CIIE) 2025**, scheduled to take place from **05-10 November 2025 in Shanghai, China**. The deadline date for the submission of complete National Pavilion application forms is **17 June 2025**. Please see the email sent on 10 June (from Marletta Kellerman) for more information.

Applications are online only and can be emailed to BMorudi@thedtic.gov.za or VMbuyisa@thedtic.gov.za.



Fruit Logistica Berlin 2026

The *dtic* is inviting companies to submit applications to participate on the South African National Pavilion at the **Fruit Logistica Berlin 2026** scheduled to take place from **04-06 February 2026 in Berlin, Germany**.

The deadline date for the submission of complete National Pavilion application forms is **07 September 2025**. Please see email sent on 3 June (from Marletta Kellerman) for more information and application documents. Completed application forms must be submitted **VIA E-MAIL ONLY** to Ms Batseba Morudi on BMorudi@thedtic.gov.za or Ms Virginia Mbuyisa VMbuyisa@thedtic.gov.za.



The European Commission appoints a new Director-General for Agriculture



Elisabeth Werner (Austrian nationality) was appointed as the director-general of the **Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)** by the European Commission on **May 28th**.

As of June 1, 2025, Elisabeth Werner will assume this new role.

Her previous position was that of Deputy Secretary General of the Commission. Previously, she held positions that were associated with the Green Deal and the budget.

United Kingdom and European Union exploring a common SPS Agreement

The **European Commission** and the **United Kingdom** have concluded exploratory talks at a **UK/EU summit** in May, to strengthen bilateral cooperation, focusing on the **Withdrawal Agreement and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement**. They will proceed swiftly, respecting each other's decision-making autonomy, and will proceed with their respective procedures and legal frameworks.

The European Commission and the United Kingdom are working towards establishing a **Common Sanitary and Phytosanitary Area** through a **European Union-United Kingdom Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS Agreement)**. The SPS Agreement would cover the European Union and the United Kingdom in respect of Great Britain, allowing for the majority of movements of animals, animal products, plants, and plant products between the two countries without the need for certificates or controls.

Timeline

- 19/05/2025 • First EU-UK summit
- 18/03/2025 • Ministers exchange views on EU-UK relations
- 17/12/2024 • Ministers discuss how to strengthen EU-UK relations
- 21/12/2023 • Council greenlights extension on rules for electric vehicles until end of 2026
- 15/11/2023 • Council greenlights UK participation in Horizon Europe and Copernicus

This would also extend to movements between **Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, through the **Windsor Framework and the SPS Agreement**. The SPS Agreement would cover sanitary, phytosanitary, food safety, and general consumer protection rules for agri-food products, regulation of live animals and pesticides, organics, and marketing standards. It would ensure the application of the same rules at all times, with the UK having the ability to take targeted action to protect its biosecurity and public health.

The SPS Agreement would be subject to a dispute resolution mechanism, the UK's involvement in the decision-shaping process of European Union legal acts, access to relevant European Union agencies, systems, and databases, and financial contributions from the UK.

The FPEF is following the process to **determine the impact on trade with a potentially renewed SPS agreement between the EU and the UK**.

Logistics Data Collaboration Workshop

The FPEF attended a **collaborative workshop on the establishment of a port community platform** serving as an independent digital hub to optimise logistics for all logistics stakeholders. The objective was to establish and conceptualise the characteristics of an integrated logistics data platform serving port stakeholders. The common understanding on the vision of such an integrated logistics platform is to establish a highly optimised and efficient logistics chain by achieving seamless collaboration and unified reporting across all logistics data sources.



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Portbase, a system implemented by the **Port of Rotterdam** and the **Networked Trade Platform** applied in **Singapore**, serve as world-class examples of a **Digital Logistics Planning Platform**. Invited attendees shared ideas on integrating and consolidating logistics information on a single platform, assigning user access rights for specific logistics stakeholders, to optimise the logistics chain. Replicating logistics processes in a digital environment would inevitably result in better planning and resource allocation across port users and other logistics stakeholders.

One of the first steps is to **formalise a working relation with Transnet Port Authorities and Transnet Port Terminals**, collaborating on logistics information, gaining insights into the digitalisation of logistics processes, which will be guided by a **Memorandum of Understanding** agreement.

Enabling data consolidation across systems such as the **Provincial Government Digital Logistics Planning Platform** designed by **Crickmay, Agri-Hub** providing fresh produce stock movement monitoring, **SATI's** optimisation model, **PPECB** providing empty container and container inspections monitoring and **Transnet's** system carrying data from their internal port productivity portal, could prove to unlock a port community platform. In the same way, South Africa can create a port community platform, unique to our logistics environment, gaining insight from world class systems such as the Port of Rotterdam's Port Base system and Singapore's Networked Trade Platform.

LOGISTICS – ANTOINETTE VAN HEERDEN

First batch of Rubber Tyre Gantries nearing completion at Cape Town Container Terminal



The assembly of the nine new **Rubber Tyred Gantry Cranes (RTGs)** at the **Cape Town Container Terminal** is nearing completion with only 10% of the electrical work outstanding. The site team successfully conducted engine start-up and generator powering for the first five machines.

Pre-commissioning checks are currently being finalised on the first RTG. Once the commissioning engineer from Liebherr arrives next week, he will start the commissioning process, with the units being brought online consecutively.

The commissioning of the first RTG is expected to take approximately 10 days, after which the timeframe is anticipated to be reduced for the remaining units as processes are streamlined, and efficiencies are gained.

Key milestones:

- **Testing Schedule Start Date:** 2 June 2025
- **Commissioning Process:** Follows testing schedule, starting with the first RTG
- **Endurance Testing, Mapping and Operator Training:** 1st week of July 2025
- **Next Batch of RTGs Arrival:** 1st week of July 2025

Each machine must complete a hundred consecutive hours of endurance testing before being deployed.



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Powering Progress: Collaboration Boosts Cape Town Port Efficiency

Heading into the 2024 peak deciduous season for fruit exports in Cape Town, **Transnet** approached industry and asked if the sector can assist to mitigate the bottle necks inside the terminal. Creating a third reefer stack, powered by generators assisted fluidity and flexibility in the terminal. The first **Public Sector Participation (PSP)** project between the fruit industry and Transnet served as a valuable pilot that can be replicated in other areas of the country. The fruit industry rallied to secure funding and the Agbiz CEO, **Theo Boshoff** took lead in signing the contract and facilitating arrangements with the supply and the port. It was a learning curve for all involved but created a solid base for future projects.

“We wanted to be part of the solution” – Antoinette



Transnet Wage negotiation update

Yesterday was the last day of voting and UNTU is still busy counting the votes. If the result is to sign a deal then the union will need time to go through the contract. Best estimate is two weeks to conclude but Transnet will let us know if it is sooner. There is a positive sentiment.

POST-HARVEST INNOVATION (PHI) PROGRAMME – DESIRÉE THOMPSON

The 2025 Hortgro Science Research Showcase and Post-harvest Symposium



Opening address by Prof. Wiehann Steyn (General Manager: Hortgro Science).

The biennial **Hortgro Post-harvest Symposium** was hosted on **5 June at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West** to bring industry experts, researchers and practitioners together to advance the science and best practices of post-harvest fruit management. It formed part of a three-day event, which commenced with the Hortgro Science Research Showcase – focused on **pome fruit research** (3 June) and **stone fruit research** (4 June).

The Post-harvest Symposium, which was attended by **Anton Kruger** (FPEF CEO) and **Desireé Thompson** (PHI Programme Manager), included a lively and informative panel discussion by local industry experts, as well as presentations by local and international researchers – from countries such as **Belgium**, the **Netherlands**, the **USA** and **New Zealand**.

The **importance of the PHI Programme was also highlighted** during the three-day event through various presentations, delivered by **PHI researchers and students**. These shed light on PHI and Hortgro co-funded research and development (R&D) projects, conducted under the **current fifth phase (PHI-5)** of the PHI Programme.

Some of the PHI presentations were titled:

- ‘Nitric oxide and ozone fumigations investigated as alternative post-harvest phytosanitary treatments for insect pests and plant pathogens.’
- ‘Evaluation of the interaction and release of ethyl formate within bio-friendly polymer matrices for post-harvest fumigation.’
- ‘Internal browning of ‘Cripps Pink’ apples – the effect of growing region temperature and orchard variables on the development of internal browning.’
- ‘Internal browning of ‘Cripps Pink’ apples – the effect of growing region temperature on the ripening rate and long-term storage quality.’
- ‘Sanitation in the pack house for post-harvest decay management – from the cold room to the fruit.’

On the whole, it was an enlightening and very successful event that emphasised the importance of scientific research and the value of research outcomes – especially when implemented by industry.



Attendees at the 2025 Hortgro Post-harvest Symposium.

Until next time,

Anton



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