



# KEEPING IT FRESH



**News from the FPEF – 10 April 2024**

## **Dear FPEF Members,**

We begin this newsletter by congratulating three of our members who have been appointed as the **CGA Board's leaders:**

**Gerrit van der Merwe** from ALG Estates (ALG) is the new Chairman. The outgoing Chairman, **Hannes de Waal** (also a former FPEF Board member), from the SRCC, is now one of the two Vice Chairmen, and his fellow Vice Chairman will be **Jan-Louis Pretorius**, from Group91.

We congratulate them and wish them all the best in these roles.



**Gerrit van der Merwe**



**Hannes de Waal**



**Jan-Louis Pretorius**

As was mentioned in a message last week, the FPEF is a member of **IFPA** (International Fresh Produce Association), and we regularly receive information relevant to our industry. The message below is such an example. Should you wish to receive more information from IFPA, we encourage you to become a member (quite a number of FPEF members are already IFPA members) by sending an e-mail to **Jane Strijdom**, the SA Manager of IFPA: [JStrijdom@freshproduce.com](mailto:JStrijdom@freshproduce.com)

The Global Coalition of Fresh Produce (**GCFP**) [of which IFPA and SHAFPE are members] has launched a global survey to examine the costs of fruit and vegetable production and trading, as well as the prices received. The Coalition aims to understand how the situation has evolved over the past year. IFPA has requested all its councils to complete this survey. Please follow this link to participate: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MKBJJKQ>



**Market Access**  
**Provide Information**

**Government Engagement**  
**Transformation**

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

*Thank you!*



We are happy to share that **all membership fees for 2024 have been paid!**

**We wish to thank each member for their valuable contribution.** Please be assured that **these funds are optimally utilised to enable the Forum to achieve its objectives.**

**TRANSFORMATION – TOP OF THE CLASS ON-LINE TRAINING**



**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).

<b>When</b>	<b>First training</b>	7 - 8 May	21 - 22 May	4 - 5 June
	<b>Second training</b>	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@fpéf.co.za  
 071 688 1888

**TOC**  
**TOP OF THE CLASS**  
Transforming the SA Fruit Industry

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

**Ports**

The change of seasons is upon us with wrap up sessions planned for grapes and stone fruit during the month of April. At the same time Transnet Port Terminals shared their seasonal readiness plans for the Citrus season and PPECB/DALRRD provided guidance on export guidelines and requirements.

FPEF had the opportunity to give a presentation at the PPECB/DALRRD session in Cape Town, sharing lessons learnt from the deciduous season and how we see the citrus season transpiring. Just a kind reminder that **attending one of these sessions is a prerequisite for exporting to the EU** and that **the last session will be in Durban at the Jewish Club on the 16th of April.**

Agbiz arranged strategic sessions with Transnet, FPEF and producer organizations and the first meeting focused on the Western Cape medium to longer term plans. A shipping line has offered the assistance of experienced terminal planners to share best practices and upskill the Transnet planning department. There is a need to supplement the local trainers as Transnet aims to have crane drivers skilled across various machines to give the port more flexibility. Infrastructure investment proposals could offer greater flexibility for reefer cargo, and we will work closely with Transnet and Agbiz to explore how industry can assist.

**FPEF and CGA collaboration on logistics**

**Collaboration** is one of the critical pillars of the CGA’s strategy: **Vision 260.**

Coordinating efforts among producers and exporters in order to guarantee the efficient export of citrus volumes through various ports on a national and international level (e.g. Maputo) is a unique approach. As the deciduous season gave way to the citrus season, the FPEF was presented with the opportunity to collaborate with the CGA on logistics in preparation for the expected substantial surge in citrus export volumes this season. We are collaborating closely with the CGA to identify the information requirements that would facilitate prompt decision-making during periods of high demand.

**Eastern Cape ports status update**

Over the past few weeks, there has been a rise in equipment breakdowns at Nelson Mandela Bay ports, with challenges on the availability of straddle carriers requiring maintenance and/or repairs and less operational straddle carriers, obstacles with booking slots that emerged due to the lack of visibility and communication, shipping delays due to potentially high absenteeism, and a lack of a sufficient staging area for cargo entering the province from various other destinations.



Market Access

Government Engagement

Export process assistance

Provide Information

Transformation

Research, Development and Innovation

The FPEF and Executive Leadership from Transnet Port Terminals (Eastern Cape) engaged constructively, and an agreement was reached to replicate the success achieved with the **Cape Town – War Room**, in the Eastern Cape. The **Eastern Cape: War Room** is scheduled to kick-off on Friday with the **FPEF Chairperson, FPEF COO and FPEF Logistics Affairs Manager** present. Other key industry role-players were also invited to participate in the Eastern Cape: War Room. The war room will enable short-term decision making throughout the remainder of the citrus season, ensuring that the Eastern Cape region's record citrus harvest can be efficiently exported.

We have received requests to investigate if/which **remedies and/or legal actions** are available with regards to losses incurred due to the challenges in the ports. We have met with a Senior Advocate together with our legal advisors as well as Agbiz' Head of Legal Intelligence.

The outcome of these meetings, as was shared with you, was the following:

- An industry association (FPEF) cannot lodge claims for losses on behalf of its members.
- Should exporters wish to lodge claims, it will have to be on an individual basis.
- We as industry associations are, however, allowed to obtain certain information which can guide actions to be taken.

The most important information was identified as the content of the agreement between the **TNPA** (Transnet Ports Authority) and **TPT** (Transnet Port Terminals), enabling us to know what the respective roles and responsibilities are of these two entities. The only way to obtain the information is via a **PAIA** (Promotion of Access to Information Act) application. Such an application needs to be brought by attorneys. The application has been filed and an outcome might take quite a while.

Best regards  
**Anton Kruger**



Market Access

Provide Information

Government Engagement

Transformation

Export process assistance

Research, Development and Innovation