



KEEPING IT FRESH

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fresh produce
EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 28 January 2026

Dear FPEF Members,



As the year gains momentum, the **FPEF Board** recently met with the management team for a focused and constructive engagement where staff presented their respective portfolios. It was a valuable opportunity to align strategy more tightly with operational priorities and to reaffirm the purpose that underpins our work as an organisation serving the industry.

On the logistics front, engagement with **Transnet Port Terminals** is beginning to show some movement. While challenges remain and improvements are still limited, recent executive-level interventions have contributed to measurable gains in performance. Importantly, this industry engagement is now engaging both short-term operational interventions and longer-term structural changes aimed at sustainable improvement.

Trade show season is also officially underway. I am attending **Gulfood in Dubai** this week, before joining the FPEF team at **Fruit Logistica in Berlin** next week. We look forward to engaging with members and partners - if you're in Berlin, please do make a point of connecting with the team.

Finally, after sustained engagement and pressure from industry, the **APAC export agent rules** are nearing finalisation. The **Department of Agriculture and APAC** will be hosting public participation meetings during February and March, and it is critical that industry stakeholders participate in this process to ensure the publication of these rules.

As always, we appreciate your continued engagement as we work collectively to strengthen the South African fresh produce export sector.



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Market Access

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Export process assistance

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A **big thank you** to all members who have already paid their 2025_2026 membership Fees.

Members have until 31 January 2026 to make payment.

Please contact marinda@fpf.co.za should you have any questions or queries relating to your membership invoice.

TRAINING – JOHANNES BRAND

FPEF GRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2026

Appoint high calibre black graduates which will be an asset to your company through the FPEF's 2026 graduate placement programme. 97 graduates have been placed at FPEF member companies since the programme launched in 2016 with a 66% retention rate.

Candidates are available for commercial, logistics, post-harvest technical and data science positions.

The FPEF provides recruitment services free of charge via our service provider Agrijob, who will ascertain your needs and introduce you to suitable candidates. The FPEF will also make a salary contribution of R6 250 per month for up to 12 months for each graduate appointed.

For more information on or to participate in the programme, please contact

johannes@fpf.co.za 071 688 1888

T&C's apply



Fruit Logistica Berlin 2026

Fruit Logistica Berlin takes place from **4 to 6 February 2026** at the **Messe Berlin**. The National Pavilion is funded by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (*the dtic*).
Stand number: Hall 26 Stand E-50

There will be tables available on a first-come, first-served basis, which can be booked during the event at the reception desk. Please note that companies utilising the tables at the South African Pavilion are required to provide information regarding any business conducted during the event.



You are cordially invited to a **cocktail party** to be held on **Wednesday, 4 February 2026, at 16:00**, at the **South African Pavilion, Hall 26 Stand E50**.

We would like to **thank the following sponsors** for making this event possible:

SPONSORS OF THE COCKTAIL PARTY



- Citrus Growers' Association (CGA)
- South African Table Grape Industry (SATI)
- Contour Logistics
- GoReefers
- Jo-Rie Products
- PPECB
- SAFPRO
- Komati Fruit
- LCL Logistics Southern Africa
- Stems Fruit



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SARS: Policy Amendments (Trade)

Updated policy documents for Tariff, Valuation, Origin and Staged Consignment

SARS has released revised policy documents that **regulate tariff, valuation, origin, and staged consignments**. These documents now include specified turn-around times for the finalisation of determination applications submitted to Customs and Excise offices. The turn-around periods offer traders a clear understanding of the duration of the process. It **enhances transparency and accountability** within the process, enables traders to **make more informed decisions, reduces uncertainty, and enables them to plan their operations more effectively**.

Recently, there were challenges on submitting retrospective EUR1 certificates at the appropriate SARS office. Initial applications for EUR1 certificates were submitted to the region where an exporter (shipper) is registered. Instruction was received, that retrospective EUR1's must be submitted at the Port of Exit. When submissions were done to the Port of Exit SARS office, it was referred to the region where exporter is registered.

The EU protocol's provisions regarding the SADC-EU and SACUM-UK Regions such as Cape Town and Durban, generally recognise the retrospective issuance of EUR1 certificates, as the EPA has made provisions for it. In the event that there is no customs office in the production area, the office that is closest to the area must be visited. **We strongly encourage exporters to pursue the approved exporter program in order to circumvent these obstacles.**

Should you not have received the SARS updated policy documents, please contact the FPEF.



Deciduous season

Favorable weather and improved productivity over the past two weeks assisted Transnet to clear the backlog and reduce vessel congestion at the Cape Town Container Terminal. The deciduous export forecast was revised to reflect an earlier peak between weeks 4 and 7.

Transnet and Port of Antwerp-Bruges sign MoU to modernize South African ports

Transnet SOC Ltd has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with Port of Antwerp-Bruges International and the Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Centre to collaborate on the following;

- Operational
- Strategic
- Governance advisory support
- Sustainable strategies
- Port operations
- Digitalization
- Training and strengthening human and institutional capacities



In a radio interview with **SAFM**, Transnet Group Chief Executive, Michelle Phillips said; *“Unfortunately, with the challenges we have experienced, it has taken us back, but we need to catch up with the rest of the world, embrace innovation, and get our people on stream and aligned,”* she added, *“We will leverage global best practices to strengthen our ports’ strategic position as gateways for regional and international trade.”*

Call for Public Participation: Redrafted Export Rules

The **Department of Agriculture** has referred the **revised Rules for public participation**. Upon the successful conclusion of this process, the Rules will be formally gazetted into law.

After careful consideration of the prescribed timelines and the availability of relevant stakeholders, the following dates have been selected for the purposes of public participation:

- **Thursday, 19 February 2026:** An *in-person session* to be held in **Cape Town from 10:00 to 14:00** (venue to be confirmed).
- **Friday, 20 February 2026:** *Online session* to be held from **09:00 to 12:00**.
The meeting link is as follows:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/37140298493518?p=ShDwhWcMk5ahK2yG7K>

In addition to the above dates, provision is made for interested parties who are unable to attend the aforementioned sessions as follows:

- **Thursday, 19 March 2026:** An *in-person session* (10:00 – 14:00) in **Cape Town** (venue still to be confirmed).
- **Friday 20 March 2026:** *Online session* to be held from **09:00 to 12:00**.
The meeting link is available as follows:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/31131512186344?p=UBLHLNZCf6IHbbtGTi>

These dates have been selected to:

- Allow sufficient notice for stakeholders to prepare.
- Provide options across different days and times to maximize participation.
- Ensure alignment with the broader consultation schedule for regulatory updates.

Until next time,

Piet