

KEEPING IT FRESH

fpef
fresh produce
EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 22 September 2021

Dear FPEF Members,

Herewith, another edition of our newsletter in which we bring you a summary of matters that we have been involved in, and/or still are, in order to add value to your operations. The most pertinent matters currently are logistics, technical requirements (such as labelling, export certification), market access and transformation. In addition, we also deem it fit to share more general relevant information and insights with you - of which BFAP's baseline launch which took place last week is an example:

There is unfortunately still not much progress with our **market access** applications as most countries insist on conducting in-person verification visits to South Africa - which are almost impossible due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, we continue to engage with them.

In order to implement a decision of the FPEF Board (taken at its meeting on 25 August 2021) that a coordinated approach with regards to **all logistical matters** is needed, and that it should be done via FruitSA, but that the FPEF will play a pivotal role as it is part of our mandate to facilitate trade on behalf of our members, a Logistical Committee was established. Members of the committee will act in the interest of the industry, and not that of the individual company/entity.

The committee should be representative of all fruit types and thus consists of:

- Logistical experts of the grower associations
- Logistical experts of FPEF members
- The FPEF's Operational Manager
- The FruitSA CEO



We again draw your attention to the government's portal for the registration of businesses affected by the July 2021 unrest, for the purposes of coordinating **government's package of relief measures**. The portal and call centre will remain open for affected businesses to register until Thursday, 30 September at 17:00. Click on URL <https://www.relief4sa.co.za> to access the **Loss Registration Portal**.

Please make a note in your diary of our **Annual General Meeting** which will take place on **26 November** at **11h30** in a physical format at **Glen Carlou Estate** in Klapmuts.



Every year we strive to add value to our members by having a **speaker** on a relevant topic. This year we deem it fit to focus on logistics issues; especially perspectives on the “big picture” (e.g. Covid impact on shipping lines, East-West trade vs. North-South trade, SA ports, etc). The speaker on this topic will be **Iain McIntosh - Head of Marketing South Africa of Ocean Network Express (South Africa)**. The presentation will be “neutral” with the aim to provide a fair and overall industry perspective.

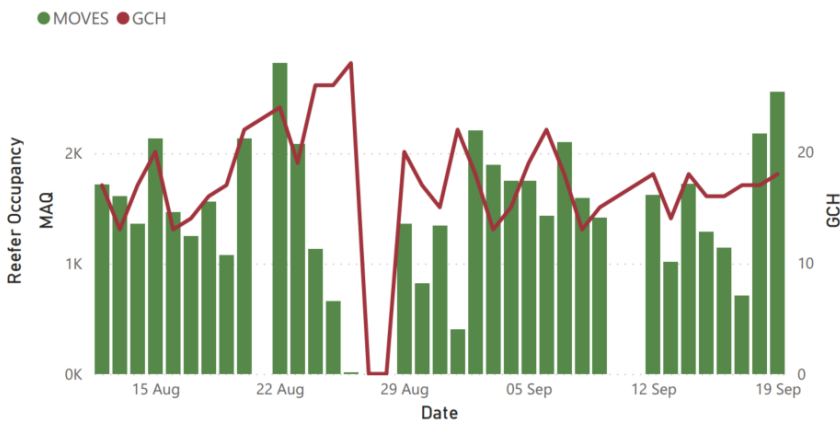
PORT STATUS

Durban:

Pier 1: Two vessels are waiting on berth with no vessels currently at berth. The stack occupancy level is at 40.4% with a total number of 2883 containers on hand. Export containers consist of 1621 containers with 178 reefer containers on hand. The terminal is not experiencing significant volumes and operating at a low occupancy level indicating a low point of concern for export via pier 1.

Pier 2: Four vessels at berth filling berth 108, 202, 203, 204. The occupancy level at pier 2 remains very high at 79.3%. 1241 reefers on hand at pier 2 with a total of 10 755 export containers on hand. Imports consist of about 50% of the export containers on hand. Exports via pier 2 is still far from seamless, as the terminal will struggle to effectively increase throughput above a 75% occupancy level. Vessels still bypassing due to unavailability of equipment between waterside and landside (e.g., tugboats used for stabilising vessels without sufficient line tensioners available.) Another four vessels are at anchorage and awaiting berthing.

CTCT Waterside Productivity - Last 40 Days



Port of Cape Town

CTCT: The terminal has two vessels at berth on 602 and 603. The reefer occupancy level is at 33% with an average truck turnaround time of 34.6 minutes. Four vessels due to berth the terminal and no point of concern for exports other than weather delays and water surging that may cause additional delays. The terminal is embarking on implementing a truck booking system at the Cape Town Container Terminal in October.

MPT: The terminal has been struggling with breakdown of both mobile cranes recently. Since the past Saturday, breakdowns hampered productivity at the terminal. One mobile crane has been employed back into operation while also using ships gear on the vessel at berth.

CHINA PROTOCOL AMENDMENT

The amended citrus protocol for export of fresh citrus fruit from South Africa to the Republic of China was received by DALRRD on 02 September 2021 for implementation. Apart for the amended shipping temperature for lemons, the amended protocol also included a change to the carton label. The new carton label should state - “输往中华人民共和国” (Exported to the People’s Republic of China).



Currently DALRRD is taking up the matter with the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) to agree on a phase-in period. For the interim period, until feedback is received from the GACC, a decision was taken that PPECB will inspect cartons destined to China with the old carton label (or the new carton label) until 30 September 2021. From 1 October 2021, cartons destined for China with the old carton label will be rejected for export to China and only the new carton label will be acceptable. Exporters are encouraged to start using the new label as soon as possible. No amendment in the protocol for table

grapes or pome fruit has been announced by GACC. Therefore, the new label is only a citrus requirement and not a requirement for fresh table grapes or pome fruit exports to China.

FPEF EXPORT DIRECTORY 2022

It is time to compile the new FPEF Export Directory for 2022! Please send your correct information to be listed in the Export Directory to Marletta Kellerman, marletta@fpef.co.za.

FOODEX Japan 2022

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**) invites you to apply to participate in the **Virtual National Pavilion FOODEX 2022**. The National Pavilion forms part of **the dtic’s** objective to create and identify export markets for South African value-added products and services in Asia. The National Pavilion also serves to promote South Africa’s products and services offerings in high growth Asian markets.

For more information, please contact Ms Dimakatso Magolego at the dtic: Tel: 012 394 – 5476

/ DRMagolego@thedti.gov.za or please see email from Marletta Kellerman sent on the 16th of September.

Kindly note that the closing date is 08 October 2021.

SADC MARKET PLACE INFORMATION-SHARING WEBINAR AND BUSINESS TO BUSINESS (B2B) EVENT

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) through its Embassies in the United States, is proud to collaborate with the USAID TradeHub, to host a virtual SADC Market Place information-sharing webinar and business to business (B2B) event on 28 and 29 September 2021, to promote exports from the region into the U.S.

- **Exporting to the U.S. Webinar: 28 September 2021**
- **Business-to-Business (B2B) event: 29 September 2021**

The purpose of this virtual event is to increase the awareness and compliance of SADC firms with U.S. market entry requirements and promote exports of regional products into the United States, through connecting U.S. buyers, importers, and distributors to exporters from the agricultural and agro-processed products (including specialty foods) sectors from the SADC countries.

To register or for more information, please see email from Claudia Walklett sent on 15th of September.



New Recruits join the Phytophthora Brown Rot Battle

Brown rot outbreaks are not regular occurrences in South African citrus. However, when they do occur, the disease usually causes significant economic losses, either in the orchard or while export consignments are in transit. During storage, the infected fruit spread brown rot to other fruit in the carton which also make them prone to being further infected with green mould.

Regardless of the level of pre-harvest control, e.g. foliar applications of phosphonates, steps have to be taken during the packing process to reduce the risk of latent infections on fruit developing further during storage and transit.

Previous studies indicated that postharvest potassium phosphite dips are effective when done within four to 18 hours after picking, led to this treatment being registered for use in the USA. The problem, however, is that certain export markets limit the phosphorous acid residues allowed on fruit, hence the treatment cannot be used extensively. These restrictions created the need for other options for postharvest control of brown rot.

Study objectives and results

In this two-year research study, led by Dr Jan van Niekerk from CRI, evaluated the curative and protective efficacy of azoxystrobin, fludioxonil, ammonium and potassium phosphite as aqueous dip treatments for the postharvest management of *Phytophthora* brown rot on lemons, oranges and mandarins. Additionally, the research team also evaluated treatment with wax to which azoxystrobin and fludioxonil had been added, for its ability to prevent the spread of brown rot in fruit cartons during transit.

Results indicated that the tested fungicides have good curative action. All three reduced brown rot incidence significantly.

In terms of preventing the development and spread of latent infection during transit, only azoxystrobin-amended wax significantly reduced brown rot from spreading to healthy fruit when in contact.

The data obtained from this study can add additional value to the already registered postharvest azoxystrobin and fludioxonil fungicides, as well as the pre-harvest registered potassium and ammonium phosphite.



← *Phytophthora brown rot developing on a lemon fruit.*



Leathery brown discoloration on a lemon fruit indicating Phytophthora brown rot. →

FPEF TRANSFORMATION WEBINAR - WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

The FPEF hosted its annual transformation webinar on the 15th of September. The focus of the webinar is to challenge and inspire business leaders in the fruit industry towards playing an active role in furthering positive and effective transformation in their businesses.

We would like to thank our speakers this year, **Matome Ramokgopa** and **Gerald Gant**, who gave generously of their time to share their insights and wisdom with us.



Matome Ramokgopa

Matome Ramokgopa is at the forefront of bridging the gap between the international agricultural community and local farmers in his position as the General Manager of Enza Zaden South Africa, whose parent company is based in the Netherlands. Matome shared some of his experiences growing up in South Africa and went on to explain that while the word transformation is seen by many in a negative light, when you look at synonyms for the word transformation, they are all positive. Matome encouraged business leaders, who set the tone in their organisations, to play an active role in building sustainable businesses that represent the demographics of the country we live in. Matome also provided helpful, practical advice in this regard.

Gerald Gant is an esteemed industry veteran who served as CEO of Dole SA for many years. In his talk, Gerald recognised that while the industry has made progress with respect to transformation since deregulation, it is an ongoing conversation we need to engage in. He shared his reflections on how we can transform existing fresh produce export companies, leading to increased diversity.



Gerald Gant

For those who missed the webinar but would like to listen to the presentations, please contact Johannes (johannes@fpf.co.za) who will send you a link to the videos.

Please stay safe!

Kind regards,

Anton Kruger