

HORTGRO NEWS



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Next Generation: Goosens...since 1861



Some prophets of doom say farming is on its way out. Six generations of Goosens cast a different light. Pictured above, Janus, Danie and JC Goosen. Read Gerrit Rautenbach's story [here](#).

'FIRST APPLE' BACK IN CAPE

For the first time in hundreds of years, the progeny of the 'first apple' picked at the Cape of Good Hope is back on South African soil.

Although the plant material is in quarantine at a facility in Stellenbosch until 2019, the Witte Wijn Appel, the first apple recorded in the diary of the Dutch governor at the Cape as picked in the Company's Garden on April 17, 1662, has been found in Holland and imported back into South Africa by **Hortgro** and **Tru-Cape** Fruit Marketing. Full story [here](#).

The Witte Wijn Appel pictured here is from a painting by Karel van Biljon in Buks Nel and Henk Griessel's book: *Apples in the Early Days at the Cape*.



EERSTE SAGTEVRUGTEMUSEUM

Op 80 het Pierre du Toit, 'n passievolle afgetrede vrugteboer, 'n ou koelkamer op die plaas Bokveldskloof, in sover sy kennis strek, in die eerste sagtevrugtemuseum in die land omskep. Dit is 'n museum-in-wording, sê hy. Maar daar is alreeds genoeg om te sien om die uityr oor die Gydopas die moeite werd te maak. Lees storie [hier](#).



CULDEVCO AND ARC PARTNERS AGAIN

A new agreement between Culdevco and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) for a further 10 year period was signed last week in what can be described as 'a best-practice step to commercialise home-grown' cultivars locally and internationally. Read story [here](#). Pictured here (at the back): Prof Bongani Ndimba, Dr Cynthia Motsi, Dr Leon von Mollendorff from Culdevco. In front, Dr Shadrack Moephuli and Dappie Smit from Culdevco.



JOBS FUND PROJECT ON TRACK

The Deciduous Fruit Development Chamber (DFDC) commercialisation programme is funded by the Jobs Fund in partnership with the deciduous fruit industry and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. This programme is on track and progressing well in the Langkloof. Its scheduled implementation period is between 2016 and 2020.

Read an update report [here](#).



FRIKKIE JACOBS OOR DIE DROOGTE EN OM 'N LANDBOUER IN 2018 TE WEES

Frikkie Jacobs was in 2015 die sagtevrugtebedryf se Plaasbestuurder van die Jaar. Dit was so ampertjies of hy het polisieman geword. Lees hoe Frikkie, tans plaasbestuurder op Queen Anne vir die Bo-Radyn-

Groep, die droogte hanteer en sy raad aan jongmense wat die landbou wil betree. Lees storie [hier](#).



STRONGER TOGETHER - DISCUSSING CHALLENGES

At the end of last year the Stronger Together campaign was launched in South Africa to raise awareness about forced labour and hidden labour issues. This new specialist, collaborative industry programme aims to protect and enhance the reputation of the businesses in the wine and fruit sectors as good employers. Workshops are currently being held throughout the Western Cape.

To learn more about the programme go to <https://stronger2gether.org/> or

contact the programme manager Caroline Pool [here](#).

Find workshop schedule [here](#).

**stronger
together**
tackling modern slavery in supply chains

LAND EXPROPRIATION: PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PARTICIPATION

Please find attached the programme of the Constitutional Review Committee regarding the public hearings on expropriation without compensation. They have opted for option B. Please note that the programme may still be adjusted. Download the programme [here](#).

HORTGRO SCIENCE ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Do you want to know what research is taking place in the pome and stone fruit industry? Get a birds-eye view of the different programmes and who is doing the research. If you want to delve deeper, read the abstracts of our 116 projects, or see how the research process works, or who sits on the different advisory committees and workgroups. You can also see what has been published and which events took place. Read it all in the Hortgro Science 2016/17 Annual Report [here](#).

The image shows the cover and several pages of the Hortgro Science Annual Report 2016/17. The cover features the title in a stylized font on a red background. The content pages include:

- Where funding is being spent:** A circular chart showing funding distribution: 37% for Apple Research, 21% for Crop Protection, 19% for Crop Production, 17% for Breeding, and 8% for Market Alignment.
- Phytosanitary:** A section discussing research on phytosanitary threats to the industry, including expertise and researchers and students.
- Funding Allocations 2016/17:** A pie chart showing the distribution of industry funding for research across various categories like Breeding, Crop Production, and Market Alignment.

DROUGHT STRESS ON TREES

Drought stress can cause out-of-season blossoms as shown on this Forelle tree (pictured right) in Ceres. Any cause of stress, followed by an improvement in growing conditions can cause a growth flush, which leads to blossoming. In this specific case, the tree probably underwent drought stress which paused growth and possibly caused leaf drop. When conditions improve (think thunderstorm rains) the strongest buds grow out.



SAFE FUMIGATION AGENT CAN CONQUER GRAIN CHINCH BUG, RESEARCH SHOWS

The industry-funded research on the fumigation of fruit to control grain chinch bug is near completion. The student, Renate Smit, is in the final stages of her PhD. Based on her results, the Postharvest Innovation Fund (PHI) approved an additional R1 million to develop a commercial fumigation system based on a converted shipping container. Ethyl formate is used as the fumigation agent and is regarded as safe. The material breaks down rapidly and leaves no residue on treated fruit. The current research has determined the mortality of grain chinch bug under various temperatures and fumigation times. In addition, the effects of ethyl formate fumigation on fruit quality have been thoroughly assessed. The development of a commercial system will allow the industry to address the issue of live insects on packed fruit. Once the system is up and running it is envisaged that fumigation of other insects on a variety of fruit types will be assessed using the system.



THIRD PARTY RESEARCH REQUESTS

Hortgro Science has drafted a 'Terms of Reference' to handle research projects that are not funded by the industry but have an impact on the industry. Growers are intermittently requested to participate in research projects. You are recommended to refer these projects to Hortgro Science. This does not refer to product evaluation trials or registration trials. Please contact Wiehann Steyn in this regard 021 870 2900 or [wiegann@hortgro.co.za](mailto:wiehann@hortgro.co.za)

HORTGRO TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM: REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

The Hortgro Science Technical Symposium is the flagship event on the deciduous fruit calendar. This event is attended by progressive growers and thought leaders throughout the entire supply chain of the deciduous fruit industry. **Daniel Silke**, an independent political analyst and futurist, is one of the keynote speakers at this year's event. His address is titled "Tracking the future: Global trends 2025 and beyond". See the full draft programme [here](#), or visit our website for more information [here](#).



Daniel Silke

AGRI'S GOT TALENT 2018 – ENTRIES NOW OPEN

If you dream of becoming a star, have a golden voice and work in a packhouse, orchard, vineyard or cellar – Agri's got Talent is the opportunity you have been waiting for. This is the fifth year that this very popular competition is rocking our farmyards. Songs can be performed in any genre, so whether you're into pop, RnB, acoustic, rap or classical, Agri's got Talent wants to hear it all. Read more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

12 APRIL: Orchard of the Future Orchard Walk – Paardekloof, Ceres. Contact

28 MAY – 1 JUNE: Hortgro Technical Symposium 2018.

3 AUGUST: Agri's Got Talent Gala Evening Allée Bleue.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Expropriation without compensation...

Given the uncertainty and potential to disrupt and destabilise agricultural and related production processes, the recent policy proposal of expropriation without compensation (EWC) is of grave concern. While this uncertainty prevails, it will have a severe impact on financing and security of ongoing investment in fixed assets, infrastructure and equipment in the agricultural value chain and will impact negatively on existing and new jobs.

We do need to acknowledge the need for accelerated, successful and sustainable land and agrarian reform and transformation. Many private and industry-led land reform initiatives have already achieved successful outcomes and more are in the planning phase. We need to sustain and strengthen this momentum, whilst also learning from the mistakes made to date.

The challenge of land reform can also not be exclusive to the agricultural arena but is a national issue which should include solutions to both rural and urban property ownership based on tradeable and secure title deeds. This also goes wider than land and include other forms of property and ownership. The fundamental issue is that property rights are the cornerstone of any successful economy, and even more so for agriculture.

The political undertaking that land reform needs to be underpinned by the principles of food security, the maintenance and creation of jobs - specifically aimed at the youth - a stable and profitable South African economy and the agricultural sector in particular, should be welcomed and provide space for in-depth debate and analysis for finding constructive solutions. In this process the lesser value of land as a production factor relative to the value of the total agri- and related business developments and investments around the land should be acknowledged.

Hortgro has committed itself to participate in processes and debates in an effort to find solutions that are in the best interest of all South Africans within the ambit and parameters provided by appropriate legislation. Of vital importance is that the oxygen for populist antics and opportunism in this debate from both sides of the political spectrum, be eliminated by fearless and consistent leadership from a broad spectrum of civil society. We need to find a lasting solution to the benefit of all South Africans.

Anton Rabe

The alternative is too ghastly to contemplate. John Vorster

The man who fears losing, has already lost. George RR Martin



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