



KEEPING IT FRESH

fpef
fresh produce
EXPORTERS' FORUM
SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 31 January 2024

Dear FPEF Members,

As is the case every year at this time, quite a few of you are getting ready to depart for Berlin for **Fruit Logistica**, which takes place from the **7th to the 9th of February**. Information about the event will be shared again with you later in this edition of our newsletter.

A constant theme in our recent communication with you is the challenges in the Port of Cape Town. You might have seen in the media and in our communication that the Transnet Acting CEO, **Michelle Phillips**, took some decisive actions, such as transferring people and launching investigations. On the operational front we have experienced improved communication by the senior management in the port as well as efforts to improve efficiency. More on this will be shared in the section about Logistics.



We have seen progress with regards to market access where the protocols for the export of some of our fruits have been signed and implemented and others are close to being concluded.

The first meeting of our new Board took place last week and committees/work groups have been reconstituted.

These committees are:

- Market Access
- Logistics
- Transformation

The names of members of these committees have already been communicated to you and I thank those members once again for their willingness to serve our industry.

As was mentioned earlier, herewith, more detailed information on our activities during the past two weeks.



Market Access

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Fruit Logistica Berlin 2024

As was mentioned in the introduction, Fruit Logistica Berlin will be held from **7 to 9 February 2024**. We are responsible for the South African pavilion in **Hall 26 Stand H53**. There will be tables available for meetings but unfortunately, no tables can be reserved and a first come first served approach will be adopted.



Fruit Logistica Berlin Cocktail Party

You are invited to a cocktail party on **Wednesday 7 February 2024 at 16h00** on the **South African Pavilion Hall 26 stand H53**.

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

SPONSORS OF THE COCKTAIL PARTY



- Contour Logistics
- Dole South Africa
- Everseason
- Freshgold SA Exports
- Fruit Heart Exporters
- Komati Fruit
- LCL Logistics Southern Africa
- Pomona Fruit
- PPECB
- SAFPRO
- Stems Fruit
- Unifrutti SA



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MEMBERSHIP



We would like to extend a hearty welcome to our **new members** and trust that we will have a mutually rewarding association together.

Associate Category:
Adagin Technologies
CTI Coldstore

TRANSFORMATION

A background image featuring various fresh fruits like avocados, peaches, apples, pears, grapes, and oranges arranged in colorful woven baskets and on a white surface.

fpef INTERACTIVE ONLINE FORMAT

FRUIT EXPORT TRAINING

TOP OF THE CLASS PROGRAMME (TOC)

The course content covers the fruit export value chain from field to fork and is aimed primarily at employees in junior to middle management positions within fruit export companies, packhouses and logistics companies. It is also a valuable training tool for emerging farmers and exporters. Participants will gain an excellent understanding of the whole value chain and additional knowledge and insight in their own area of responsibility. Topics covered include; quality management, compliance, cold chain management, primary production, packing and packaging, road, sea and air freight, documentation, consumers, markets and the role of exporters.

The full programme will be covered in 3 blocks of 2 days each (total 6 days).

When	First training	7 - 8 May		21 - 22 May		4 - 5 June
	Second training	8 - 9 Oct		22 - 23 Oct		5 - 6 Nov

Where Interactive online format

Cost R4 250 / person ex VAT for the full 6 days

For further information or to book please contact
Johannes Brand
johannes@fpef.co.za
071 688 1888

Book as a group or an individual to be grouped with other participants

The logo for 'TOP OF THE CLASS' (TOC) with the tagline 'Transforming the SA Fruit Industry'. It features a stylized apple icon above the letters 'TOC'.

Ports

Western Cape fruit exports volumes are moving through all three South African ports placing some pressure on cool truck availability while shipping lines are supplementing empty equipment supply in Port Elizabeth and Durban. The past week 6963 pallets shipped on conventional vessels assisted in smoothing out the peak volumes. To date six European vessels will load exports in Port Elizabeth and omit the port of Cape Town.

Cape Town Container Terminal reported that 25 RTGs are available with 20 manned in the terminal today. From tomorrow, the manned number will increase to 24. Training for the RTG's from Los Angeles has been halted and certain workers will deploy in 12-hour shifts to increase productivity during the peak period. At the end of March, a permanent fourth shift will be in place giving the terminal greater flexibility. The acting Western Cape Regional Executive, Oscar Borchards shared in the mainstream media that there are pockets of excellence, and the next steps are to offer steady and consistent improved productivity.



An order has been placed for new terminal equipment for Cape Town and Durban. The new RTG's (Rubber tyre gantries) on order for Cape Town will be semi – automated ready, meaning it will arrive with a driver cab which can be removed and replaced by an antennae module that can then be controlled remotely from an office. Manufacturing completion date is currently the end of 2025 and excludes delivery and commissioning. There are efforts underway to advance the delivery date.

Market Access

Indonesia – South Africa's renewal of mutual country recognition (MCR) status has reference. The deadline for renewal is **11 April 2024**. Industry submitted information via DALRRD for renewal of MCR on 31 July 2023. The FPEF is working closely with Fruit South Africa's lobbyist to engage the South African Embassy in Indonesia and the DALRRD to ensure that the deadline is not missed.

UK – The FPEF investigated the WTO notification regarding the United Kingdom notice in terms of the new Border Target Operating Model (BTOM). Fresh produce was not one of the products indicated in the new BTOM and therefore does not require a health certificate by 31 January 2024. We are monitoring import requirements where the aim is to introduce a risk-based identification of plant and plant products.

Retailers

The FPEF and Fruit SA member organisations will be meeting a UK retailer at Fruit Logistica to provide an overview of South African fresh produce volumes. They will also be given a status update on logistics and general points of interest will be discussed in order for South Africa to remain the preferred supplier in the international market.

TPT Equipment & HR requirement

The FPEF received a request from TPT with regards to their need to procure reach stackers and empty handler equipment. In addition, a need for specific technical skills was also shared with the FPEF and a request for assistance was made. The FPEF engaged stakeholders to determine the availability and location of the equipment but also offered support on the specific HR personnel required. To date, TPT has managed to fulfil their need for the equipment, although the FPEF is still supporting the HR requirement.

Port of Rotterdam Tour

The FPEF offered an opportunity for FPEF members to attend a tour of the port of Rotterdam before the commencement of Fruit Logistica. The offer was quickly taken up and the maximum capacity has been reached. The FPEF coordinate activities with the port of Rotterdam authorities and exporters participating in the event, will gain valuable insight into logistics activities.



Agri-Hub

We welcome **JD van Wyk** as a new Director of Agri-Hub. JD brings a wealth of knowledge to Agri-Hub and we look forward to his positive contributions towards industry’s information needs. Agri-Hub continues to support e-Cert with regards to EU traceability compliance. Agri-Hub is presently investigating new developments with daily in-stock information and vessel ETA information is already available.

Hoping to see many of you in cold Berlin! Travel safely.

Best regards
Anton Kruger



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