

# HORTGRO NEWS

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## CONTENTS

- 130 jaar later staan Du Toits se vierde generasie sterk
  - Marius van der Westhuizen oor risikobestuur rondom hael
  - Latest news: Cape Town Port
  - Pome industry set to bounce back in 2024
  - Jong bedryfsleier – Jaco Bruwer
  - Hugh Campbell talks plant improvement
  - Guidelines to apply for financial support from Hortgro
  - Explaining carbon sequestration in agriculture
  - Hortgro Technical Symposium 2024
  - Sustainable packaging for foods
  - Confronting Climate Change's *Light* Workshop
  - WATCH: Agri's Got Talent 10 jaar reünie
  - From the Executive Director's desk
  - Publications and video library
-



## 130 jaar later staan Du Toits se vierde generasie sterk

Die sogenaamde en alombekende derdegenerasie-vloek – 'n fenomeen wêreldwyd dat sommige familiesake dan inplof – is in die 130ste bestaansjaar van die grootliks Ceres-gebaseerde en leidende Dutoit Groep-familieboerdery in die oortreffende trap en met vindingrykheid gesystap. Jacques Dommissie het gaan inloer. Lees meer [hier](#).

*Onderskrif (bo): Gys, Pieter en Hennie du Toit. (onder) Die hele Du Toit-familie*

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## Risikobestuur rondom hael

Marius van der Westhuizen, die hoof-uitvoerende beampte van Southern Fruit Farms, gesels met Hortgro oor die impak van hael en hoe produsente dié risiko strategies kan afdek. Lees meer [hier](#).

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## Latest on the situation at the Cape Town Port

PODCAST: Anton Rabe on Cape Talk discussing how the ports are hindering promising fruit exports. Listen [here](#).

Find Prokon December pome fruit quality report [here](#).

Find Prokon December stone fruit quality report [here](#).

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## Pome industry set to bounce back in 2024

South African pome fruit producers are looking forward to exports bouncing back. This, on the back of a lower pome fruit export crop due to hail damage in some of the major fruit producing areas during 2023. Read more [here](#).

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## Jong bedryfsleier – Jaco Bruwer

Jaco Bruwer se eerste ervaring van die vrugtebedryf was met skoolvakansies op sy oupa se sitrus- en druiweplaas op Montagu. Hortologie is sy voorliefde en hy het na afloop van sy studies op Elsenburg aanvanklik met wyndruiwe en steenvrugte gewerk. Lees meer [hier](#).

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## Hugh Campbell talks plant improvement

Plant improvement is a continuous process that aims to produce better fruit trees. New and improved genetics is one of the cornerstones of plant improvement. Hugh's shares his thoughts [here](#).

Find our latest pamphlets on viruses on the [Hortgro Science](#) website. [English](#) and [Afrikaans](#) editions available.

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## Guidelines to apply for financial support from Hortgro

Hortgro Pome and Stone, in alignment with industry needs and national directives as per the NAMC, announces Black Economic Development support programs aimed at promoting sustainable development and inclusivity within the Deciduous Fruit Industry. The available support programmes include business coaching, business development support and technical support. More information [here](#).

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## Carbon sequestration in agriculture

The agricultural industry is already experiencing a taste of the negative effects of climate change through increased extreme weather events, heatwaves, droughts, and unusual rainfall patterns. This document seeks to explain carbon sequestration in agriculture. Download it [here](#).



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## Sustainable packaging for foods

The Alliance for Sustainable Packaging for Foods was launched to engage with regulators, governments, researchers and civil society organisations to ensure that packaging regulations for food achieve environmental sustainability without compromising food safety and product quality, and without increasing carbon footprint of the industry. Read more [here](#).

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## Confronting Climate Change's "Light" Workshop

Confronting Climate Change is providing technical training on the online CCC carbon calculator by offering a range of workshops tailored to different needs and expertise levels. The Light Workshop provides an accessible entry point for understanding and calculating their carbon footprint.

Read more [here](#). Sign up for a workshop [here](#).

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## Agri's Got Talent 10 jaar reünie





and there's nothing wrong with working on a farm the whole day.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

### New year – New (and old) challenges

Many of us transitioned from '23 to '24 with a range of emotions. In addition, I decided not to entertain any New Years' wishes. Enough challenges as it is without added pressure!

According to my dear friend, *Dr Google*, there are a vast number of human emotions (see below). Mine were mostly frustration (even anger) about the state of public (non-!) service and related disgust. But also, a sense of excitement (hope and optimism?) that things can and will get better!

We will probably experience all these emotions over the course of this year. But the ball is in our court to make a difference. So, whatever 2024 brings, we will just have to take it on the chin (*ala Dricus*) and deal with whatever is thrown at us, in a constructive and positive manner. We only need to win by 1 point!

For many of us the year started with the frustration with the inept service (yet again) of Transnet unable to deliver on their undertakings and self-imposed deadlines to prevent a crisis (yet again) in the Port of Cape Town.

I believe that we as industry bodies have done everything we could to assist and support Transnet to pro-actively ensure that we don't end up in the situation we are (yet again) facing. We, however, don't have much choice now, but to explore the various legal remedies at our disposal.

Hortgro itself cannot instigate legal action given that the product is owned by the producer and that contractual agreements exist between exporters, logistical service providers, shipping lines and Transnet bringing complexity to legal options. We will however assist in whatever way we can to facilitate and support

what is required to ensure that accountability and consequences vests in those who continue to fail us, and that financial losses can be claimed.

The year 2024 will also bring a national and provincial election. The date is still to be announced (speculation now being somewhere in May), but we are already seeing the first shots being fired with lots of opportunism across the political spectrum. Unfortunately, agriculture at large will (yet again) be blamed for many issues, mostly as smokescreen to cover for ineptness and lack of delivery on so many fronts. Rhetoric, spin and claims of grandeur, will *smokkel* with voters' logic.

As part of civil society, we must ensure that accountability is robustly and unashamedly demanded; that our disgust be expressed in no uncertain terms; and that consequences will be enforced on those responsible.

Until next time,  
Anton

Freedom of speech does not mean freedom of consequences – **Monisha Rajesh**

Accountability: It is not what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable - **Molière**

Read more about emotions:

<https://www.healthline.com/health/list-of-emotions>

<https://atlasofemotions.org/>

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## → INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

[Stone fruit postharvest app](#).

E-mail [info@hortgro.co.za](mailto:info@hortgro.co.za) for more information.

## → HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Fresh Quarterly : [Issue 23 Climate Change + Water & Irrigation](#)

Hortgro Stone: [February Timely Hints/ Februarie Tydige Wenke](#)

Fresh Notes: [209 PAG Feedback](#)

Fruit South Africa [Transformation Summary](#)

New Roots: [Volume 3 | September 2023](#)

**Hortgro News: [All previous issues](#)**

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## → HORTGRO YOUTUBE

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

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

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