



KEEPING IT FRESH

fpef
fresh produce
EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 28 May 2025

Dear FPEF Members,

Currently, there are many and varied developments taking place, both domestically and internationally, which have an impact on our industry. Our perspectives and actions regarding these have been communicated with you during the past two weeks and as usual, most of it is being summarised in this newsletter. There are, however, also recent developments which are contained in this edition.

The importance of trade negotiations and tariffs have been highlighted in the recent meeting between **Presidents Trump and Ramaphosa**. We trust that while the USA-specific matter is being dealt with by the **dtic** (Department of Trade, Industry and Competition), they also attend to the other tariff issues affecting our industry; especially the fact that South Africa is only allowed to negotiate tariffs jointly with the other members of **SACU** (Southern Africa Customs Union).



Following the recent visit by a Chinese delegation, the **dtic** confirmed that **China is looking to negotiate an EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) with SACU**, like that which South Africa has with the UK and the EU. However, this can be a lengthy process, and China is clear that they will not grant unilateral preference to South Africa.

The University of Stellenbosch's **Department of Agricultural Economics** hosted a Centenary Celebration on **27 May** where the FPEF had the opportunity to highlight our role in a panel discussion with the theme: **From Conflict to Opportunity – What's Next for South African Agriculture?**

Recently published Employment Equity Targets

Agbiz met with the Minister of Employment about the recently published Employment Equity Targets to convey the concerns which business sectors have about the consultation process and the targets that have been set with minimal regard to business/industry inputs. The business/industry sector confirmed that it supports employment equity and does not oppose targets in principle, but these must be negotiated in good faith with business. Agbiz CEO, **Theo Boshoff**, conveyed the sector-specific challenges related to the current targets. A follow-up meeting is to be scheduled in the next two weeks.

fpef
fresh produce
EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

Market Access

Provide Information

Government Engagement

Transformation

Export process assistance

Research, Development and Innovation

FPEF Showcases Graduate Programme at AgriCareerConnect

The Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum proudly participated in the **AgriCareerConnect** career fair held at the **University of Johannesburg on 13 May**. This dynamic event, initiated by **Agrijob**—the official recruitment partner for FPEF's Graduate Placement Programme—offered an excellent platform to engage with students and promote career opportunities in the fresh produce export industry.

FPEF used the opportunity to raise awareness of its highly successful **Graduate Placement Programme**, which connects member companies with top-performing tertiary graduates. By engaging directly with students, FPEF aims to expand the talent pool available to its members, ensuring a strong and transformed future workforce for the industry.

The event also featured an informative Q&A session, during which students gained valuable insights into careers in fresh produce exports and had their questions answered by industry professionals.

For more information about recruiting high-calibre graduates through the FPEF Graduate Placement Programme, please contact Johannes Brand at johannes@fpf.co.za.



11th Annual Port Performance Roadshow

SAMSA on behalf of the **Department of Transport (DOT)** and **Transnet** invited port users to a feedback and consultation session on the **9th of May** for the Port of Cape Town. The Department of Transport shared R125 bn investment plans over five years of which 80% will be allocated to sustain existing infrastructure. The move to a singular Transport regulator is on hold until the bill to corporatize TNPA has been corrected and sent back to parliament.



Antoinette van Heerden (FPEF) with Johanna Malaudzi (CEO Ports Regulator)



Ophelia Shabane, Acting TNPA Cape Town Port Manager

The current **Port Regulator CEO, Ms Johanna Malaudzi**, shared that a review will take place on the tariff methodology and is keen to engage with industry and our members. We will arrange a session that would give insight into the Port Regulator, functions, responsibilities and what the tariff methodology will involve.

Presentations of the function will be shared.

Rehabilitation of Bayhead Road

The quality of the Bayhead Road has deteriorated and requires urgent intervention as it poses safety risks and operational challenges. TNPA is the custodian of port infrastructure and initiated the **Bayhead Road Rehabilitation Project** on this vital road connection between the national logistics network and the port.

TNPA awarded the contract on the 2nd of April 2025, to commence the construction phase on the **3rd of June 2025** and estimated completion the **15th of December 2025**. The project scope starts with the milling of the asphalt, repair damaged layer works, installing new asphalt and repairing kerbs. During Phase 1 all traffic entering the port will be diverted into the outbound lane while the inbound lane is under construction. All outbound traffic will be directed to use the by-pass road starting from the Langeberg intersection.



Weekly meetings with TNPA and the project team has been scheduled to keep industry updated of progress and address matters.

Annual Coordinating Meeting between DoA and Industry

On 7 and 8 May, the **Department of Agriculture (DoA)** and industry engaged in preparatory meetings and the annual coordination meeting on the completion of the deciduous season. From a logistics perspective, industry diversified the load ports for fruit exports, which resulted in less impact on the primary export Port of Cape Town. Weather conditions impacted port operations only in the later part of the season and provided some relief for exports via Cape Town in the early to mid-part of the season. From a trade perspective, deciduous fruit stock in the northern hemisphere markets were relatively low. Our traditional trading market fared well with a significant increase (+/- 52%) in table grapes consignments passed for inspection. The re-opening of the market in Thailand for apples, realised a surge in apple exports from a zero-sum base.

Key outcomes and important matters discussed during the meeting include:

- **The use of SF on wood packaging material to be used for consignments to the USA is prohibited**
For USA, the DoA recognise and register ISPM15 service providers to treat wood packaging material (pallets) with Heat Treatment (HT) or Sulfuryl Floride (SF) or Methyl Bromide (MB) as prescribed by the standard, **however, since late 2024 the USA does not accept SF treated wood packaging material.**
- A registration/tariff fee of R155 annually per FBO per market was announced.
- Industry should avoid registering for exports to special markets where there have been no exports to the specific market for the past three years.

Online (Phytclean) Registration dates for the various commodities:

- Table Grapes - Opened 22 May 2025
- Stone Fruit - Opening 30 May 2025
- Pome Fruit - Opening 06 June 2025

Important information regarding online registration:

- PUC and PHC registration can be accessed by the use of the following link: <https://app.phytclean.co.za/>

Provisional registration for the following markets:

- Table Grapes to Korea
- Stone fruit to China (exclude Cherries)
- Philippines table grapes exporter registration
Opening on the 29th of May 2025 and will be closing on the 6th of June 2025

Please contact the Support Team for any questions, at:

Office: (0)31 940 6795

Email: support@ecert.co.za

Support Platform: <https://support.ecert.co.za>

- In general, marking requirements remains wasteful expenditure and DoA time consuming exercise, impacting compliance and bilateral relationship with our phytosanitary trading markets. The DoA will consult with industry associations and host a pre-season marking requirements session for all stakeholders to attend.
- An appeal to notify new pests to the DoA as an early warning tool
- Self-regulatory risk mitigation measures **MUST** be followed by **all parties** registering for Taiwan, to manage risk of interceptions in Taiwan, given the three suspensions (2017, 2023, 2024)
- **EU (FCM) self-regulatory plum management system** measures **MUST** be followed by **all parties** registering plums for EU

MEMBERSHIP – CLAUDIA WALKLETT

We are pleased to announce that FPEF membership has grown to **171 members**. We extend a warm welcome to the following new members, who were officially approved at our Board meeting last week:

Sunfed (Pty) Ltd – Exporter Member

Ultimate Produce (Pty) Ltd – Exporter Member

MC Ghoor Trading (Pty) Ltd t/a **SGI Industries** – Associate Member

We wish them a long and rewarding association with the FPEF.



From all of the above it is clear that strategic insights and strong partnerships are needed to navigate what lies ahead.

Until next time,

Anton

