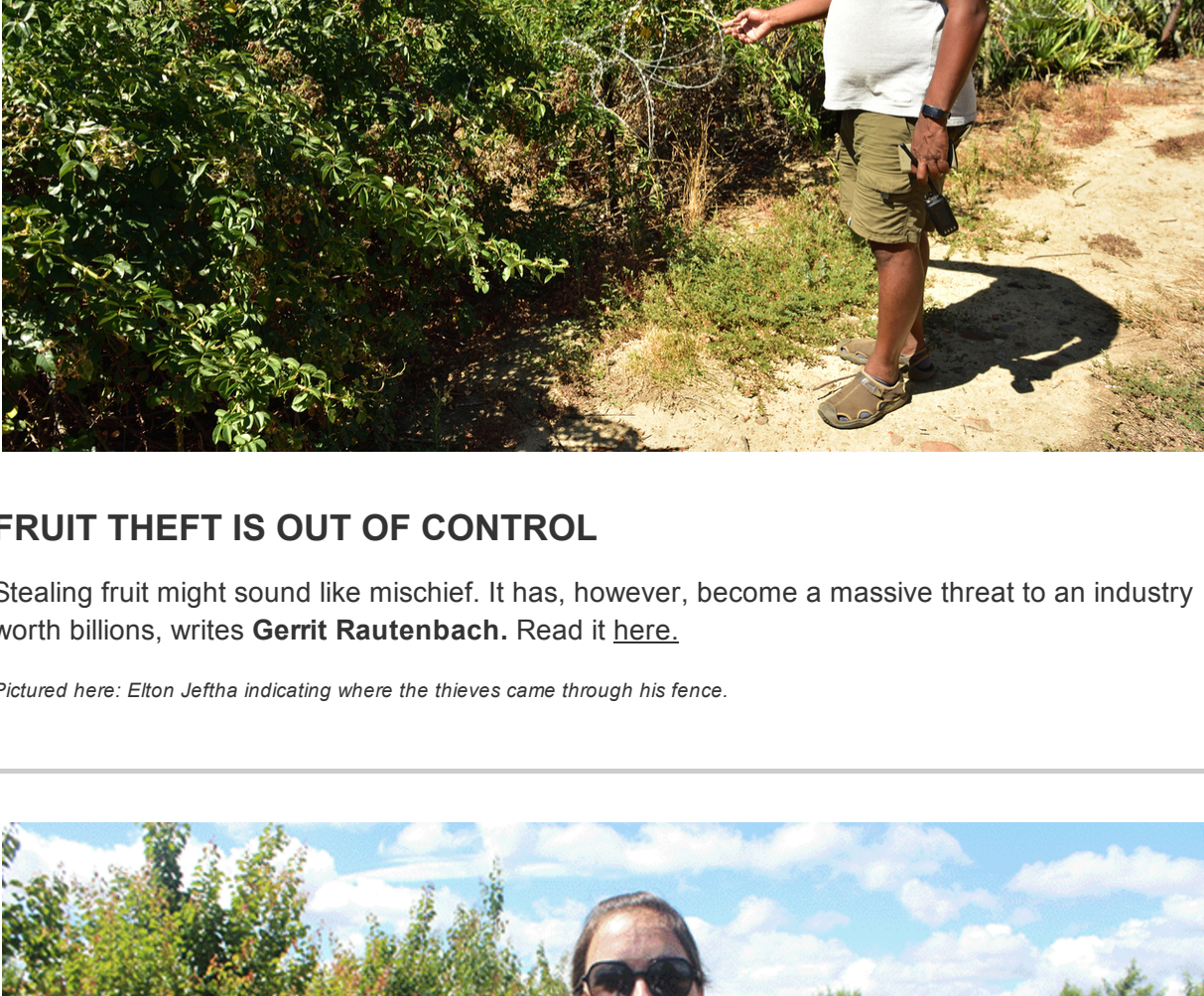


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FRUIT THEFT IS OUT OF CONTROL

Stealing fruit might sound like mischief. It has, however, become a massive threat to an industry worth billions, writes **Gerrit Rautenbach**. Read it [here](#).

Pictured here: Elton Jefftha indicating where the thieves came through his fence.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PRO-HORT RESEARCHER

The Pro-Hort programme is a collaboration between Hortgro and Provar that aims to generate accurate information that can help producers with cultivar selection. **Kara van der Berg** recently spent a day with a researcher to see what the day-to-day project entails. Read it [here](#).

Pictured here: Researcher, Anika Kock, with new apricot cultivars that she will test in the Provar lab.

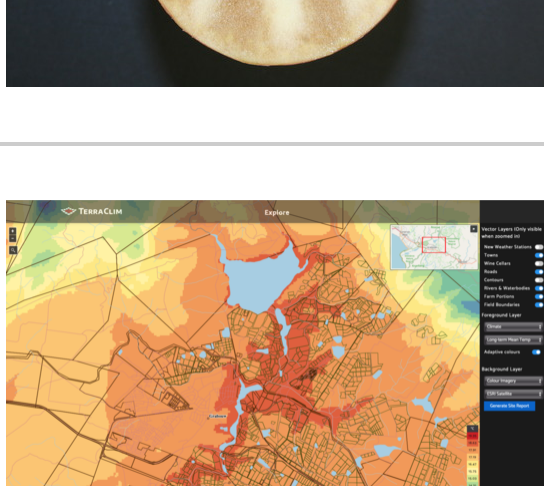


FARMING COMMUNITIES TAKING EDUCATION INTO THEIR OWN

HANDS

Farm schools have long been part of the agriculture sector in South Africa. Yet, many farms are actively working to make these schools a modern, safe space for learning. Read the article by **Kara van der Berg** [here](#).

Pictured: Managing Director of Laastedrif farm, Rossouw Cillie, with Laastedrif Primary school's headmaster, Devald September



THE PACK-HOUSE PERSPECTIVE ON INTERNAL BROWNING

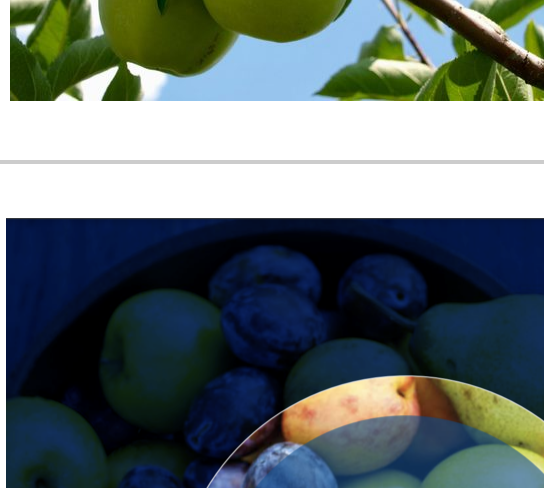
South African apples already compete successfully in international markets. How can the industry further improve fruit quality and combat post-harvest defects, like internal browning? Read **Anna Mouton's** article [here](#).

Picture (Ian Crouch): Internal browning in Fuji apples.



A TOOL TO DECODE CLIMATE DATA

TerraClim is a climate and terrain tool for the Western Cape that offers powerful decision-making support to pome-fruit growers. Read **Anna Mouton's** article [here](#).



THE QUEST FOR GREENER

GRANNIES

Consumers want uniformly dark green Granny Smith apples without blemishes. What light environment will produce this result? Read **Anna Mouton's** [article](#) to find out.



HORTGRO ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

The **Hortgro Review** highlights the various functions and focus areas being dealt with in **Hortgro**. It summarises the range of activities that required attention to ensure an enabling environment within which our diverse range of stakeholders in the value chain can thrive.

Download your copy [here](#).



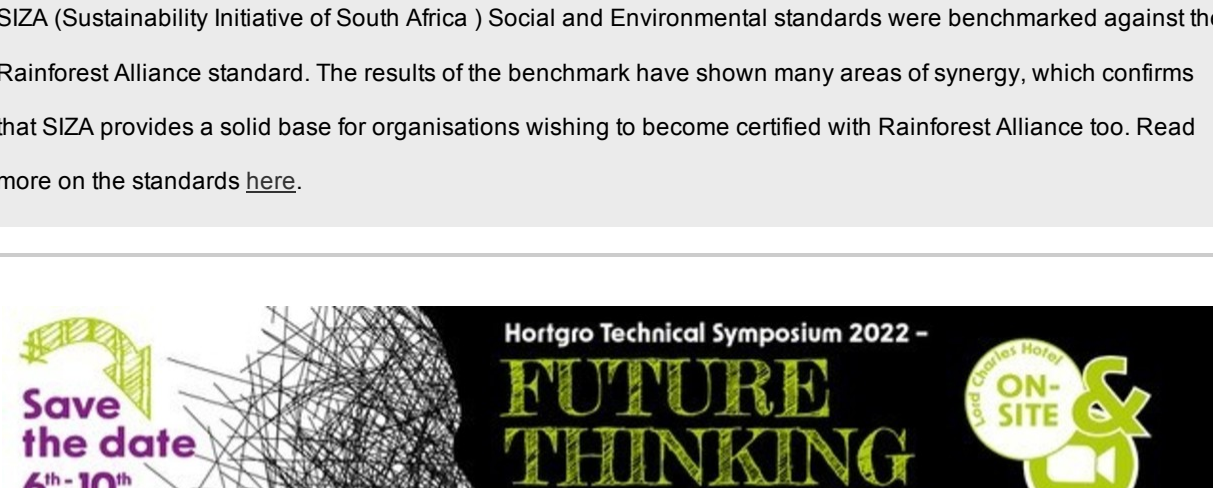
FRESH QUARTERLY ISSUE 16 - MARCH 2022

Fresh Quarterly Issue 16 is now available. In this jam-packed edition, we unpack everything and anything about one of Africa's scarcest and most critical resources, water.

You can download your copy [here](#).

SIZA PROVIDES SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TOWARDS COMPLIANCE

SIZA (Sustainability Initiative of South Africa) Social and Environmental standards were benchmarked against the Rainforest Alliance standard. The results of the benchmark have shown many areas of synergy, which confirms that SIZA provides a solid base for organisations wishing to become certified with Rainforest Alliance too. Read more on the standards [here](#).



HORTGRO TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM ONLINE REGISTRATIONS OPEN ON 1 MARCH

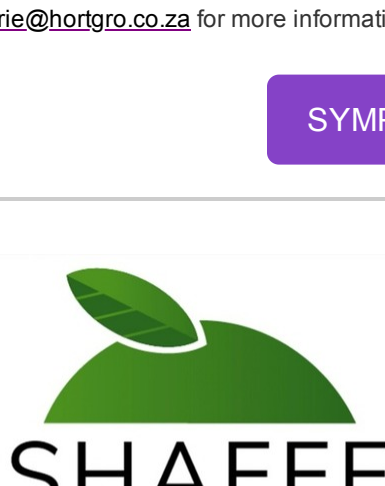
We are back! And online registrations are now open. The **Hortgro Technical Symposium** will take place this year, from **6 to 10 June**, at the **Lord Charles Hotel** in **Somerset West** or you can join the event **digitally**.

Our impact speakers include a true South African icon, **Prof Thuli Madonsela**, and the inspirational **Joey Evans**. Overseas speakers include (amongst others) tree fruit physiologist, **Prof Lee Kalscits** (USA), and biotechnical and horticultural consultant, **John Driver** (USA). Local experts lined up for the wide stakeholder group, and especially the producer corps it serves via its world-class user-friendly electronic platform. SIZA is now recognised globally as a credible programme with integrity. SIZA currently offers 14 different training programmes—free to its members.

6 June, Business Strategy Day
7 June, Pome Fruit Day
8 June, Stone Fruit Day
9 June, Pome Fruit Field Day
10 June, Stone Fruit Field Day

Our team is busy finalising the programme. Anyone interested in sponsoring the event please download our sponsor options [here](#) or contact Lindy Sigonyela lindy@hortgro.co.za or Elise-Marie Steenkamp elise-marie@hortgro.co.za for more information. Limited sponsoring opportunities, so phone us today.

SYMPOSIUM 2022: REGISTER NOW



SHAFTE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE FRESH FRUIT TRADE CONGRESS

The Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters is building on the success of the previous year with a new round of the "The Southern Hemisphere Fresh Fruit Trade Congress" taking place virtually on the 30th of March 2022. Learn more about the congress [here](#).

→ 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: March/Maart 2022](#)

Fresh Quarterly: [Issue 16](#)
Fruit South Africa [Transformation Summary](#)

Transformation Times: [December 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

SIZA – A homegrown success

Since its initiation in 2007 within FruitSA by the various fruit industry bodies, SIZA (The Sustainability Initiative of South Africa) has been under fire from many fronts, also from producers and labour in whose interest it was created. The fruit industries and SIZA (especially since 2016 when it was re-positioned as a free-standing service entity for the Agri sector), persevered.

Now under the guidance of an independent board with majority producer representatives, and the able management of Retha Louw and her small but dedicated team, SIZA has positioned itself as a vital resource in ensuring continuous improvement and global compliance with regard to both social and environmental ethical trade market requirements. The environmental standard follows an integrated approach with the standard being recognised as a sustainable solution for multiple markets.

After initial instability, SIZA is now financially viable and stable. Given its cost-effective service and growth in membership (currently at 3,490) it needs to increase its fees for the 2022/23 financial year by only 3% for most of its membership categories. This will further enhance its value proposition for the wide stakeholder group, and especially the producer corps it serves via its world-class user-friendly electronic platform. SIZA is now recognised globally as a credible programme with integrity. SIZA currently offers 14 different training programmes—free to its members.

The objective of preventing multiple and costly audits has mostly been achieved. SIZA is now recognised across the globe and has been benchmarked as equivalent or better than other programmes. The South African industry is saving millions both in direct and indirect (capacity/time preparing for audits) auditing costs.

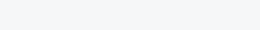
Despite progress and independently verified compliance, there are still too many critical alerts in the social sphere. These are mostly due to health and safety; wages benefits and terms of employment; and working hours. Aspects, that can easily be addressed by good administration—SIZA provides excellent guidance material to prevent administrative mistakes.

SIZA is a tree that was planted more than 15 years ago based on the vision of the industry leaders at the time and the result of a lot of little things that was brought together by some very dedicated and hard-working individuals since then.

Until next time.

Anton

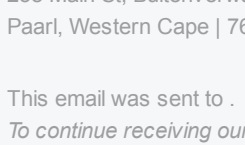
Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. - Warren Buffet
Great things are done by a series of small things brought together. - Vincent van Gogh



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