

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



PACKHOUSE
ACTION GROUP

Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held on 9 November 2023

Contact details are listed at the bottom of the Fresh Notes.

Feedback on visits to PAG quick link on the Hortgro Website

Contact: Elise-Marie Steenkamp

These were the top downloads:

- ▶ PAG Water Project Benchmark Results – Phase 5 – 1174
- ▶ PAG Water Benchmark results phase 4 – 1043
- ▶ PAG Water Project Benchmark Results – Phase 5 – Final Report – 894
- ▶ PAG Energy Project Benchmark Results – Phase 2 – Final Report – 784
- ▶ Cripps' Pink Internal Browning and long-term Storage – what has been learnt – H Taylor, E Crouch, D Viljoen – 756

For the period August 2023 – October 2023 this page had:

- 143 page views
- 109 users
- An average engagement time of 50 seconds

Conventional Shipping Protocols Contact: Bernard Henning

Currently, the PPECB blue book (Act 9 of 1983), is in use but not being implemented for conventional shipping vessels. The revised Regulation R917 will be updated in due course.

Update on Logistics Chain Efficiencies Contact: Jacques du Preez

Weekly meetings are held with the port authorities. Additional meetings were also held with the Western Cape and National governments.

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Delays of 10 – 12 days were currently being experienced for shipping. Procedures were currently being developed to access equipment and services from the WC government and private sector. The WC government offered services of 2 millwrights and 2 diesel mechanics for an interim period, whereafter feedback would be given on the processes. Industry was prepared to double up these services for 3 months.

Additional rubber tyred gantries were being imported from the USA, but would only be operational in December.

Transnet has established a readiness plan for operations, equipment and maintenance.

CTCT: Equipment Readiness Plan



Item	Action	Ramp up	Feedback	Est Date
STS Cranes	• 7 Cranes available	8 9	• LC1 – Aux trolley replacement • LC4 – Energy chain replacement • OEM Technical support (Awarded)	• 17 Nov • 17 Nov • Done
RTG	• 17 - 23 x RTGs available • Source second-hand RTGs internationally • Spares availability	18 19 20 21 22 23 - 29	• RTG 2 – Generator • RTG 27 – Generator • RTG 07 – Generator • RTG 14 – Generator • RTG 8 – Generator • 1 new engine to be installed on RTG 08 • 3 new engines on order as spares • 7 x RTGs available (loaded already on 27 Oct 2023) • Long-term spares contract in place	• 14 Nov • 15 Nov • 16 Nov • 30 Nov • 01 Dec • 12 Nov • 15 Dec • 03 Dec • Done
Haulers	• 41 - 49 Haulers available	42 43 44 - 49	• MH42 – Engine replacement • MH33 – Engine replacement • 5 Mercedes bends engine • Consolidating required spare (Multiple SOW) • Rebuilding standing haulers to 49 with TE assistance	• 12 Nov • 15 Nov • 30 Nov • 15 Nov • 15 Dec
Empty Container Handlers	• 2 ECH available • 3200 Reefer plug points availability • 3 Reefer forklift availability	3 - 7	• Leasing 5 ECHs (Non award), Confinement • Completed • Renew forklift hire contract (awarded)	• 01 Dec • Done • Done

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) work group Contact: Prof Wiehann Steyn

Hortgro is planning to appoint an ESG person to drive ESG work group, which will include packaging recycling, food waste, sustainability, environmental, carbon and human resources issues.

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Issues, identified by the Plastic work group, that could be addressed by the new incumbent, include:

- Colour coding of plastic strapping
- Encourage plastic recyclers to become BRC accredited to supply the demand for food contact recycled plastic for packaging
- Become conversant with food safety legislation/standards
- Co-ordinate industry-wide response to pressure suppliers to meet market deadlines
- Become conversant with UN Plastics Treaty due to be finalised and ratified by end of 2024

1-MCP Treatment of Packham's Triumph

Packham's Triumph pears treated after harvest remain firm and rubbery and do not ripen to a soft melting texture. Hortgro Pome has thus requested that Packham's Triumph pears should not be treated immediately after harvest. Recent information has shown that delayed 1-MCP treatment during storage on Packham's Triumph may have a beneficial effect on quality. It is recognised that Packham's Triumph pears are now stored for longer periods, and the recommendation is that they can be treated for this purpose after a minimum period of 2 months of cold storage, or just prior to room opening.

It is the opinion of Hortgro Pome that producers must act responsibly in the long-term interests of the industry.

Next Generation packaging systems for Hi – Cube containers Contact: Prof Wiehann Steyn

Experico has received approval for a one-year scoping exercise by to gather information for the project.

Packhouse Benchmarking Project Contact: Willem Coetzee / Hendrik Claassen

Frudata has been approached to conduct the benchmarking exercise, henceforth.

Packhouse Water and Energy Management Projects Contact: Eddie Vienings

The next phase of these projects is underway.

Fire Risk Project Contact: Koos Bouwer

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It was reported that insurance companies are placing more onerous requirements on packhouses to obtain insurance. Additional participants are required to participate in this project. Please contact Koos Boucher.

Projects for 2023/2024

Water Benchmarking	K Heyns
Electricity Benchmarking	K Heyns
Packhouse Benchmarking	W Coetzee/H Claassen
ESG Work group	Hortgro
Min packaging specs	J Strydom
Shipping Temperature Regimes	J Strydom
Fire Risk project	K Boucher

Market Access Feedback

Contact: Jacques du Preez / Lindi Benic

Mexico

Invitation letters will be provided soon.

Taiwan

S Johnson (Hortgro) and DALRRD conducted a codling moth investigation in EGVV. An additional investigation was conducted by DALRRD in the Langkloof and a second round of reports were compiled for the Taiwanese authorities, after the interception of codling moth larvae in Taiwan. Packhouse inspections would probably take place and it is necessary to identify committed packhouses for inspection.

Thailand

The draft apple protocol was accepted by SA. Two Thailand inspectors are expected during February for the PUC & PHC inspections – this is still to be confirmed.

Philippines

Awaiting further feedback from Philippine authorities regarding access for apples and pears.

PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

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Please contact the relevant person if you have any queries regarding the PAG.

Chairman – Koos Boucher (bouweb@orangenet.co.za)

Engineering – Henk Ryke (henk@tad.co.za), **Koos Boucher** (bouweb@orangenet.co.za)

Packaging – Bryce MacIntyre (bryce.macintyre@gmail.com)

Environmental Footprint – Eddie Vienings (eddie@bluenorth.co.za) / **Karliën Heyns** (karlien@bluenorth.co.za) / **Hugh Campbell** (hugh@hortgro.co.za)

Packhouse Large – Francois Malan (francois.malan@cfg.co.za) / **Willem Coetzee** (willem@dutoit.com) / **Hein Punt** (info@lanko.co.za)

Packhouse Small – Hendrik Claassen (hendrik@bellafrutta.co.za), **Thinus Look** (thinus@jjlook.co.za)

Post-Harvest Quality – Dr Elke Crouch (elke@sun.ac.za), **Henk Griessel** (henkg@tru-cape.co.za), **Jaco Moelich** (jaco.moelich@fruitways.co.za)

Logistics – Johan Strydom (pslog@mweb.co.za) / **Andy Connell** (andy@abarc.co.za)

Communication Strategy – Richard Hurndall (hurndallr@gmail.com) / **Koos Boucher** (bouweb@orangenet.co.za) / **Elise-Marie Steenkamp** (elise-marie@hortgro.co.za)

PPECB – Bernardus Henning (bernardush@ppecb.com)

FPEF – Werner van Rooyen (werner@fpef.co.za)

DALRRD – Director: Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Billy Makhafola, (BillyM@dalrrd.gov.za)

DALRRD – Regional Manager: NPPPIS WC Directorate: Inspection Services, Gcobani Tsako (GcobaniT@dalrrd.gov.za)

Hortgro – Jacques du Preez (jacques@hortgro.co.za), **Lindi Benic** (lindi@hortgro.co.za)

Research – Prof Wiehann Steyn (wiehann@hortgro.co.za)

SIZA – Werner van Dyk (werner@siza.co.za)