



KEEPING IT FRESH



News from the FPEF – 25 June 2025

Dear FPEF Members,

Herewith the latest edition of our newsletter, providing a summary of our activities over the past two weeks, along with important new updates that have not yet been shared.

This somewhat "last-minute" communication is largely due to recent, unexpected developments in the external environment — including escalating tensions in the Middle East, sudden changes in weather affecting port operations, and last-minute invitations to key industry events that often reach us only a day or two in advance.

We also use the publication to introduce you to one or more of our Board members. This week you can learn more about **Karabelo Motsei-Mngomezulu**.

On the **logistics** front, **Antoinette van Heerden** reported marked improvements in the ports recently and you can read more about this under her portfolio.

With regards to changes and/or challenges regarding **export requirements**, we are engaging the **Department of Agriculture (DoA)** and more can be read about this under the portfolio of **Werner van Rooyen**.

The **IBO Summit** will be taking place at the **CTICC** in **Cape Town** from the **25th to the 27th of September**. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights from global industry leaders as they address today's most pressing topics - be sure to register and secure your spot!



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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).**

Outward Selling Mission India

The **dtic** extends an invitation to your organization and members of your organization to apply to participate in the upcoming **Outward Selling Mission** scheduled to take place in **India** from the **24-30 August 2025**. The mission will comprise of a **Business Seminar, B2B meetings and Site Visits**.

Please see the email sent on 23 June (from Marletta Kellerman) for more information. The closing date is 08 July 2025. Please forward your application with supporting documents to OSMIndia2025@thedtic.gov.za.



INDUSTRY TRAINING – JOHANNES BRAND

FPEF Fruit Export Value Chain Training Programme

Last week **18 employees from seven FPEF member companies** completed the six-day FPEF **Top of Class fruit export value chain training programme** in an interactive online format. The course content covers the fruit export value chain from field to fork and is aimed primarily at employees in junior to middle management positions within fruit export companies, packhouses and logistics companies. Topics covered include; quality management, compliance, cold chain management, primary production, packing and packaging, road, sea and air freight, documentation, consumers, markets and the role of exporters. One of the participants provided the following feedback:

“It was very informative. I learned a lot and it's exactly what I needed to understand the industry.”

The next online training course which commences in October is already fully booked.



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International Finance Corporation Workshop on Sustainable Finance

The FPEF attended a sustainable finance workshop hosted by the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** and supported by **Rand Merchant Bank (RMB)** and **Anglo-American**. The hosts include **Cláudia Conceição**, Director for Southern Africa IFC, **Nigel Beck**, Head of Sustainable Finance & ESG Rand Merchant Bank, **Nolitha Fakude**, Chair of Anglo-American Management Board, and **Ian Hudson**, Head Nature & Land Anglo American, supported by IFC’s global nature & biodiversity finance team. The FPEF participated with private sector partners such as **AgriFusion** and **AgriSA**, representing broader agriculture.



Traditional strategies for environmental protection have frequently prioritised the preservation and restoration of forests; however, this approach has its constraints. To begin, it is significantly dependent on public and donor funding, which is both scarce and unpredictable. The second potential consequence is that it may limit the access of local communities to critical natural resources in the absence of adequate

alternative sustainable economic opportunities. And third, this method has failed to engage industries whose primary operations rely on ecosystem services and may contribute to the protection of nature while improving their own business operations.

Private sector companies from diverse sectors shared current and future nature opportunities directly related to their bottom line. The FPEF represented the agricultural sector and explained the importance of sustainable solutions throughout the export value chain. Some solutions are already implemented, such as the use of solar power, saving water and energy on pack house and cold store level, optimal refrigeration to save energy and optimizing transport via effective scheduling to reduce emissions. Also, including broader agriculture and on farm level water saving, implemented out of necessity during the day-zero crisis in the Western Cape province. The fruit industry is prioritizing the resource growth enabler, namely water, as South Africa is a water arid country. The above-mentioned insights were shared and discussed at the workshop with the IFC, to explore possible nature accelerator sustainable finance models for South Africa.



Changes and challenges applicable to import requirements

European Phytosanitary Certification

Earlier this year, the **EU Commission** decided to extend **CBS measures until 2028**. We understand that the existing regulation 2022/632 still applies, with specific additions, to extend the term of certain measures. This caused confusion in terms of the additional declaration applied on the phytosanitary certificates to the European Union. Additional declarations must refer to the **EU Commission Regulation 2022/632** and no change was applied to this regulation.

However, some EU member states requested the additional declaration to refer to the changes that was extending certain measures, stating 2025/632, which was incorrectly applied to address their needs.

As such, exporters and logistics service providers were applying for replacement phytosanitary certificates in advance to avoid non-entry in the EU and incurring demurrage charges. The **FPEF**, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (**DoA**), harmonised the acceptance of replacement phytosanitary certificates in advance, across provinces. The matter was resolved timeously and the FPEF thanks the DoA for their swift response. The function of certification lies within the ambit of the DoA and the FPEF clearly indicated that members cannot be liable for the cost of replacement phytosanitary certificates given the existing situation.

Re-export Phytosanitary Certification

According to the **International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM 12)**, which states that fruits which are handled (unloaded from trucks and then loaded again) in the territory of a foreign country (no matter imported or in bonded warehouse) must be provided with a re-export phytosanitary certificate.

Fruit consignments may be transported and stored in South Africa, at a custom approved bonded warehouse. Since the consignments are in a custom bonded warehouse, they technically remain under customs control and have not officially entered South Africa's domestic market. However, some countries (including Russia) may still require proof that the goods were not contaminated or repackaged during transit.

In this case, we received confirmation from **Rosselkhoznadzor**, the **Russian NPPO** responsible for plant quarantine products, that Rosselkhoznadzor requires a re-export phytosanitary certificate from **NPPOZA**, in accordance with ISPM 12. If fruit is not imported, but loaded at a custom bonded warehouse in South Africa, for export to Russia, ISPM 12 should still apply, from a phytosanitary perspective, as it still qualifies as a re-export (in phytosanitary terms) although the fruit was not imported. This is standard practice worldwide. If consignments from a landlocked neighbouring country is transported and enters South Africa in a sealed container, in transit, and loaded on a vessel in South Africa, for export to Russia, then re-export certification is not required.

The **FPEF** is currently engaging the **National Plant Protection Organization of South Africa (NPPOZA)** on issuing re-export phytosanitary certificates on all exported consignment that is subjected to the above-mentioned case.

Annexure B: Citrus Black Spot (CBS) - Approved laboratories

The DoA circulated, via e-Cert and other wider communication, the latest updated list of approved laboratories applicable to CBS testing. Citrus exporters are safeguarding phytosanitary status of all exported citrus products, especially this season. Increasing access to approved laboratories will further enhance this process. Please engage the FPEF should you not have received the latest updated Annexure containing the list of approved laboratories.

LOGISTICS – ANTOINETTE VAN HEERDEN

Port overview

Excellent performance from **CTCT** last week achieved the **highest volume throughput this year (18 382TEU)** and highest **GCH of 18! Well done to the Transnet Team**. The Eastern Cape, despite weather delays delivered good numbers while Durban Terminals struggled with Ship to Shore availability. Specifically cranes at Pier 1 is a concern causing delays of vessels into other South African ports. Equipment levels are improving at the majority of terminals.



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The Merchant Shipping Bill

During the public consultation process, **COSATU** pointed out that “it is deeply worrying that the **Department of Transport** did not present this Bill for engagement with social partners at the **National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac)** before tabling it at Parliament for consideration. This is in direct violation of the Nedlac Act, requiring all Bills impacting on labour rights to be tabled at Nedlac prior to Parliament.”

The Nedlac grouping met last week with the Department of Transport and nominations were put forward for the workgroup. The process is to work through each clause of the bill and submit a report. The group will consist of 12 members that will meet weekly from now until August.

BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION: KARABELO MOTSEI-MNGOMEZULU



*“I am originally from Bloemfontein and relocated to Somerset West nine years ago through the **FPEF Graduate Programme**, which placed me at **Ideafruit**. I hold a **BCom in Economics** and completed a **Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration** in 2018, both from the **University of the Free State**.”*

*My journey with Ideafruit began in 2016 as an intern. Since then, I have grown within the company and currently serve as **Commercial Manager**. Over the years, I’ve gained extensive experience in the **fresh produce export sector**, managing key markets including **Bangladesh, India, the Middle East**, and now **Europe**. My core area of specialization is **pome fruit**, and I’ve developed a strong understanding of seasonal supply cycles and international market dynamics.*

I’m deeply grateful for the many growth and learning opportunities that Ideafruit has provided and remain passionate about the commercial side of the export industry.

*Outside of work, my life is filled with joy and meaning through **family**. My husband, a passionate rugby enthusiast, shares my love for the sport, and we enjoy watching matches together on weekends. Our lives changed beautifully five months ago with the arrival of our darling daughter, **Khwezi**, who has brought immeasurable joy and purpose into our lives.*

Our weekends are now centred around family moments - from scenic Sunday drives through the stunning landscapes of the Western Cape to leisurely strolls through local markets, where we enjoy discovering new flavours and supporting local artisans. Life with a young baby certainly keeps us on our toes, but we treasure every moment.”



Until next time,

Anton



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