



Dear FPEF Members,

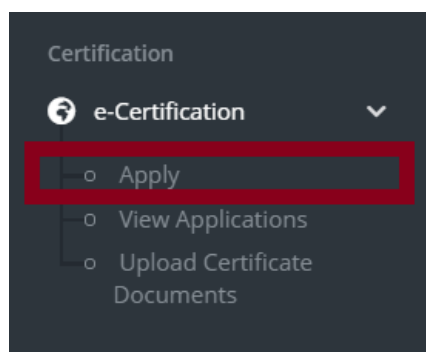
Thank you for taking the time to read another edition of our bi-monthly newsletter in which we bring you a summary of our activities on various aspects.

One of the most challenging matters affecting the profitability and sustainability of our industry is **port efficiencies**. We are having constant interaction with the new CEO of Transnet, Portia Derby and she will be visiting some production areas and pack houses in production regions in Mpumalanga - and from there follow the logistics chain right up to the fruit being loaded onto the vessel. This is an initiative which we welcome as that will provide her with first-hand knowledge of the process.



Figure 1: Portia Derby - CEO Transnet

The progress made with the **e-certification** process is encouraging, however implementation on international level proved to be challenging as not all governments in importing countries were apparently aware of the fact that South Africa stopped issuing paper based, printed certificates as from 1 April. A notice to this effect was published on the WTO's web portal. The result was quite a number of containers being stuck at the ports of entry. From the FPEF's side, we raised the matter with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) as well as with the South African Embassies in those countries - and the issues were resolved. Please note that all **Phytosanitary Certificates with agreement codes for the EU or Vietnam** will need to be **printed on normal A4 paper as a temporary measure** due to recent discussions with the NPPO's of these countries.



With regards to **APAC (Agricultural Produce Agents' Council)** and the **(APA) Agricultural Produce Agents Amendment Bill**, industry provided more than 50 submissions to the Portfolio committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and feedback on the next steps is still being awaited. Acknowledgement of receipt was received.

As reported earlier, we have also nominated FPEF members to serve on the APAC, representing the export Agents. It is still unclear when decisions on the nominations will be made.



The Road Traffic Act and Moratorium on the use of **high-cube containers** has now (again) been elevated to Ministerial Level where it will be handled by the Ministers of Transport, Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) and Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). Government encourages our industry to get more involved in exports to **other African countries** - and the implications of the high-cube restriction and certain aspects of the APA Amendment Bill, which will limit/inhibit taking advantage of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, were pointed out.

The 2021 edition of the **Fresh Produce Export Directory** (hard copy and digital/USB), together with the 2020 Annual Report will be sent to your postal addresses as soon as possible. The late delivery is due to delays by the service provider who produced the digital/USB copies. It will also be sent to SA Embassies abroad as well as other stakeholders, including Government departments. You can also find a copy on the FPEF website.

INDONESIA

The recognition of the South African food safety control system has been **renewed for a period of three years starting from 12 April 2021 to 11 April 2024** by the Indonesian Government. The recognition covers 14 fruit types, namely - apples, pears, grapes, lemons, peaches, nectarines, plums, prunes, shaddock or pomelos, grapefruit, apricots, cherries, citrus fruit and oranges.

South Africa must annually submit complete food safety monitoring data to the Indonesian Authority.



SOUTH KOREA

South Korea's export programme is once again in jeopardy. The 2021 programme began with an excessive number of mealybug interceptions during port inspections. This is creating significant disruptions to port operations and reflects a failure to follow the mealybug management protocols. PPECB will be inspecting fruit with a strict requirement of no actionable mealybugs and placing consignments with unidentifiable mealybug on hold pending mealybug identification.

PHILIPPINES

Although South Africa regained market access for citrus to the Philippines, some delays have been experienced by importers in obtaining import permits. The Philippines phytosanitary authority requested more information from DALRRD. In response, DALRRD provided a list of all the PUC's and PHC's registered for this market. Subsequently, a list of exporters was provided. Then again, DALRRD was requested to share addresses of those Food Business Operators (FBO's) planning to trade with the Philippines. DALRRD responded with the required information.

EXPORT DESTINATIONS

Market access is critical and one of the FPEF's key strategic focus areas. In this regard the FPEF is keeping up to date with the different commodities allowed for export to the various destinations abroad. A list of countries to which South Africa is allowed to export fruit to, is available. FPEF members can log into the "members only" section of the FPEF website to access the draft document. We welcome your input to keep the document up-to-date. Please e-mail Claudia with any comments, input and changes to the document.

**Kind regards,
Anton Kruger**