



# KEEPING IT FRESH

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fresh produce  
EXPORTERS' FORUM  
SOUTH AFRICA

**News from the FPEF – 09 July 2025**

## **Dear FPEF Members,**

As previously communicated, the announcement by President Trump that a **30% tariff** will be imposed on goods imported from South Africa to the United States as of **1 August** is deeply disappointing.

However, it is reassuring to know that the South African government has committed to exploring all possible avenues to secure a **more favourable and fair trading outcome** for the country. Please see the attached media statement issued by the **Department of Agriculture** (Minister John Steenhuisen) for further details. **The current tariff of 10% remains in place until 1 August.**



In the meantime, the South African government has **signalled the urgent need for export market diversification** — a strategy we have actively pursued over the past 13 years. While there has been some success in securing market access for certain fruit types in select destinations, more progress is needed, and current processes must be accelerated.

Another major challenge lies in the **absence of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) or Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)** between South Africa and key growth markets in the East. As you are aware, this continues to place us at a disadvantage relative to our competitors. In markets where FTAs or PTAs are not viable, **bilateral trade agreements** should be prioritised and actively pursued.

**China** has recently indicated their consideration to lower tariffs for goods imported from African countries. Herewith a top quote from **Wandile Sihlobo from Agbiz**:

*“However, this statement remains symbolic mainly, as China has not provided any specific timelines or a negotiation template. Moreover, China's decision to exclude Eswatini from potential trade benefits also complicates South Africa's standing, as the country can only negotiate trade matters as part of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which involves Eswatini. This ultimately means that the Chinese pronouncement cannot be viewed as an immediate potential avenue for South Africa's agricultural exports.”*

As mentioned previously, we would like to introduce you to our Board members and this week you can learn more about **Chiliboy Ralepelle**.

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## FPEF Young Professionals Network Enjoy a Day of Creativity and Connection

By *Mulweli Matshidze*



On Saturday, **28 June 2025**, **13 young professionals** from the **FPEF YPN** gathered in **Stellenbosch** for a memorable day of creativity, networking, and connection. The group met at a local pottery studio-restaurant for an engaging pottery painting session, coupled with a relaxing lunch and refreshments. The atmosphere buzzed with laughter, artistic expression, and plenty of photo-worthy moments. As the paint dried, so did the barriers, giving way to genuine conversation, the formation of new friendships, and deeper bonds. Some attendees even made personal plans beyond the event, while others extended the day by continuing their lively discussions at a different venue. The energy was contagious, and the conversations so compelling that many were reluctant to part ways. More than just a social gathering, it was a heartfelt celebration of community, creativity, and meaningful connection.



## MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS – MARLETTA KELLERMAN

### Asia Fruit Logistica 2025

The next edition of **Asia Fruit Logistica** returns to **Hong Kong's AsiaWorld-Expo on 3-5 September 2025**. The FPEF will host the National Pavilion together with Fruit South Africa and is funded by the different associations under the Fruit South Africa umbrella. **A 120 m<sup>2</sup> stand is secured in Hall 5 stand number T19.**



Hong Kong 3|4|5 Sep 2025

**ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA**



### Fruit Attraction Madrid 2025

The next edition of **Fruit Attraction** will take place from **30 September to 2 October 2025 at IFEMA Madrid.**

The FPEF will host and fund the National Pavilion together with the Fruit South Africa members (grower associations).

**A 160 m<sup>2</sup> stand is secured in Hall 14 stand number D10 (new hall).**

### Outward Selling Mission Saudi Arabia

The **dtic** is extending an invitation to South African companies in the **agriculture** and **agro-processing sector** (excluding alcoholic beverages), Meat and Healthcare/Medical Devices to participate in the **Outward Selling Mission to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** taking place from **10-12 November 2025**. The purpose of the mission is to reinforce bilateral trade relations between South Africa and Saudi Arabia. Please see the email sent on 01 July (from Marletta Kellerman) for more information. The application closing date is **25 July 2025**.

Please forward your application with supporting documents to

[OSMSaudiArabia2025@thedtic.gov.za](mailto:OSMSaudiArabia2025@thedtic.gov.za)



### Citrus Marketing Forum Feedback

#### • Limiting PUC/Orchard Mixing in European Union Citrus Containers

The EU Regulation (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/632 of 13 April 2022) stipulates that upon arrival, a sample of at least 200 fruits of each species of the specified fruits, should be taken by batches of 30 tons, or part thereof. The interpretation of the regulation by some EU member states (such as Spain, Italy and France) result in a more stringent enforcement of the sample size.



The following recommendations and suggestions were brought forward during the CMF:

- Limit each container, where possible, to no more than two PUCs.
- Avoid mixing fruit from different orchards or PUCs on the same pallet

In this same way, the recommended approach would expedite inspections, prevent sampling intensity and alleviate port congestion and delays.

### Sanitary and Phytosanitary Sanitary notifications - United Kingdom and EU

Nothing noticeable received impacting fresh produce from South Africa. The FPEF monitors notifications closely to ensure we continuously stay up to date with the latest information, informing our members. The following can be reported, however, a significant low to no risk for fresh produce exports from South Africa:

#### **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072) – PH/058 pest measures**

The UK removed and added specific pests to the quarantine lists applicable to mainly pine, wood, bark and specific flowers.

#### **EU**

The draft legal act, proposed for amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, stipulates new import measures for commodities that are hosts of the Union Quarantine pest *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* and requirements for surveys in the EU territory. These bacteria can survive only a couple of weeks as free bacteria in soil. Multiple factors go into survival of a bacterial population, including temperature, humidity, and soil characteristics. It is commonly prevalent among a variety of beans.

### Food Safety and Quality Assurance (South Africa)



#### **R707 Standards for Food Hygiene and Food safety of Regulated Agricultural Food Products of Plant Origin Intended for Export for your comments.**

The Department of Agriculture is requesting proposed amendments to the regulation. We ask members to kindly contact [claudia@fpf.co.za](mailto:claudia@fpf.co.za) should you wish to provide your proposed input/comments. A template for comments will be shared with those members. The closing date for the submission of comments is the **1<sup>st</sup> of September 2025**.



### New Rubber Tyre Gantry (RTG) delivery

The second batch of nine knocked down **Rubber Tyre Gantries** arrived at the Cape Town Container Terminal this past weekend ahead of the scheduled arrival. Technical teams are on site to commence assembly after the **BBC PERU** completes discharges tomorrow afternoon.

Crane drivers will start familiarization and training on the first batch of RTG's where five out of nine units have been signed off before they go through endurance testing.



Then on Friday the **25<sup>th</sup> of July** the Cape Town Container Terminal will host a handover ceremony of the first batch of nine Rubber Tyre Gantries.

The third batch of 10 RTG's is expected to arrive in November 2025 completing the new equipment delivery.



### Integrated Transport Management Plan

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) embarked on the development of an Integrated Transport Management Plan (ITMP) for the Port of Cape Town. TNPA appointed a professional service provider in April 2025, with the objective to develop the ITMP during the 9-month period **May 2025 to January 2026**. The goal is to optimize the movement of goods and services in and around the port to enhance its efficiency, safety, sustainability, and competitiveness. The ITMP will address key areas such as port operations, traffic and freight flows, infrastructure (road, rail, maritime), land-use integration, emergency



response, and environmental impacts. It will provide a roadmap to manage and improve the transport systems connected to the port, aligning with national strategic objectives and anticipating future development needs.

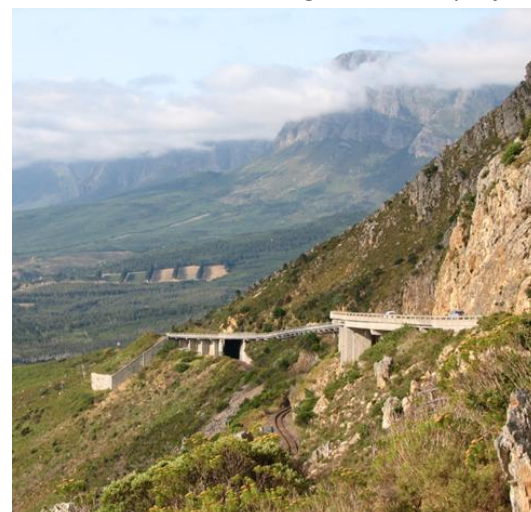


As part of this initiative, TNPA invited stakeholders to an in-person workshop to introduce the ITMP, share early concepts, gather input, and foster meaningful collaboration. Stakeholders had the opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions, and contribute to shaping a shared vision for a resilient, efficient, and sustainable transport system that supports the Port of Cape Town and its surrounding urban environment.

### Overberg Freight Rail Pilot Project



The Western Cape Mobility Department (WCMD) briefed FPEF and Agbiz on the **Overberg Rail Business Case and Implementation Plan**. This initiative is a pilot project under the **Western Cape Freight Rail Revitalisation Framework**, finalised in March 2025, and aligns with national priorities such as third-party access, private sector participation, and intermodal integration. The project aims to revitalise and improve freight rail services between the **Overberg region** and the **Port of Cape Town** via the **Belcon Intermodal Terminal**.



Stakeholders will assist with key logistics data to support the development of a robust and implementable freight plan. Areas of focus include: (i) **current and projected commodity volumes** (e.g., agricultural, agro-processed, and other goods); (ii) **growth forecasts**; (iii) **key origin–destination pairs**; (iv) **transport modes and modal share**; (v) **logistics costs and shift able tonnage**; and (vi) **the condition and access to relevant rail sidings**.



## BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION: CHILIBOY RALEPELLE



*"I am **Mahlatse Chiliboy Ralepelle**, newly appointed board member of the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum (FPEF). Best known for my years on the rugby field, representing South Africa with pride and resilience, I now stand at the dawn of a new and deeply rooted meaningful chapter – one rooted in the soil, in growth and impact.*

*Agriculture has become more than a passion; it is a purpose. I have transitioned from sportsmanship to stewardship – channelling my drive and discipline into the development of South Africa's agriculture sector. My commitment lies in creating opportunities for emerging farmers, promoting ethical and sustainable farming practices, and contributing to a more inclusive and silent Agri-economy.*

*Outside the boardroom and the fields, I am a husband, a father, enjoy mountain biking, target shooting, being in the bush around fire with friends and a proud South African dedicated to legacy-building. I believe in the power of community, of nurturing*

*from the ground up, and of shaping a future where our children inherit not just land – but hope, dignity, and possibility.*

*Joining the FPEF board is both an honour and a responsibility. I bring with me strength of teamwork, a fresh perspective, and a deep desire to see South Africa thrive – one harvest at a time."*



Until next time,

**Anton**



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