HORTGRONEWS

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STEPHEN RABE'S SEARCH FOR NEW VARIETIES

In the horticulture and agriculture sectors, Stephen Rabe says international logistics was hit the hardest by the Coronavirus. “Things like shipping, containers, etc. were impacted. It’s not a South African issue, it’s an

international issue. That's the lag effect of Covid on our industry."
South African apples are shipped all over the world. For this reason, Rabe says that he looks for a specific taste when considering new varieties. Read more about his recent trip here.

Pictured here in Italy: Markus Bradlwarter (SK Variety Innovation) and Stephen Rabe with an exciting variety.



JOHN DRIVER VISITS TISSUE CULTURE FACILITY

Many scientists believe that tissue culture is the future of horticulture. One of these researchers is John Driver, one of the biggest names in plant tissue culture in the world, who recently visited the Tissue Culture Facility, outside Paarl. Read the story here.

Pictured here, from left Sane van Wyk, John Driver, Charmaine Stander and Leander Gagiono.

TWEE VAN SAGTEVRUGTEBEDRYF KRY TOEKENNINGS

Jan le Roux, van die Le Roux Groep is onlangs by 'n glansgeleentheid van die Landbouskrywers Suid-Afrika as die Suid-Afrikaanse Boer van die Jaar aangewys. By dieselfe geleentheid het Elise-Marie Steenkamp, Hortgro se groepshoof vir kommunikasie, die CropLife SA toekenning vir wetenskapjoernalistiek in gewasbeskerming ontvang.

Onderskrifte: Op die foto links oorhandig Liza Bohlmann, voorsitter van die Landbouskrywers, Jan le Roux se prys. Foto regs, Elise-Marie Steenkamp.





WATCH: DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY TAKES ON GENDER-BASED

VIOLENCE





ALLES OOR SONBRAND

Sonbrand is die skade wat deur oormatige blootstelling aan die son veroorsaak word – enige iemand wat tyd buite spandeer weet dit. 'n Sonbruin vel kan aantreklik wees in 'n persoon, maar dit is beslis nie mooi in appels en ander vrugte nie. Sonbrand is 'n groot rede waarom vrugte afgekeur word vir uitvoer en dus in minder winsgewende markte of sapfabrieke opeindig. Lees **Anna Mouton** se artikel hier.

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5 QUESTIONS FOR SIFISO NTOMBELA

Dr Sifiso Ntombela, chief economist of the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) was recently also appointed as Deputy-President of the Agricultural Economics Association of SA. We picked his brain about the future of agriculture. Read it here.

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HOFSAAK: WATERREGTE-OORDRAG

Die vermoë om water van een eiendom na 'n ander en van een persoon na 'n ander te mag oordra is 'n landbou-tameletjie wat onlangs suksesvol deur **Janse Rabie** van AgriSA in die Appélhof beveg is. Lees meer hier.

FOOD SECURITY INDEX 2021

More is needed than simply increasing food production to help combat food insecurity in the world. This was the main take-home message from the 2021 Global Food Security Index (GFSI), which was launched on November 22 by AgriSA in partnership with Corteva Agriscience and the United States Department of Agriculture. Read more here.

STONE FRUIT FORECAST UPDATE

As the flowering, fruit set, and thinning process on stone fruit progress a clearer picture is starting to form for the 2021/22 South African stone fruit season. Read more here.



CCC LAUNCHES CARBON HEROES

Confronting Climate Change (CCC) is proud to announce that we have launched a new carbon footprint label and website – www.carbonheroes.co.za – where our B-graded license holders are recognised for meticulously calculating their carbon footprint. Read more here.

HORTGRO SURVEY: SKILLS SHORTAGES IN DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY

Training, skills and capacity building programmes are currently fragmented within the pome and stone fruit industries with very limited coordination from the various training organisation in terms of their training and skills programmes. Furthermore, these programmes are often limited to specific production areas due to resource constraints with many efforts focusing on compliance rather than people development.

This research aims to assist Hortgro to coordinate and expand human development efforts in the deciduous fruit industry. Read more and download survey here.

→ EVENTS

Online Post Harvest Symposium 2021, 30 November 2021

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

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

D6/Hortgro24 Information app.

Stone fruit app.

E-mail info@hortgro.co.za for more information.

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics

Hortgro Stone: Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke: December 2021

Fresh Quarterly: Issue 15

Fruit South Africa Transformation Summary

Transformation Times: August Issue

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting hier.

PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in AFRIKAANS, XHOSA en ENGELS

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The logistics dilemma – Collective action required

As the new season gathers momentum it seems as if we will again have an excellent crop. The jury is however

out–and will remain out for quite some time–as to exactly how the logistics will play out during the ensuing season.

From Hortgro's side, we facilitated various strategic engagements between stakeholders to assess what we can do on a collective industry level to mitigate some of the shipping and container risks experienced last year. We now know that some exporters, and importers, and retailers, overreacted–especially in the peak plum period which very negatively affected producer returns.

These collective actions include the provision of better fruit flow and market intelligence, the establishment of core market focus groups, and an effort to encourage exporters to commit strategic volumes to breakbulk reefers in key shipping weeks.

Unfortunately, it seems as if the appetite from especially the stone fruit exporters for committing volumes for such joint shipments is very poor. I realise commercial decisions are required, but this is really a great pity and in my view a symptom of a very narrow vision and being insensitive to the risks of our producers.

Somewhat of an indictment on us all in failing to effectively address risk in a collective and meaningful manner where the "insurance and assurance" of a guaranteed volume will vastly reduce the risk of wind and vessel delays, and potential container shortages. The mindset of sitting back and expecting someone else to do something, and hoping for the best, rather than pro-actively engaging and agreeing on a finite solution as part of the collective, is a really poor response to something where the stone fruit collective could have taken some control through joint actions.

It does however seem as if some of the table grape and pome fruit stakeholders have a more mature and open-minded approach and that at least some volumes will be shipped in key weeks utilising bulk reefers.

It is not too late to put some contingencies in place. In my view, it would be vital to get an "insurance policy" in place. Just in case!

I, therefore, implore especially our stone fruit producers to urgently engage with their exporters and logistics service providers and "firmly" guide them towards a "team effort" rather than risking the future of our industry.

Keep safe and please encourage vaccination – the 4th wave is clearly with us!

Until next time.

Anton

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much – Helen Keller
Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships – Michael Jordan

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