

HORTGRO NEWS

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HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR LITTLE KAROO PRODUCERS AND FARMWORKERS

During the holidays the fruit industry took action to combat the devastating effects of the drought in the Little Karoo where some producers have lost their farms, and more than 610 farm workers (with an estimated 2440 dependants) have lost their jobs. More than 300 hectares of deciduous fruit trees have died. Hortgro in association with the Canning Fruit Producers' Association, Agri Western Cape, Agri SA , and Wine TU have pooled resources to help producers in the Little Karoo financially to carry on with the rest of the production season. Funds were also made available to contain regional crop protection risks. Read more [here](#).

Pictured here, Hortgro, handed out 1000 food parcels to farmworkers' families just before Christmas.



NEW BOARD DIRECTOR FOR HORTGRO

The Hortgro Board has appointed Angelo Petersen as a new director. Read more about Angelo [here](#).



LANGKLOOF GERUK DEUR FRATSONGELUK

'n Tragiese fratsongeluk vroeg in Januarie het die lewe geëis van een van die Langkloof se staatmaker leierboere, Bokkie Kritzing. Lees meer [hier](#).

Asook 'n huldeblyk deur Johan Kotzé [hier](#).

TWO ENTOMOLOGISTS EXCEL

For two of Stellenbosch University's researchers, their successes were rewarded with research excellence awards. Proff. Pia Addison and Antoinette Malan of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology at Stellenbosch both received the Vice-Rector: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies research excellence award for their individual contributions to accredited publications. Read more [here](#).

Pictured below: Pia Addison doing fieldwork. And on the right: Pia Addison and Antoinette Malan with their awards.



NORMAT FARMS' LADIES CHOIR SINGS SONGS OF HOPE

The Normat Farms' Ladies Choir achieved first place for the second year running at the Koue-Bokkeveld Training Centre's choir evening. They are truly a choir of note, but it didn't happen overnight. Read their story [here](#). Watch and listen to them [here](#).



HORTGRO GROWS AGRI LEADERS

For any operation, the quality of its management team's leadership skills is crucial, and there is a direct positive correlation between business performance and effective leadership behaviour. Read more about a leadership development programme that was recently held at Saron, [here](#). Pictured here some of the delegates attending the programme.



WATER METER DEADLINE

All water users that undertake commercial irrigation and who do not belong to a water user association or irrigation board are required to install meters and report on consumption within 30 days; deadline 17 February 2020. Read more [here](#).



HORTGRO ANNUAL REVIEW AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

[Hortgro Annual Review 2019](#)

[Hortgro Science Annual Report 2019](#)

[Fresh Quarterly #7: What's next for plastics?](#)

[Fresh Notes 157: Mites in hot and dry conditions.](#)

[Fresh Notes 159: Monitoring & control of BD](#)

[Fresh Notes 169: Harvesting during heatwave conditions.](#)

EXTREME TEMPERATURES AND YOUR HEALTH

Globally, extreme temperature events are observed to be increasing in their frequency, duration, and magnitude. Between 2000 and 2016, the number of people exposed to heatwaves increased by around 125 million. In agriculture producers and farmworkers are at risk. Read the World Health Organisation's pamphlet about rising temperature exposure and your health [here](#).

→ UPCOMING EVENTS

13 Maart 2020: SAGTEVRUGTE FYNPROE by die Toyota US Woordfees.

Koop kaartjies hier: <https://woordfees.computicket.com/>

14 March 2020: TRU-CAPE HERITAGE ORCHARD TOUR. Visit [Quicket](#) to book your spot.

26 and 27 May 2020: HORTGRO RESEARCH SHOWCASE, Stellenbosch

Contact Thea van Zyl (thea@hortgro.co.za) for more information on our events.

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

Fresh Quarterly Issue 6: [Salinization / Verbrakking](#)

Fresh Quarterly Issue 7: [What's next for plastics?](#)

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke: February 2020](#)

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

Vind 'n magdom van bedryfsinligting in ons videobiblioteek [hier](#).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

NEW DECADE - SAME CHALLENGES

As we start a new year and a new decade, the challenges and problems, but also the corresponding opportunities associated with these issues, remain. Ongoing global trade and safety instability linked to some really crazy people in different parts of the world, continued ignorance and denial (or is it plain stupidity) of the realities of climate change (ongoing devastating droughts, horrific fires in Australia and California, tornadoes in parts of South Africa where it has never occurred before, etc.), and locally also ongoing (criminal) mismanagement of key domestic services *ala* "Eishcom" with continued load shedding crippling our economy, ports and commuter rail, safety especially in rural areas, and the legacy of state capture with very slow prosecution of guilty parties, unfortunately provide too much food for reflection.

I believe that now is the time for real and fearless leadership from both the politicians and private sector to ensure that when we enter the next decade by 2030, these challenges will mostly be dealt with. That should be our collective goal – that will need some brave decisions and hardships, but if we don't buckle down as a nation we will not get out of this rut.

Very importantly the trade unions will need to come to the party and accept that at least some privatisation of key state-owned enterprises are required. Our collective focus should be on creating new jobs via an enabling policy environment and public-private partnerships and not trying to panel beat an outdated and clearly dysfunctional system protecting an elite.

I thus pledge my personal and that of Hortgro and its related industry structures' commitment to supporting any and all constructive programmes and processes to make a difference where required. Our industry has a proud record over more than two decades of being able to adapt, adjust, envisage, develop and implement projects and programmes which meaningfully and sustainably provide an enabling environment for our diverse stakeholder groupings.

This track record and approach need to be added to over the next decade. We are

indeed very much part of the solution by doing and thinking differently. This approach will not change.

A belated "Happy New Year" to all.

Regards

Anton

Hoede af vir die verlede en baadjies uit vir die toekoms. - CR Swart

The most successful people are those that are good at Plan B. - James A. Yorke

The past is in your head. The future is in your hands. - Anon



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