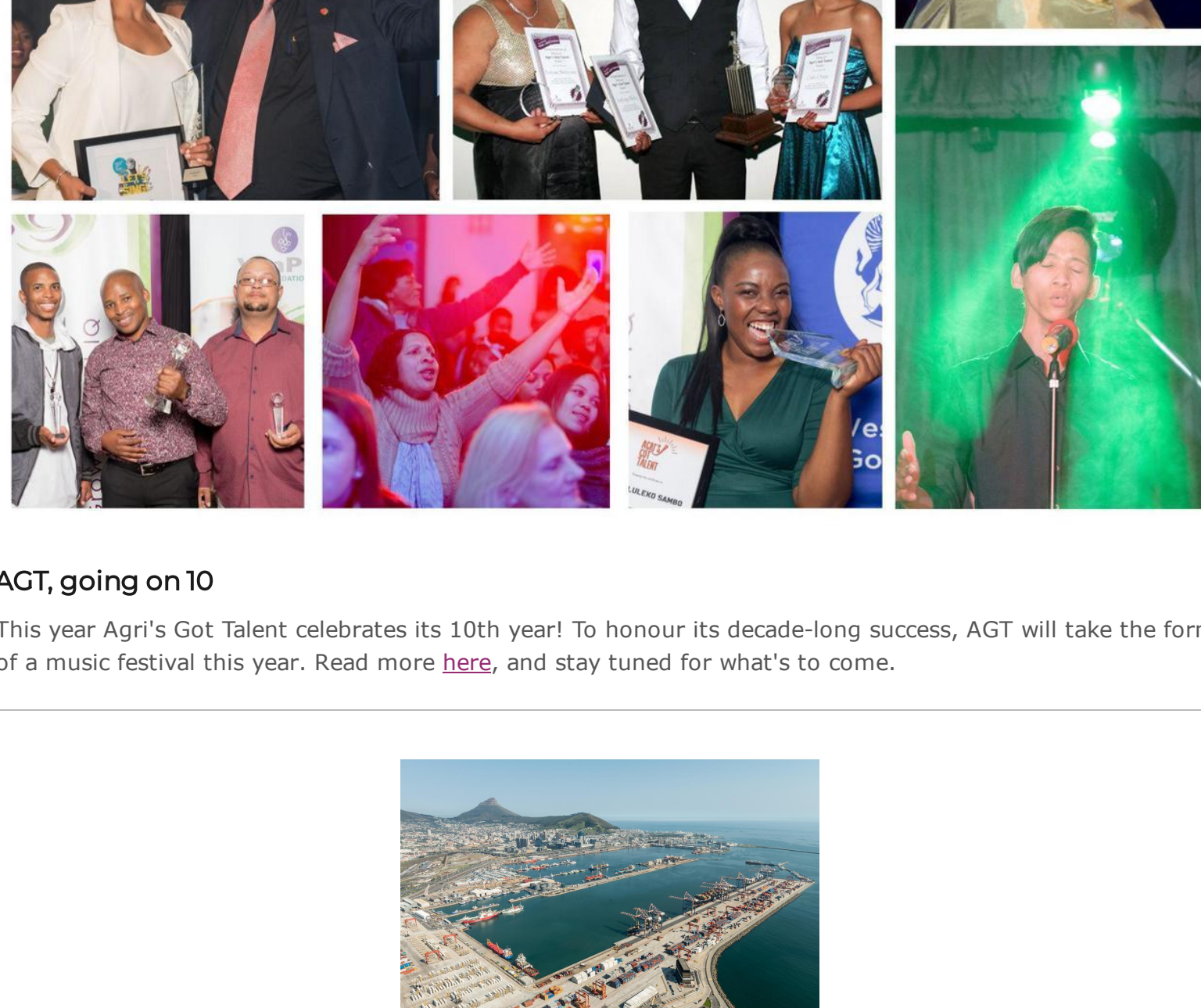


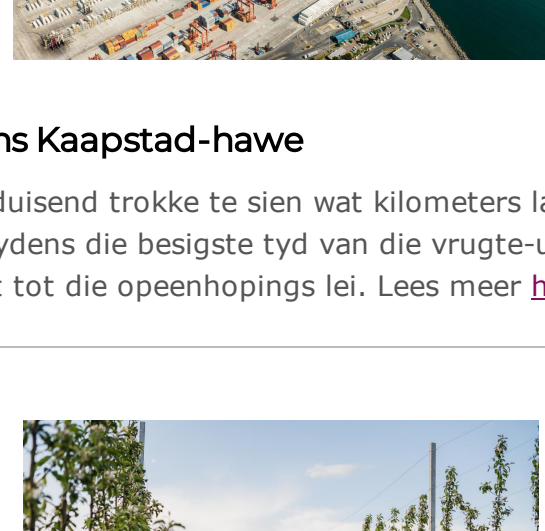
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AGT, going on 10

This year Agri's Got Talent celebrates its 10th year! To honour its decade-long success, AGT will take the form of a music festival this year. Read more [here](#), and stay tuned for what's to come.



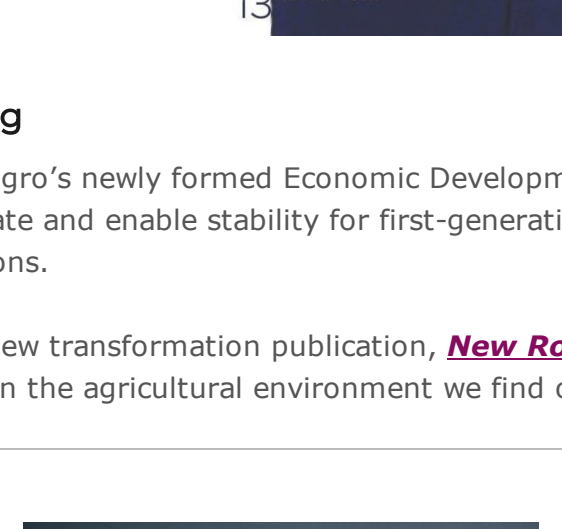
Vervoerbedryf trek swaar weens Kaapstad-hawe

Dit is niks vreemds om meer as 'n duisend trokke te sien van kilometers lank toustaan om goedere af te laai by die Kaapstad-hawe nie. Vroeër tydens die besigte tyd van die vrugte-uitvoerseisoen het uitvoerders gekla oor die nuwe hektoegangstelsel wat tot die opeenhopings lei. Lees meer [hier](#).



Packhouses help growers out

Packhouses Fruitways and Kromco assisted growers in the Elgin Valley this past season by providing two generators to the Groenland Water User Association (GWUA). Hortgro spoke with GWUA chair Richard Moss and board member Ian Cunningham to hear how loadshedding affects irrigation. Read more [here](#).



Welcome to the new beginning

We are returning to our roots. Hortgro's newly formed Economic Development Advisory Committee is refocusing transformation to facilitate and enable stability for first-generation growers through targeted, needs-driven, innovative interventions.

Therefore, we are introducing our new transformation publication, **New Roots**. A publication synonymous with growth and development within the agricultural environment we find ourselves in.



Meet the new Economic Development Manager

Hortgro's newly formed Economic Development Committee is gearing up to take transformation in the deciduous fruit industry to new heights. Get to know Cynthia Mahlathi, the Economic Development Manager and her vision going-forward, read more [here](#).



Johnny Karolus – from general worker to Best Entrant to Commercial Agriculture

Johnny Karolus is an immensely enthusiastic farmer, who found his start as a general worker. And it is because of his passion and love for his fruit that he is where he is today. Read his story [here](#).



HORTGRO science

Annual Report 2022

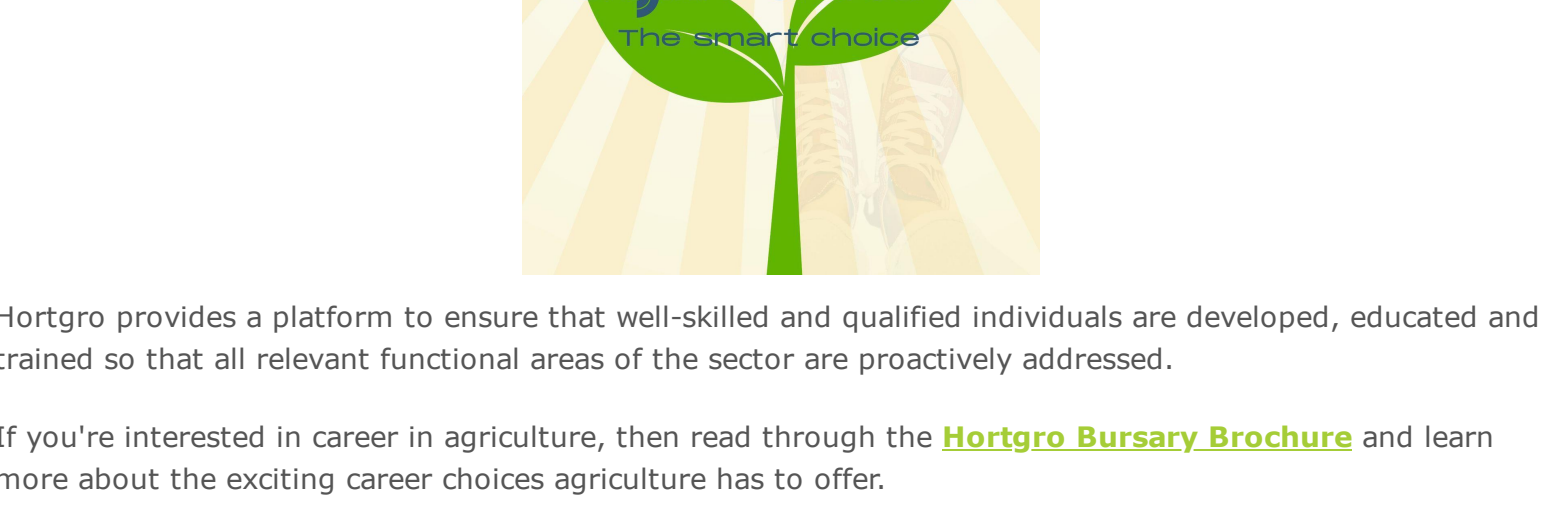


Hortgro Science Annual Report 2022

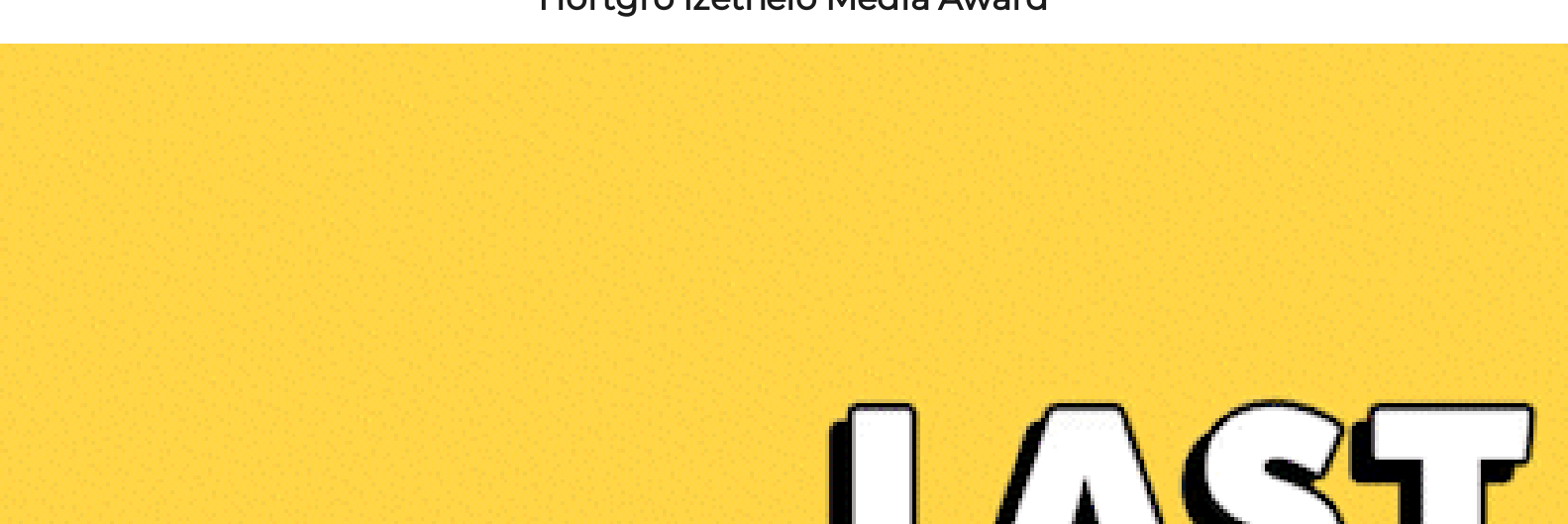
Hortgro Science aims to keep South African pome and stone fruit growers internationally competitive and economically sustainable. The 2022 annual report reflects on research conducted during the past year. Read the report [here](#).

WATCH: Jasmine Bones talks about the influence AGT has had on her life

At the AGT2022 reunion that took place this April, former contents spoke about how AGT has impacted their lives. Watch [here](#).



Hortgro Science 2023 Research Showcase & Postharvest Symposium



2023 HORTGRO

Science Research Showcase & Postharvest Symposium

6-8 JUNE

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

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

8 JUNE
DAY 3: Postharvest Symposium

ALL TO BE HELD AT STIAS, Stellenbosch

HORTGRO
Growing Fruit IQ 

The Research Showcase and Postharvest Symposium is a three-day knowledge packed event featuring some of the most innovative and necessary research within the industry.

For more information regarding the showcase and symposium visit [Hortgro Events](#).

Register before **30 May 2023**.

Hortgro career and bursary brochure



Hortgro provides a platform to ensure that well-skilled and qualified individuals are developed, educated and trained so that all relevant functional areas of the sector are proactively addressed.

If you're interested in career in agriculture, then read through the [Hortgro Bursary Brochure](#) and learn more about the exciting career choices agriculture has to offer.

To apply for a Hortgro Bursary visit our [website](#) and fill in the [online application](#).

Hortgro Izethelo Media Award



Hortgro Izethelo Media Award awards outstanding journalism in and on the deciduous fruit—pome/stone—industry.

Enter the Izethelo Media Award [here](#), closing **30 April 2023**.

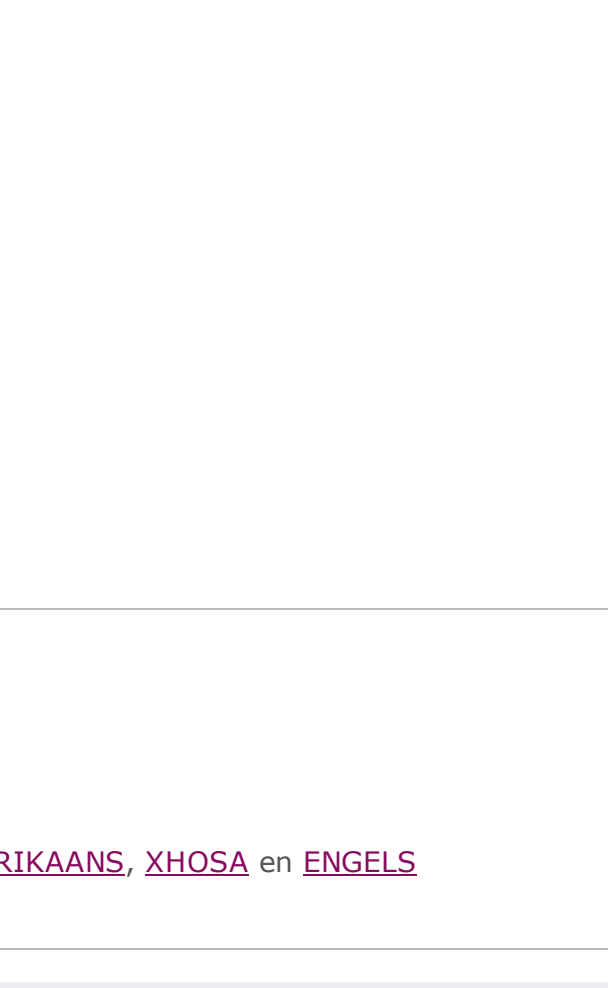
Course: Postharvest Physiology and Technology of Fresh Horticultural Crops

The Department of Horticultural Science PRESENTS THE 11TH

POSTHARVEST PHYSIOLOGY & TECHNOLOGY

short course of fresh horticultural crops

21-23 June 2023



This 3-day course focuses on the underlying principles of postharvest plant physiology and technology applicable for the postharvest handling of a wide range of South African crops, including deciduous fruit, citrus, vegetables, ornamentals and fresh cut flowers. The aim of the course is for attendees to understand the basic principles that govern postharvest fresh produce quality in order for them to implement this knowledge in practice to maintain product quality and to prevent losses in the postharvest handling chain.

Find more information regarding this short course [here](#).

For further enquiries contact jacom@sun.ac.za

→ 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: [May Timely Hints/Mei Tydige Wenke](#)

Fresh Notes: [205 PAG Feedback March 2023](#)

Fruit South Africa [Transformation Summary](#)

New Roots: [Volume 1 | April 2023](#)

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE

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

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

Cost of doing business

It has become very clear that the cost of doing business (farming!) has become a huge threat to the sustainability and profitability within the agri-sector. Apart from the logistics challenges and related costs (also of below par returns due to deterioration of quality), high input costs (although some costs have come down in recent months, it is still way above the pre-Covid levels), high interest rates, wage increases, etc, the compliance and accreditation costs to enter most global markets, has really become unsustainable.

Hortgro as part of an alliance within FruitSA, has looked into the various requirements and related costs and will now use this factual information to "push" back given the inclination of the trade to demand the sun and moon, but then ultimately just focus on the lowest possible price. This is not only unfair, but it jeopardises the future of our farmers, farm workers and the livelihoods of rural communities.

At the last count, there were 13 food safety, GAP, Ethical and Environment standards for which accreditations are required for example in the UK/EU markets. The direct and indirect cost of this compliance has been calculated at between R200,000 (for a single site/small production unit) and R1,8 million (for a multi-site/big farming enterprise). This cost basically to be *allowed* the *privilege* to supply certain markets. And in many instances, retailers trying to differentiate themselves from their competitors with new and minor adjustments and demands - without any (seemingly) inkling as to the cost associated with such demands. OR is it that they are quite aware, but just not give a fig as to the consequences?!

This directly leads to unsustainable returns at farm level. In my view, it is high time that consumers realise the consequences at farm levels and in rural communities and demand both ethical and sustainable behaviour and practices also from their retailer.

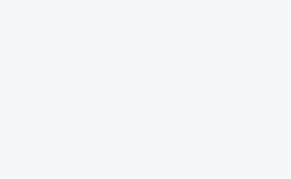
The FruitSA collective will therefor embark on a communication campaign to inform global value chain stakeholders, and most certainly consumers, of the impact of trade practices on the primary agri-sector. The cost of doing business is not reflected in producer returns. We also have SIZA through which we prevent a lot of duplication and costs relating to ethical and environmental compliance. The efforts to prove equivalence with more and more standards are ongoing.

As we say in Afrikaans: So kan dit bloot nie aangaan nie! This is just unacceptable.

Until next time,
Anton

Change the changeable, accept the unchangeable, and remove yourself from the unacceptable - Denis Waitly

If you're serious about changing life, you will find a way. If you're not, you'll find and excuse - Jen Sincero



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