

CONTENTS

- Christine Hanekom hou van uitdagings
- Steenvrug uitdagings by Hortgro-Indaba bespreek
- Pruim-en-nektarienaksieplan
- New African markets
- India approves in-transit cold treatment for SA pome
- Blushing success with apricots in the Koo
- Nuwe aanplantings red nie
- Drought and logistics hit Ladismith producers hard
- Ladismith youth introduced to agri careers
- Agritourism: Harvesting roosterkoeke
- Special edition: Fresh Quarterly Symposium
- Watch: Mazar produksiebestuur video
- Events, publications, video library
- From the Executive Director's desk



Vrouemaand: Christine Hanekom hou van uitdagings

Dit is waar dat daar nog te min vroue in die Suid-Afrikaanse landbousektor is. Christine Hanekom, bemerkingsbestuurder by Stems Fruit, vertel dat vroue wel ’n belangrike plek in die bedryf het. Read more [here](#).



Steenvrug-uitdagings by Hortgro-Indaba bespreek

Die 2021/2022 pruim seisoen was die slegste wat die Suid-Afrikaanse steenvrugmark in jare beleef het. Om hierdie aan te spreek en die pad vorentoe uit te lê, het Hortgro in Augustus vanjaar ’n pruim-en nektarien-indaba by Robertson gehou. Lees meer [hier](#).

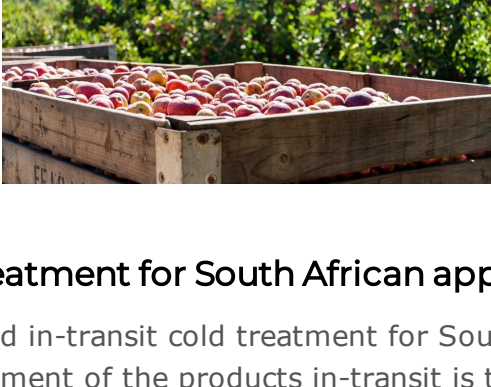
Pruim-en nektarien-aksieplan en gespreksdokument

Na afloop van die pruim- en nektarien-indaba het ons die volgende kwessies geïdentifiseer en opgedeel in produksie, mark en “cross-cutting” afdelings. Meer inligting [hier](#).



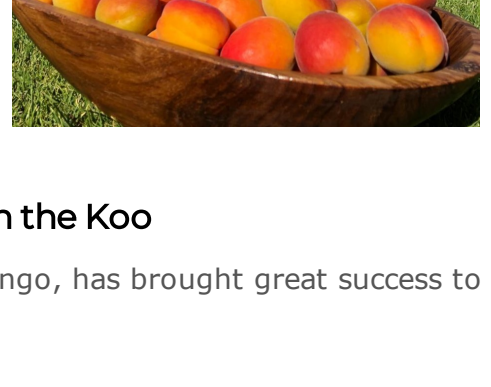
New African markets

South African deciduous fruit may have access to new markets in the coming years, thanks to two new trade agreements. In the meantime, a new tariff for fruit has been introduced in East Africa. Wolfe Braud, Agbiz Fruit Desk Manager, tells us more. Read more [here](#).



India approves in-transit cold treatment for South African apples and pears

The Government of India has approved in-transit cold treatment for South African apple and pear exports to India. The advantage of the cold treatment of the products in-transit is that better quality and fresher fruit arrive at the destination country. Read more [here](#).



Blushing success with apricots in the Koo

A relatively new apricot variety, Carmingo, has brought great success to farmers in the Koo Valley. Read the success story [here](#).



Nuwe aanplantings red nie

Die droogte wat die Klein-Karoo in 2016 getref het, is vir baie sagtevrugteprodusente van die streek langs die R62 nog nie verby nie. Hortgro het met twee produsente, Niël Joubert (foto links bo) en Dawie van Deventer (foto regs bo), wat albei buite Montagu langs die R62 boer, gepraat. Lees meer [hier](#).



Drought and logistics hit Ladismith producers hard

The aftermath of the drought that hit the Klein Karoo in 2016 is still being felt by the area’s farmers even though the drought technically ended two years ago. Hortgro spoke to Ben Kotze and Matthys van der Merwe. Read more [here](#).



Ladismith youth introduced to agri-career possibilities

Hortgro Dried Tree Fruit recently held a four-day long seminar themed the Kannaland Youth Week to introduce young people from Ladismith and surrounding communities to career possibilities in agriculture. Read more [here](#).



Agritourism: Harvesting roosterkoeke

Making ends meet in a better way and keeping their children involved without splitting the farmlands into smaller pieces, Trevor and Maggie Abrahams thought of a plan. Introducing Project Roosterkoek. Read more [here](#).



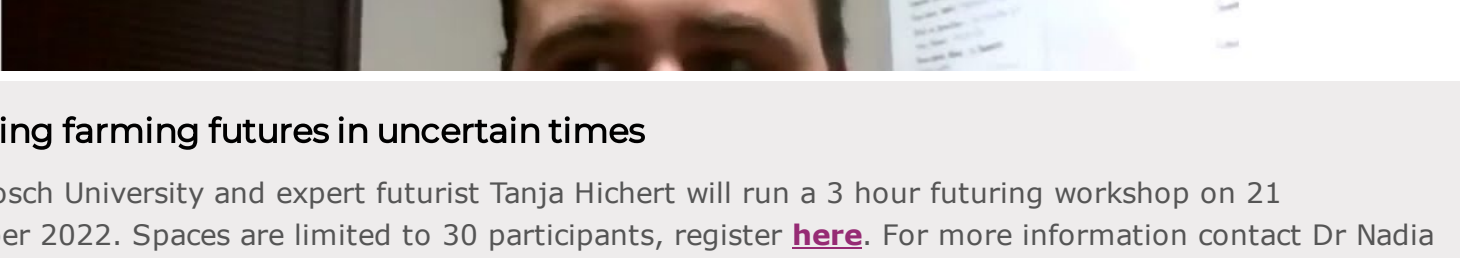
LATEST: Fresh Quarterly Issue 18

The latest Fresh Quarterly Issue is out now!

The special edition issue features presentations and discussions for the recent Hortgro Technical Symposium 2022. Read it [here](#).

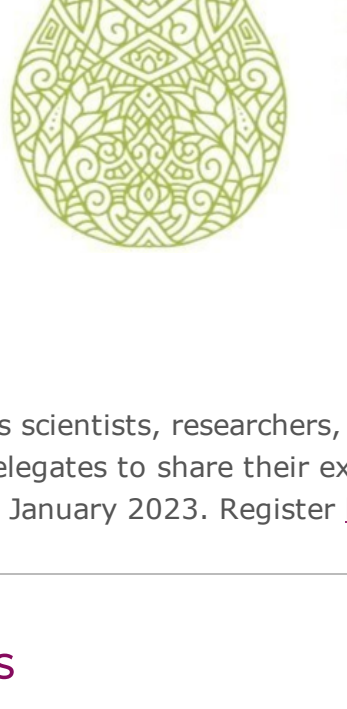
KYK: Mazar produksiebestuur video

Feedback from a delegate: Johan Smit – Suiderland Plase



Navigating farming futures in uncertain times

Stellenbosch University and expert futurist Tanja Hichert will run a 3 hour futuring workshop on 21 September 2022. Spaces are limited to 30 participants, register [here](#). For more information contact Dr Nadia Sitas at nadiasitas@sun.ac.za



The XIV International Pear Symposium

The XIV International Pear Symposium invites scientists, researchers, students, technical staff, consultants, nurserymen, growers, and other interested delegates to share their experience and knowledge on the production of pears at the upcoming event in January 2023. Register [here](#).

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

[Stone fruit postharvest app](#).

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

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke](#): September 2022

Fresh Notes: FN 198 [PAG Feedback Aug 2022](#)

Fruit South Africa [Transformation Summary](#)

Transformation Times: [April 2022 Issue](#)

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE

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

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Difficult times, BUT

We are certainly experiencing one of the most challenging periods, not only globally, but also domestically, and most certainly in the agri sector that I have ever experienced.

We live in a so-called VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) world. There seem to be somewhat of a panic, even a hopelessness amongst at least some of our producers which is understandable, but in my view not required.

Yes, the global economy and trading environment is tough and there are several risks which are totally outside our control. This includes the ongoing war in the Ukraine and various other regional instability such as relationship between China/Taiwan, Israel/Palestine and North and South Korea. If something seriously goes wrong in these theatres, we will indeed be in deep trouble.

And we are also not the only industry and/or country that is struggling. It seems that in some countries, things are even worse. And yes, we continue to experience uncertainties and logistical challenges and very high input costs.

We have to accept that things will be much improved in our ports next season and that logistical pressures will be relieved with significant volumes being exported in peak weeks to key markets via break bulk shipments. This will ensure less unsound fruit and the demand is still there for the right product at the right quality and time. Logistics is however not the only challenge or a silver bullet solution.

We therefor need to get several issues right which are within our collective control. This includes discipline regarding the quality and size specification we produce, pack, ship, and trade. (See also the guidelines/action plan/break even matrix for plums, peaches & nectarines distributed recently. This is applicable to all fruits types)

The rule of thumb for 2022/23 must be: **If I’m uncertain, don’t pack and ship, the risk is not worth it.**

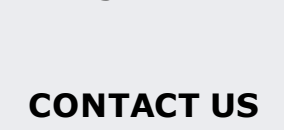
Being average is not good enough, so don’t take chances. Hold your service providers accountable and let them share in risks. There must be consequences for those not adding value or not doing their jobs! The message is clear – Lets do what is needed to be able to farm another year. That we can do, by disciplining ourselves and ensure that we do those things under our control as best we can.

Be involved, be informed, and above all take charge of your own destiny. If everyone does their little bit, we will get through this intact.

Until next time

Anton

Let others lead small lives, but not you. Let others argue over small things, but not you. Let others cry over small things, but not you. Let other leave their future in someone else’s hands, but not you. - Jim Rohn



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