



# KEEPING IT FRESH



News from the FPEF – 24 April 2024

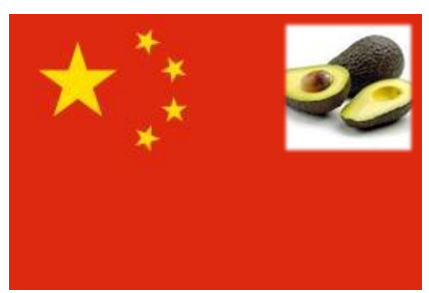
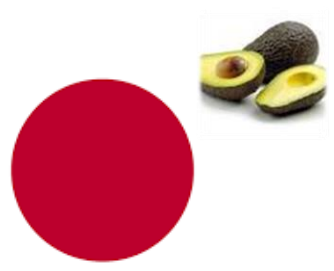
## Dear FPEF Members,

In these challenging times for our industry on various fronts, we are glad to share some good news with you regarding **market access**:

As you are aware we have been visiting the priority markets in the **Far East** and **South-East Asia** since 2014 every year in an effort to expedite access for our fruit to those markets. The visits include meetings with officials of the governments in those countries as well as with importers, traders, and business associations. The meetings with government officials are being led by officials of the South African government.

The relationships established and maintained with the decisionmakers slowly but surely led to some gains – the latest being **access** granted to export our **avocados to India**. We believe that our visits last year as well as in March this year, contributed to this.

- Other recent gains are:
- **Oranges to Vietnam**
  - **Avocados to Japan**
  - **Avocados to China**



Currently, some other applications are in an advanced stage, e.g. **for apples to Thailand**.



**Market Access**  
Provide Information

**Government Engagement**  
Transformation

**Export process assistance**  
Research, Development and Innovation

The process to gain access is sometimes cumbersome; especially in the Far East where the governments work on only **one application per country** and then mostly for **one fruit type**. Each country has requirements to prevent the entrance of new plant pests and diseases associated with agricultural produce, under the rules of the **International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)**.

## PROCESS

***Pest information Package (PIP)***



***Pest Risk Assessment (PRA)***



***Mitigation Quarantine pest list***



***Operational Workplan***



***Verification visit (of which we, the SA industry, carries the cost)***



***Official signing of a protocol between the countries***



## **EXPORTS**

The successes reprove that your financial contributions (membership fees and pallet fees) are necessary to fund our visits to those countries (including carrying the costs of South African government officials who need to be part of the delegations as well as the costs of the inspectors of those countries for their verification visits).

### **Reminder about IFPA events:**

- **Fresh Solutions** at the Bryanston Country Club on 28 May
- **Southern Africa Conference** on 5 and 6 August at Century City Conference Centre

### **Early Bird registration**

**REGISTER TODAY FOR THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**

Gain insights into global trends and what it means for your business.

To register, click on this hyperlink:

<https://www.freshproduce.com/events/the-southern-africa-conference/>

## TRANSFORMATION – FPEF GRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

So far this year **nine tertiary graduates** have been appointed in FPEF member companies through the FPEF's graduate placement programme. We are well on our way to reach our **target of 15 appointments for the year** and interviews are ongoing with several companies. The goal of the programme is to place talented young graduates in member companies in **commercial, logistics and post-harvest quality management positions** to further transformation in the industry. Since the programme launched in **2016, 77 graduates** have been placed in the industry with **70% of the graduates offered a permanent appointment after their initial 12-month fixed term contract**. Under the programme, the FPEF provides **recruitment services free of charge** through our service provider **Agrijob** and make a monthly salary contribution of **R5,000 per graduate for the first 12 months** (T&Cs apply).

To find out more or enquire about appointing a graduate contact **Johannes Brand** [johannes@fpef.co.za](mailto:johannes@fpef.co.za).

## LOGISTICS & OPERATIONS

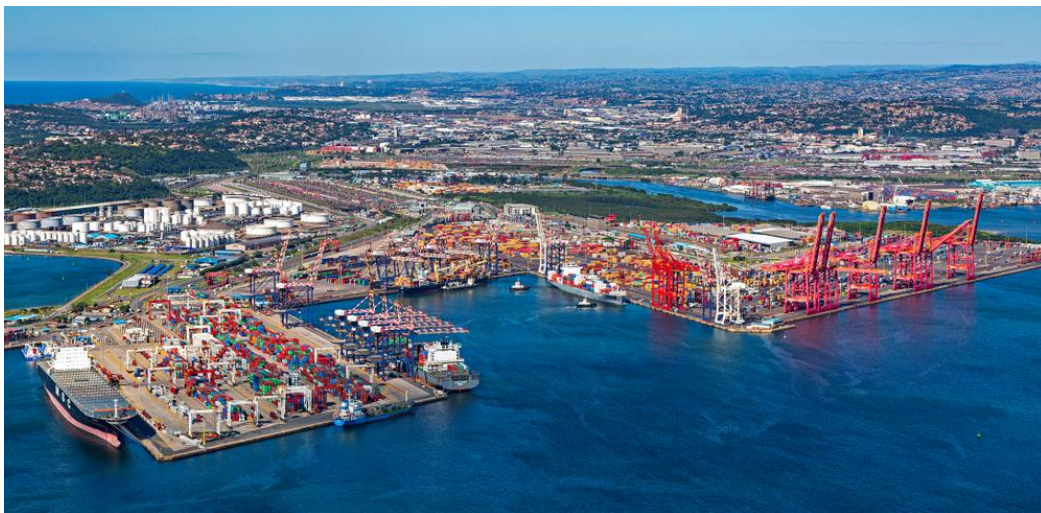
### Ports

On the Logistics front, we are working to improve visibility on port operations and assist members with decision making, we have embarked on a project to automate data. The aim is to share regular easy display reports as well as have the flexibility to investigate specific challenges and or comparing data sets or data periods.

This week FPEF had the opportunity to meet with Transnet, the Navis team and process improvement team to establish a baseline for the work groups that will be formed. The first step is to expand on the basic process map covering the export of fruit, including timelines and documentation. We will engage exporters to assist the Transnet process improvement team to map the details before the first workshop. There is welcome support from Transnet management to improve the end-to-end value stream.

The Durban Engineering team provided an update on the status of port equipment and immediate plans. At Pier 1, the goal is to ramp up to 17 RTG's by May. The first batch of nine new RTG's will arrive November of this calendar year, the next batch would arrive February 2027 although negotiations are ongoing to advance the order.

The Pier 2 straddle carrier target is 65, the terminal completed inverter upgrades on two machines and successfully



tested these machines. These upgrades will be rolled out to the rest of the fleet and create a bit more stability in the fleet. The straddle replacement programme is on track with final submissions received and the target is to award the contract on or around the 25<sup>th</sup> of April and the first batch to arrive March next year, but firm timelines will only be negotiated once the tender has been awarded.

**DALLRD communique on additional countries that are regulated in line with the EU citrus black spot regulation.**

A communication was issued by DALRRD concerning exports to particular countries and the corresponding enforcement of regulations. The purpose of this correspondence is to furnish a regulatory directive pertaining to the topic at hand (above). Citrus destined for export to the subsequent countries is subject to regulation in accordance with the Commission Implementing Regulation 2022/632:

- Switzerland
- Mayotte
- Reunion
- Montenegro
- Iran

The Commission Implementing Regulation 2022/632 will be enforced by DALRRD accordingly.

Best regards  
**Anton Kruger**



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