

## CONTENTS

- Hortgro Research Showcase 2020
- Fresh Quarterly Issue 10: fruit set; grain chinch bug; and more
- Africa - the last frontier?
- A brave new consumer world
- Weefseltegnologie: vermeerder vinnig en veilig
- The value of independent evaluation
- Agri's Got Talent 2020 - Top Ten announced
- Information at your fingertips, Timely Hints, YouTube Channel
- From the Executive Director's desk



## HORTGRO RESEARCH SHOWCASE 2020

The **2020 Hortgro Research Showcase** where researchers provide you with condensed presentations on all ca. 100 Hortgro-funded projects was another casualty of Covid-19. But although the physical event couldn't take place, **Thea van Zyl** (Hortgro Events Coordinator) and team, together with project leaders did a marvellous job to capture all the projects as voiced-over or **video-taped 5 min presentations**.

These presentations were uploaded onto the [Hortgro Science website](#) according to fruit type (pome or stone), research programme and theme (e.g. Crop Production, Rootstocks) where they are accessible to any grower who wants to know exactly what research is currently being funded. Visit the site and share in our exciting research journey.

[Visit site here.](#)

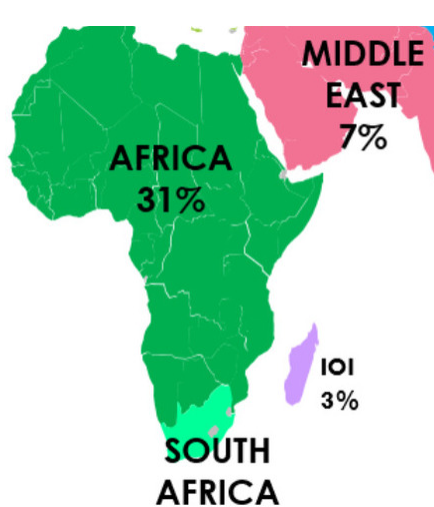


## FRESH QUARTERLY #10 - SEPTEMBER 2020

This past season, plums, particularly in Worcester, Robertson, and the Klein Karoo, experienced serious **problems with fruit set** on certain cultivars. In this issue, we explore the concept of fruit set in general and more specifically in plums in an attempt to try and unravel what happened and how to prevent it in the future.

The **grain chinch bug** is an insect with a long history... **Shelley Johnson** tries to find ways to eliminate this hitchhiker that hibernates on our fruit.

Download the FQ [here](#).



## AFRICA - THE LAST FRONTIER?

"Africa is not for sissies" is a term often used and undoubtedly describes Africa's unique challenges – from the varying climates, logistics to doing business. **Jacques du Preez** explores the challenges and opportunities of Africa as an export destination and business partner in an era of protectionism.

Read it [here](#).

Also, watch **Dr Roelof Botha's** economics forecast for SA beyond COVID-19: "SA's is feeding Africa. And exports are going through the roof" [here](#).



## A BRAVE NEW CONSUMER WORLD

The impact of COVID-19 on the world economy and consumers can be equated to a meteor hitting earth. It has changed everything. But will those changes have a lasting effect? Local consumer reports indicate that people avoid malls and refrain from impulse buying. Consumers want value for money and they are counting their cents. The 2020 COVID-consumer also came under the spotlight during a recent producer information day. **Elise-Marie Steenkamp** connects the dots.

Read more [here](#).



## WEEFSELKULTUUR: VERMEERDER VINNIG EN VEILIG

In tuinbou, is weefselkultuur wêreldwyd op almal se lippe. Die Suid-Afrikaanse vrugtebedryf kan nie bekostig om agter te bly nie. **André Smit** en **Charmaine Stander** het dié opwindende tegnologie, asook die nuwe **Tissue Culture Facility**, net buite Paarl, onlangs aan produsente bekend gestel.

Lees meer [hier](#).

## THE VALUE OF INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

At a recent producer information day, held by the CPFA/Hortgro Dried Tree Fruit, Provar's **Iwan Labuschagne** and **Carl Hörstmann** gave an overview of their achievements over the past years and a summary of their 2019-20 activities; including 30 evaluation sites, an app, and evaluation manual. Read more [here](#).



## AGRI'S GOT TALENT 2020 TOP TEN

Who will wear the AGT crown this year? Meet our fabulously talented Top Ten contestants in this year's competition. May the best singer win!

Read more [here](#).

### → INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

D6/Hortgro24 Information app. Email [taryn@hortgro.co.za](mailto:taryn@hortgro.co.za) for more information.

### → HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

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

### → HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting [hier](#).

PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGELS](#)

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

### SOME NORMALITY, BUT INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY

In the past few months, it has repeatedly been said that nothing will ever be the same post-COVID. We are far from "post-COVID" and still have a long way before it becomes clear that vaccine that provides global protection. We had to adapt and compromise, but it is also clear that some of the actions forced on us by COVID in order to remain operational, will remain and become standard practice going forward given increased productivity and cost savings relating to travelling, physical meetings, and related efficiencies.

With the recent move to lockdown level 2, some normality have returned...more normal movement, travelling – albeit domestically only, and more regular hours relating to office/operational schedules. If not quite normal yet, at least it feels a lot better given relaxed restrictions on alcohol and tobacco sales and the return to school.

However, world-wide second waves, and I would expect even third waves, are the trend, following initial COVID-peaks. In South Africa, we have seen different patterns and peaks in different provinces and between metro's and rural areas. These rolling waves will remain with us for a long time and it would be naïve not to expect subsequent waves.

The onus to ensure continued compliance and risk mitigation of the transfer of the virus have now firmly moved on to us as individuals and communities. This should have been done months ago and the prolonged and many irrational measures will no doubt continue to be challenged by vigorous civil society organisations and a robust media. Personally, I am also keenly looking at a stream of criminals being prosecuted for the shocking fraud and corruption of COVID-funds and resources.

As a nation, we have made incredible sacrifices and it would be an indictment on all of us if we have vast second and third waves. The responsibilities to maintain discipline has increased.

My plea is therefore that we maintain vigilance and compliance to building on the successes achieved to date.

Let's please continue with raising awareness and be vigilant at all levels, be it private, public, or commercial. It is really not that difficult to stay away from public gatherings, shopping malls, wearing masks, sanitising and washing of hands, and ensure social distancing.

Now is not the time to lapse our discipline.

Until next time.

Anton

*Normality is a fine ideal for those who have no imagination - Carl Jung*

*Normality is a paved road: It is comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow - Vincent van Gogh*



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