



KEEPING IT FRESH



News from the FPEF – 08 November 2023

Dear FPEF Members,

During the past two weeks we were again involved in a few important activities; some of which the primary objective was to try and ensure the sustainability of our industry, and others to continue with the visibility of the FPEF.

With regards to the sustainability, we continued to engage with **Transnet** on action on the short-, medium- and long-term in efforts to get the ports more effective and efficient with a focus on the readiness of the **Port of Cape Town** for this deciduous fruit export season.

We have raised our concerns in all relevant forums and committees, provided quantified information, obtained a “wish list” from Transnet in terms of having functional equipment (including artisans and other technical staff). The **Western Cape Government** joined us in offering the support needed, linked to deadlines and Transnet’s commitment to accept the support, and commit to meeting the deadlines.

We are now also utilising the media to increase awareness and influence Government processes. Our industry information document, which was drafted jointly by us, **HORTGRO** and **SATI** was shared with you and the media e.g., **News24**, the Afrikaans radio station **RSG’s “Geldsake”**, via **Moneyweb** and other channels.

The above-mentioned engagements are being done with the support of our **Fruit Desk at Agbiz**, which escalates the issues to high-level bodies such as **NEDLAC** and **BUSA** (Business Unity South Africa).



Other forums/committees/activities where we were involved in included participation in the **AGOA Forum** where we utilised the opportunity to emphasise that AGOA will hold more benefits for us if it is linked with concluding our long-standing applications for access for avocado’s, wider access for citrus, and amended protocol for litchi exports.

The AGOA Forum also had a focus on Africa where we have highlighted our utilisation of ports in neighbouring countries (Maputo and Walvis Bay) as well as the constraints to maintain and increase trade with other countries, such as Namibia and Botswana closing their borders at very short notice, logistics, the lack of credit insurance and the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (**AcFTA**) not fully implemented yet.



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We have also ensured that the importance of fresh produce exports is included in the **NAMC** (National Agricultural Marketing Council)'s *Section 7 (S7C) investigation* to enhance export opportunities for fruits and vegetables in **SADC** and other African markets as well. The **S7C** should design an export and local promotion programme that will be jointly financed and executed by government and industries in line with a public-private partnership approach as enshrined in the *Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP)*.

Our involvement in establishing **Fruit South Africa** as an umbrella organisation for the producer associations and the **FPEF 10 years ago** was celebrated at an anniversary event in Pretoria which was attended by **Ambassadors** from various countries, the **dtic** (Department of Trade, Industry and Competition), our chairman (**Mark Jensen**) and myself (who is the **Chairperson of FruitSA**).

Fhumulani Ratshitanga, Fruit SA CEO, cutting the birthday cake with Fruit SA's chairperson Anton Kruger (photo: Frame Quest Media)



FINANCIAL MATTERS – ANNUAL MEMBER DECLARATION OF VOLUMES EXPORTED

Most of our members have met the deadline to submit their declaration of volumes exported. Once again, your assistance and co-operation with this exercise is highly appreciated.

However, there are still a few members whose declarations are outstanding and although we realise that members have other priorities, it would be appreciated if you could attend to this as soon as possible. We would appreciate your attention to this, if possible, **by latest Friday, 10th November**. Any questions/queries related to this request may be directed to **Marinda Roux** marinda@fpf.co.za.

PS: If your company **did not export** any produce between **1 Oct 2022 and 30 September 2023**, please confirm so in writing.

TRANSFORMATION

FPEF Export Market Access Training for Emerging Farmers



The **FPEF**, in collaboration with Partners in Agri Land Solutions (**PALS**) and **Koue Bokkeveld Opleidingsentrum**, facilitated two, two-day export market access training sessions for emerging farmers in September and October. The first was hosted in **Op-Die-Berg**, which is close to Ceres in the Western Cape and the second in **Ceres**. These training sessions are focused on providing the farmers with a comprehensive overview of the export process, which is set into motion once the fruit leaves the farm. The training is intended to assist growers in understanding the export

process, export economics, market dynamics and the role of export agents – to help strengthen relationships between farmers and export agents and improve export market access.



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Week on week (Tuesday) the total number of vessels at anchor on the South African coast has reduced from 38 to 35, Durban reduced from 27 to 24. In response to the ongoing delays shipping lines announced a congestion surcharge between USD200 and USD210 per container effective from early December and applicable to dry cargo. Transnet responded, reaffirming their commitment to work with shipping lines to find solutions to promote recovery and expressed their hope that this charge will be reviewed prior to implementation. Concern from industry will put further pressure on Transnet to fast-track operational improvement.

Vessels outside Cape Town port increased during the dredging period last week and even though the dredging was not completed, the decision was taken to return to a three-berth operation to address the increase. During week 44 CTCT loaded 10 477teu on a two-berth operation compared to week 43 loading of 10 122teu on a three-berth operation.



Despite all the plans presented, **CTCT** still only have 15 RTG deployed with two out for maintenance and while two more machines are undergoing engine refit and be deployed before month end, real relief will only arrive with the seven RTG's from Los Angeles that will discharge on the 10th of December with an estimated one week to have the machines and drivers fully operational. **MPT** will operate two berths during the season and have CTOC agreements in place for at least two services, while the projection is that two services will move from CTCT to MPT, one berth will operate with mobile cranes and the second with ships gear.

Transnet plans to have within a week, processes in place to facilitate industry support, in the form of parts, resources, or machinery. It was emphasized to the **Transnet Port Terminal CEO** earlier this week that time is of the essence and that industry is ready to assist.

The first table grapes shipments of the 2023/2024 season, have been loaded for export from South Africa and Namibia. The harvest looks promising, and we certainly got it right in terms of quality. The single greatest threat to this year's deciduous fruit export harvest, is logistics.

Reflecting on port performance in the Port of Cape Town Container Terminal in 2016, the following operational efficiency indicators had been achieved: Source: Transnet

- **Container moves per ship working hours (SWH) in 2016 = 54 moves**
An increase from 49 moves achieved in 2015.
- **Container moves per gross crane hour = 32**
An increase from 26 moves achieved in 2015.
- **Truck Turnaround Time in the terminal = 18 minutes**

Comparing these figures with the Port of Cape Town's performance presently (with minimal weather delays reported): Source: Transnet

- **Container moves per ship working hours (SWH) = 30 moves**
- **Container moves per gross crane hour = 13 moves**
- **Truck Turnaround Time in the terminal = 51 minutes**

Looking at the comparison of the Port of Cape Town's performance presently versus 2016, private sector participation (**PSP**) in the Cape Town Container Terminal (**CTCT**) will contribute to improved operational performance. A **PSP will also contribute to direct, indirect, and induced employment.**

The long-term plan of the Transnet National Ports Authority (**TNPA**) emphasises the Port of Cape Town's status as a fruit hub. In the same way, fresh produce exports are an ideal means of effectively addressing unemployment. The FPEF is steadfast in its endorsement of private sector involvement in the Cape Town port and will continue to provide assistance to **Transnet**, our national logistics partner, in order to facilitate its implementation.

FPEF AGM: REMINDER TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Herewith a **reminder** that the **FPEF AGM** is taking place as follows:



DATE: Thursday, 23 November 2023
TIME: 11h00
VENUE: Glen Carlou Vineyards, R45, Simondium Road, Klappmuts
SPEAKER: Dawie Roodt – Director and Chief Economist of the Efficient Group

We are privileged to have secured the Award-winning Economist, **Mr Dawie Roodt** as our speaker.

We would love to have as many of our members present as possible, not only to hear this entertaining speaker, eat good food and (drink delicious wine 😊) but also to ensure that we have a quorum.

There is **still space available** and we encourage you to **RSVP your attendance** to claudia@fpf.co.za, by clicking on and completing the form below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/bxiMsGrVvZ> or by scanning this QR code (it takes less than a minute to complete!)



Remember to send us your Board member nomination forms by 10 November 2023 to claudia@fpf.co.za.

Until next time,

Anton Kruger



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