



Dear FPEF Members,

'Fellow South Africans': One year since President Ramaphosa announced SA's first lockdown ... Yesterday marked exactly a year since the lockdown announcement which implemented the hard lockdown on 27 March... and our industry is still going strong.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: APAC Amendment Bill:

A reminder to submit your input before **9 April 2021** by using the documents sent to you earlier. The information contained in the document (*Submission on the APAC Amendment Bill*) can be used by adapting it to focus on the parts/sections of it which you deem of relevance to you or your own input.

It is of the utmost importance that **as many submissions as possible** are submitted to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development as quite a number of the proposed amendments could have a huge impact on the sustainability of our industry. The FPEF will be submitting a written as well as a verbal submission.



MARKET ACCESS

Philippines

We have received information that the Administrative Order regarding the issuing of import permits for citrus from South Africa was published for comments until 26 March. Thereafter Philippine importers will be in a position to apply for import permits.

Assistance to DALRRD (Dept of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development: Table grape inspections)

Due to the higher volumes of table grapes exported and the capacity constraints within DALRRD, the FPEF and SATI have contracted three retired inspectors to assist with inspections for 12 weeks. These contracts have now been extended with another two weeks due to the season being late. This exercise is being done on a pilot basis with DALRRD and will be evaluated after the season. The FPEF and SATI share the cost.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS TO REACH NEW HEIGHTS AS 2021 EXPORT ESTIMATE IS RELEASED

The Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa (CGA) is excited to announce that the South African citrus industry will likely break all previous export season records with an estimated 158.7 million cartons in 2021. If the estimate is reached, it would represent a third consecutive season of record export volumes, with 130 million cartons exported in 2019, followed by 146 million cartons in 2020. Our current projections for 2021 indicate a 22% growth in export figures in just 2 years.



CGA GROWER ROADSHOW VIA ZOOM TUESDAY 30TH MARCH 2021

FPEF members are welcome to attend by registering via the link below. Please bear in mind that no overseas associations or companies are included in the invitation as some matters discussed are of relevance to SA growers only.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5DPfYpGzT7OzCOtIMXhSKg

On registering, the delegate will be sent the password the day prior to the meeting. For more information, please contact [Gloria Weare gloria@cga.co.za](mailto:Gloria.Weare@cga.co.za).

LOGISTICS: PORT OF CAPE TOWN



The Transnet turnaround strategy seems to bear fruit with effective short-term interventions. However, wind delays were not assisting the TPT team in any way. This impacted operations the last couple of days without reaching the higher productivity levels required to avoid congestion. Empty depot congestion was also evident the past couple of days. Another uncomfortable reality was the break-down of two cranes at MPT. The weekly meetings are continuing with the FPEF also forming part of the command centre meetings to address the challenges in more granular detail.

CITRUS EXPORTERS' FORUM (CEF) AND CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF)

The first CEF – and CMF meetings for 2021 took place during the past week and some of the most important matters arising from that are:

- The CEF and CMF facilitated good discussion around the most important considerations for the citrus industry.
- The logistics environment remains our biggest concern together with the growing citrus crop, again heading for a record year.
- A proposal was that demand planning in terms of capacity requirements (e.g terminal, pack houses and cold stores) needs to be investigated. The CGA and FPEF will jointly discuss the way forward.
- The need for joint collaboration on estimates and market requirements were highlighted during the CMF. CGA and FPEF will aim to create a sub-workgroup to look at this.
- In-depth discussion on BREXIT and the status of other market access opportunities, provided a clear overview on the citrus industry's growing need for more markets.

BRICS MEETING: The information below was compiled by Agbiz

- This past week, we held a hybrid session with some colleagues and Agbiz members joining us at Pretoria's offices, while others joined online. The event's primary focus was to explore how South Africa's agriculture and agribusiness sectors could gain more traction within BRICS. This theme is premised on the observation that South Africa's agriculture is expanding and is ripe to contest more international markets. In the next few years, the sector could enjoy a growth spurt, especially if the support by government policies, including the master plan on agriculture and agro-processing, come into play.
- To get a sense of how South Africa's agricultural sector has expanded in the past decade, consider the sector's gross value-added since 2010, which has now expanded by 44%. In volume terms, South Africa's agricultural production has grown by 19% over the same period. Encouragingly, this expansion has occurred across all subsectors of agriculture and agro-processing value, i.e., horticulture (up 70%), animal products (up 43%), field crops (up 22%) and agro-processing (up 13%), according to data from the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) and Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP). Notably, the long-term projections from BFAP also present an optimistic picture of South Africa's agricultural output growth. The key message here is that South Africa's agriculture is growing, and export markets should be diversified and expanded to accommodate the fields' output volumes.
- Bolstering the proposal for export-market expansion is that some of South Africa's agricultural products outputs have already surpassed targets set out in the National Development Plan (NDP) in 2012. These include citrus, macadamias, dairy and pork, amongst others. Meanwhile, the soybeans, avocados, apples, and table grapes are fast approaching the NDP levels. This added production and normal growth in other major crops, fruits, vegetables, and livestock need new and growing markets. In our view, the new markets that the sector should be looking more at are in BRICS. The industry should hone a BRICS strategy that is complemented by robust bilateral engagements with each of the BRICS countries.



UAE TRADE AND INVESTMENT WEBINAR 15 MARCH 2021

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) in collaboration with the South African Consulate General in Dubai, hosted a South African Trade and Investment webinar for agriculture and agro-processing on the 15th of March. FPEF also presented at this event and used the opportunity to promote South African fruit and vegetables and also our members. There were 265 attendees of which 65% were from South Africa, 16% from UAE, 4% from Saudi Arabia and 13% from other countries. 52% of the attendees rated the webinar as excellent and 37% as good.

EU Post Covid EU Trade Support Project - Qualitative Questionnaire for Green Economy SMMEs

Wesgro is working with Green Cape and EU Delegation in SA on a COVID-19 Green Trade Competitiveness Study - to understand how COVID-19 has impacted green SMME's ability to trade internationally.

If you are an SMME in the Green Economy space, we ask if you could please complete a survey (please see email from Marletta Kellerman for survey). As a green SMME that has been navigating these dynamics, your insights are essential to help guide the eco-system to provide the right types of support. *(If you are not operating in the Green Economy space, please disregard this mail).*

Should you rather prefer to have a personal conversation to share your insights, please get in touch with GreenCape's Finance and Investment Promotion Liaison – Lisa Johansson at Lisa@green-cape.co.za

REMINDER: SHAFTE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Did you know?
The Southern Hemisphere fruit industry represents annually :

-  **11 million tons of fresh fruit exports**
-  **Export value of US\$14 billion**
-  **25% of the total global fresh fruit supply**

Join us online on the 25th of March!
Free registration and info: www.shaffe.net





**SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
FRESH FRUIT TRADE CONGRESS
ONLINE (Zoom) 25th March 2021**

11am CET
Asia & Oceania

5pm CET
Europe/America

A reminder about the SHAFTE virtual conference taking place, **tomorrow 25 March**. Attendance is free, but you need to register beforehand on the website: <https://shaffe.net/shaffe-congress-2021/>. The SA speaker and panellist will be Professor Ferdi Meyer from BFAP.

Please stay safe!

Kind regards,

Anton Kruger