



KEEPING IT FRESH



News from the FPEF – 17 January 2024

Dear FPEF Members,

And here we are at the beginning of a new year - which should be exciting and interesting given the fact that it is an election year.

I trust that those of you who could be on leave enjoyed it and are well-rested. Our table grape and stone fruit members, however, had to face daily challenges, mainly due to the inefficiency of the Port of Cape Town. Our Logistical Affairs Manager, **Antoinette van Heerden** and our COO, **Werner van Rooyen** also were (and still are) on duty to keep you updated about the situation in the port and tried to find ways to expedite actions.

Our Marketing Manager, **Marletta Kellerman**, was (and still is!) quite busy with finalising arrangements for Fruit Logistica Berlin. As was mentioned before, the dtic will not fund a South African pavilion and we as industry need to do it. Marletta will share more details about the event later in this letter.

Coming back to the Port of Cape Town:

It seems that **Minister Gordhan's** interventions after his tour of the industry a month ago, linked to meetings with him and the Acting CEO of Transnet, **Michelle Phillips**, are starting to yield results:

- Changes in the senior management team
- The establishing of a daily War Room meeting (concise 20-minute meeting) where daily productivity information is shared, discussed and actions identified.

In the meetings with Minister Gordan and Michelle Phillips, our offer of assistance with regards to equipment, spares, and even human capacity, was again put on the table – but there is no progress with it at this stage.

We are constantly looking at strategies and plans on how to assist you in ensuring that your product can arrive in sound condition at its destination. This includes engagements with shipping lines, participation in the NLCC (National Logistics Crisis Committee) meetings and working closely with Agbiz, HORTGRO and SATI.

Some FPEF members and producers have requested that legal action be taken, and we are obtaining legal opinions. Opinions which we have already obtained indicate that people who want to go this route should be very clear about what remedies they are seeking.



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APAC Rules for Export Agents

As was communicated earlier, the Cape High Court granted a court order, regarding terms agreed to between FPEF and APAC to:

1. Set aside certain specific Rules applicable to Export agents (“invalid rules”).
2. Allow APAC a period of 24 months to draft new rules to replace the invalid rules.
3. The new rules are to be drafted by APAC in conjunction with FPEF; and
4. To provide for interim rules that will apply instead of the invalid rules in the meantime, until such time as the new rules is published.

The invalid rules relate mainly to registration requirements for export agents on the local market, the requirement to pass certain regulatory exams, and auditing requirements for financial statements.

Export agents no longer have to comply with these specific invalid rules, and with effect from the date of the court order must comply only with the interim rules, and the other remaining rules that were not set aside.

As you are aware, we have been engaging with APAC for 12 years on the *Rules for Export Agents* and also the *APA Amendment Bill*.

The legal/litigation route was a last resort (which is costly), but we are pleased with the outcome and will now establish a work group to assist with the drafting of the new rules.

As was reported previously, we have also managed to get the *APA Amendment Bill* withdrawn via our consistent engagement with the relevant Parliamentary Portfolio Committee.

I want to thank those FPEF members who sacrificed their time by serving on the various committees, work groups and other forums to have made it possible.

A special word of thanks to our representatives who served on the APAC council:

Current members:

- **Liezl Gelderblom - Chair of the Export Agents’ Committee**
- **Aileen Zulch**
- **Angelo Petersen**

Past members:

- **Mark Jensen**
- **Anton van Zyl**
- **Danie Kieviet (Snr)**
- **Nico van Staden**

The matter of establishing a work group to assist with the drafting of the new rules will be discussed at the FPEF Board meeting on 24 January and we will communicate with you after the meeting.

And now, information on other matters as well as more information on Fruit Logistica Berlin.



Fruit Logistica Berlin 2024

Fruit Logistica Berlin will be held from **7 to 9 February 2024**. There will be tables available for meetings but unfortunately, no tables can be reserved and a first come first served approach will be adopted. **Stand number: Hall 26 Stand H53.**



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:

- 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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FPEF GRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2024

Appoint high calibre black graduates which will be an asset to your company through the FPEF's 2024 graduate placement programme. 68 graduates have been placed at FPEF member companies since the programme launched in 2016 with a 70% retention rate.

Candidates are available for commercial, logistics and post-harvest technical 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 R5 000 per month for up to 12 months for each graduate appointed.

Agrijob can also assist in meeting your recruitment needs for experienced candidates who are not part of this placement program, but this will be for your own account.

For more information on or to participate in the programme, please contact johannes@fpéf.co.za 071 688 1888



T&C's apply

LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS

In response to Industries letter to Minister Gordhan, a meeting with Michelle Phillips, Acting Transnet CEO took place in Cape Town last week. Among the plans already in progress include Navis experts assisting the planning team by installing advanced planning modules to increase productivity and reduce waste in the process. In the next week or two the Navis booking system expert will arrive in Cape Town to see how we can make better use of the booking system to ensure fluid vessel stacks. Progress will be monitored through the war room with separate work streams to address operational issues such as wind bound recovery and stack planning. The Port Elizabeth port will play a vital role in getting fruit out of the country during this season, with two Europe callers scheduled in January and one American vessel. We met with PECT/NCT Terminal management this morning to discuss processes, contingencies, and concerns which we will share in detail in the Logistics Newsletter.

The message to Transnet was clear this morning, we need to see improvement with great urgency and ensure capacity is upscaled with an offer from Industry to assist where needed. All hands on deck.



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e-Cert

The European Union (EU) notified relevant parties, specifically DALLRD, of the intention to modify the protocol by mandating electronic cold treatment information, beginning with the first citrus exports of the 2024 season, to enable full traceability for citrus exports. This topic was deliberated upon at the citrus coordinating meeting. Any validation or confirmation of citrus cold treatment, according to DALRRD, would need to flow electronically. The e-Cert team indicated that the deadline for “going live” with the TUM v3 was postponed from 01 February to 01 March 2024. The e-Cert team created an *IT Vendor Teams Channel* for all support queries and requests. IT Vendors are encouraged to contact e-Cert, if not already part of the channel. Please send your requests to join the channel to support@ecert.co.za, to be part of the process enabling full electronic traceability compliance for citrus exports. Exporters should be aware that IT vendors are now working diligently with e-Cert to meet the requirements of both exporters and producers.

FINANCIAL MATTERS – MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are **due on or before 31 Jan 2024**.
If there is any reason why you are unable to pay on time, please contact **Marinda Roux** (marinda@fpf.co.za).



A big thank you to all members who already paid their fees for 2024.

In conclusion:

I trust that the abovementioned activities show that your financial contributions (membership fees and pallet fees) are being well utilised in your interest.

Hoping to see many of you in a cold Berlin and trusting that you will travel safely.

Best regards
Anton Kruger



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