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Chris Krone se landboulesse

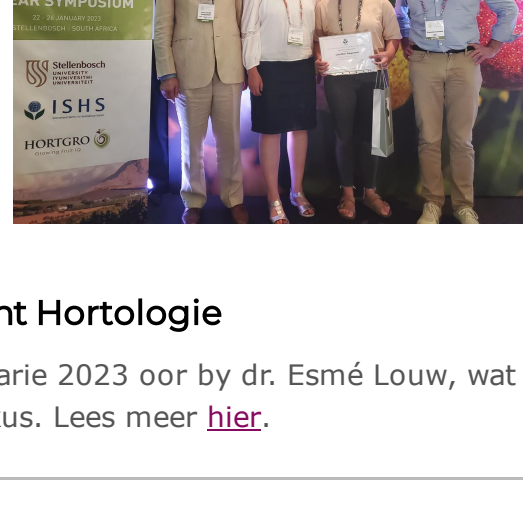
Chris se landbouboodskappe is: "Die bedryf is groter as die individu, die bedryf is groter as die fabriek, die bedryf is groter as die plaas. Die bedryf moet altyd eerste gestel word." Lees meer [hier](#).

HORTGRO Annual Review 2022



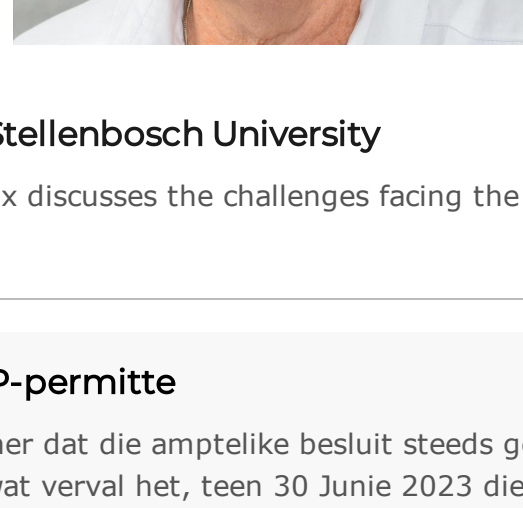
Hortgro Annual Review 2022

Challenges galore – possibly the best summary of the past year! The Hortgro annual review reflects on the past years challenges and insights the industry gained. Read the 2022 annual review [here](#).



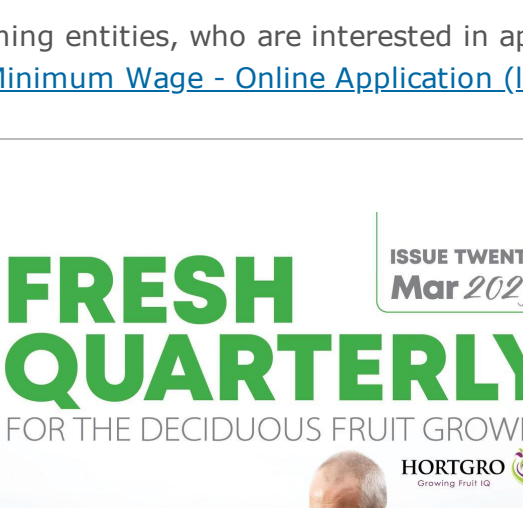
Energy Crisis Webinar

Hortgro held an webinar this February that dealt with the energy crisis. The webinar provided an overview of the crisis and possibly short-term and long-term on-farm solutions. Read more [here](#). Watch presentations [here](#).



Nuwe leierskap by Departement Hortologie

Dr. Elke Crouch neem vanaf 1 Februarie 2023 oor by dr. Esmé Louw, wat na 'n drie-jaar termyn terugstaan om op haar saggtevrugtenavorsing te fokus. Lees meer [hier](#).



New Plant Pathology Chair at Stellenbosch University

Post-harvest expert Dr Cheryl Lennox discusses the challenges facing the industry and her vision for the Department. Read more [here](#).

Voortgesette kwellings oor ZEP-permitte

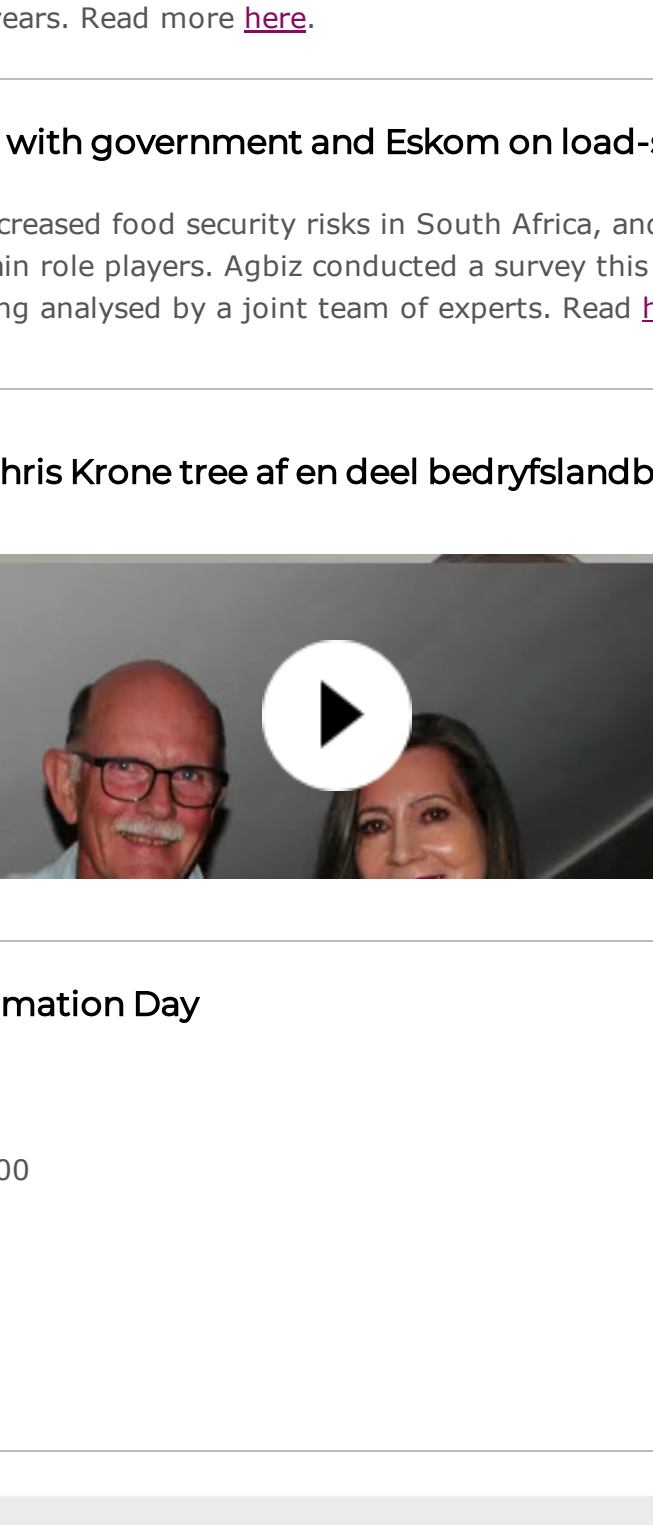
Hortgro wil graag produsente herinner dat die amptelike besluit steeds geld dat Zimbabwiese-werkers, wat sonder permitte is of permitte het wat verval het, teen 30 Junie 2023 die land sal moet verlaat. Vind meer inligting [hier](#).

Hortgro responds to minimum wage

According to Hortgro Executive Director, Anton Rabe, the increase is significantly more than the indications given earlier, during a second round of consultation.

"This adjustment is totally out of line with the realities of the agricultural sector – which is already suffering from almost insurmountable challenges with load shedding, ports that are unproductive, real increases in input costs, high interest rates and high inflation. This decision is certainly going to have negative consequences on employment."

Hortgro would like to encourage farming entities, who are interested in applying for national minimum wage exemption, to do so here: [National Minimum Wage - Online Application \(labour.gov.za\)](#)



Plant improvement and certification are part of a progressive process of continual improvement in fruit production. We must recognise that good plant material is fundamental to successful fruit farming.

This is why Hortgro is involved in reviewing and renewing plant improvement and certification. The aims are to increase the system's credibility and reduce risks for growers.

This issue of Fresh Quarterly describes the results of benchmarking South African plant improvement and certification against international best practices, including recommendations.

Read the latest issue [here](#).

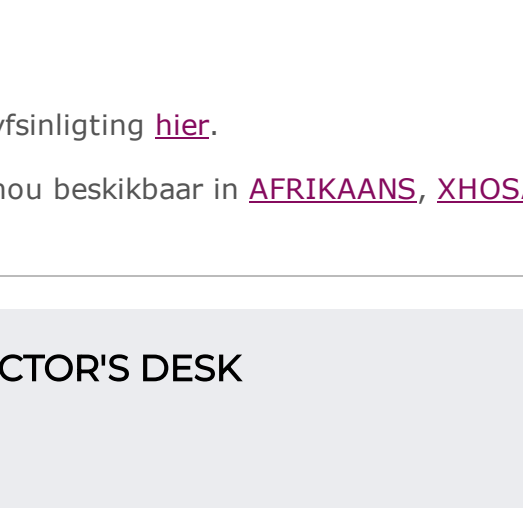


FruitFly Africa helps retain markets

Area-wide fruit fly control helps South African fruit retain global market share. FruitFly Africa, in partnership with DALRRD, supports the South African fruit industry through area-wide control of Mediterranean fruit flies, Cape fruit flies, the Oriental fruit fly. Read more [here](#).

The Competition Commission turns up the heat on fresh produce – 10 things you should know

On 14 February 2023, the Competition Commission of South Africa (Commission) published in the Government Gazette the final Terms of Reference for its market inquiry into the Fresh Produce Market of South Africa. Read the full article [here](#).



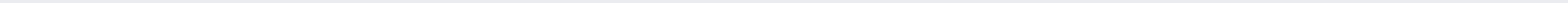
Economic impact of polyphagous shot-hole borer

The potential economic impact of the polyphagous shot-hole borer in South Africa amounts to a whopping R275 billion over the next ten years. Read more [here](#).

Agbiz continues to engage with government and Eskom on load-shedding challenges

The severe load-shedding has increased food security risks in South Africa, and financial pressures on farmers, agribusinesses and the value chain role players. Agbiz conducted a survey this past week across all the sectors and the results are currently being analysed by a joint team of experts. Read [here](#).

KYK: Chris Krone tree af en deel bedryfslandboulesse



SAPO Trust: Fuji Royal Information Day

Wakkerstroom Boerdery
Agter Witzenberg, Ceres
Thursday, 16 March 2023 @ 10:00
RSVP before 3 March with:
Elsa Muller - 079 050 7710
Rudi Vos - 082 487 1341

More information [here](#).

2023 HORTGRO Science Research Showcase & Postharvest Symposium 6-8 JUNE


DAY 1: Pome Fruit Research
Crop Production, Crop Protection and Postharvest Programmes

DAY 2: Stone Fruit Research
Crop Protection, Crop Production and Postharvest Programmes

DAY 3: Postharvest Symposium

ALL TO BE HELD AT STIAS, Stellenbosch



HORTGRO
Growing Fruit IQ 

More information [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: [March Timely Hints/Maart Tydige Wenke](#)
Fresh Notes: [MRL Notification - Version 3 - All Deciduous](#)
Fruit South Africa [Transformation Summary](#)
Transformation Times: [September 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

Disconnect-edness

My dictionary describes a disconnect or disconnectedness as a state of being disconnected or a lack of connection (obviously!).

This is, however, not only true with regard to our electricity supply that is being disconnected more often than not, but also a clear disconnect of politicians and officialdom with harsh business realities. And, with speculation currently that we might move towards phase +8 and black out scenarios, we might even end up being permanently disconnected. And kept in the dark by politico double speak, ineptness, lack of urgency, corruption and mafia-like behaviour at our power stations.

In this context, the announcement of a +9,6% increase in the minimum wage is shockingly (pun intended) out of sync with the realities on the ground. This, despite a concerted effort from various agri-structures to submit rational, realistic and clinical facts and figures as to what the implications on affordability and jobs would be if (yet another) increase of above CPI is announced.

Yet it happened! It feels as if the so-called consultation process was window-dressing and a total waste of time. We will take on the Commission as this outcome is irrational and illogical.

Unfortunately, this behaviour is not new, but it cannot be allowed to continue. Yes, we are very much aware of and sensitive to the cost of living realities in the country, but losing one's job because it has become impossible for the business to stay afloat must be much worse.

Hortgro's leadership has stated consistently over the past +20 years, that we foresee a situation where we as an industry collective and as individuals will have to do more and more ourselves. We have seen this with the implosion of infrastructure and public service delivery, safety and security, research capacity, trade-related matters... I can go on and on. Where we had to, and increasingly have to, take on more and more to safeguard and protect our constituents and create that all elusive *enabling environment* we strive for. Being the eternal optimist, I have absolutely no doubt about the medium/long term survival, viability, sustainability and profitability of our sector and of a vibrant South Africa being re-established as the icon and jewel of Africa.

However, also being a realist, survival over the next 2-3 years are going to be vital for this to happen. Somehow the disconnect from the reality by the powers that be will have to CHANGE. That change can only be forced at the ballot box with the resultant consequences for those that allowed this to happen.

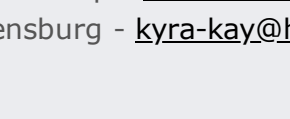
Until next time. (Believe me – there will be a next time and somehow, as the silent majority we will correct the disconnect. But we *must be the change* ourselves!)

Anton

*You must be the change you wish to see in the world – **Gandhi***

*Success is not final, Failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts- **Winston Churchill***

*Keep your face always toward the sunshine – and shadows will fall behind you – **Walt Whitman***



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