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Caption: Charles Edmond, Managing Director of Farming at Boschendal Group

### Soil health—A generational decision

After joining Boschendal in 2021, Charles Edmond, managing director of farming, adopted the more radical approach of intensive full-surface soil regeneration and has already achieved soil organic-matter gains of up to 5%. He unlocked these rapid improvements by deploying cover crops and livestock. Read more [here](#).



### Hortgro Appreciation Award

Western Cape MEC for Agriculture, Dr Ivan Meyer, awarded Hortgro *The Ministerial Certificate of Appreciation* for our support towards the agriculture sector; caring for the growers, the workers, the environment and the natural resources in the Western Cape.

### Market and Trade

#### Taal steenvrugseisoen agter die rug

Logistieke uitdagings het weer eens vir produsente en bemarkers slapelose nagte besorg. Lees meer [hier](#).

#### Prokon April report

- Download Prokon pome and stone fruit quality pointer [here](#).

### Vote CAEO

The Cape Agri Employers Organisation or Kaapse Agri Werkgeversorganisasie (KAEO) is a non-profit organisation lobbying for their members, helping to streamline and resolve labour-related and other issues in the complex world of agriculture. Read more [here](#).



Caption: Left to right: Mervyn van der Merwe, Mervyn van der Merwe, Mervyn van der Merwe, Mervyn van der Merwe

### A new season of industry leadership

The Hortgro industry leadership development programme 2024 is officially underway as of this month. The aim is to equip and develop a pool of industry leaders at all levels for leadership positions within industry.



Caption: Left to right: Mervyn van der Merwe, Mervyn van der Merwe, Mervyn van der Merwe, Mervyn van der Merwe

Elgin orchards shoots the lights out  
A Cripps Red block at [Elgin Orchards](#) wowed people with its first harvest of 54 tonnes per hectare in its second leaf. Now it has attained a cumulative yield of 302 tonnes per hectare in its fourth leaf — a possible world first. Read more [here](#).

### Hortgro Technical

#### Plant disease clinic's new lab to help with development of sustainable agri-production

Hortgro is a gold sponsor of the new Plant Disease Clinic Stellenbosch. The clinic plays an important role in advancing plant disease diagnoses, and documenting and analysing emerging plant diseases. Read more [here](#).

#### The Deciduous Fruit Plant Improvement Association annual review 2023

The DPA 2023 annual report reflects on 2023 nursery tree plantings and certification status. Read the report [here](#).

#### 2024 CCC Benchmark Reports for pome and stone Fruit

The 2024 Confronting Climate Change industry benchmark report provides a platform for the South African fruit industries to improve their understanding of the use of fossil fuel-based resources and to reduce emissions over time. Read more [here](#).

### Events

#### Agri's Got Talent – How to enter

Do you want to be agriculture's next superstar? Well here's your chance. Agri's Got Talent is currently open to participants to enter. Read the 3-step guide below on how to enter, send your submissions before **31 July 2024** and you could be the next star of Agri's Got Talent!



#### Hortgro beursprogram

Hortgro-beursaansoek vir 2025-befondsing is oop vanaf 15 Mei 2024 en sluit op 15 Augustus 2024. Meer info [hier](#).

#### 2024 Western Cape Prestige Agri Worker of the Year Competition

The competition was established to give recognition to the valuable and important contribution of the agri worker to the sustainability and growth of agriculture in the Western Cape. Learn more [here](#).



Thank you for registering! We're looking forward to seeing you all at the Hortgro Technical Symposium 2024 next month!

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

#### One Health

In a recent Smart Agri newsletter of the Western Cape Dept of Agriculture, Dr Ilse Trautman provided a one-pager on the so-called One Health Approach.

This relates to the design and implementation of programmes, policies, legislation and research, involving all role players recognising the burden and impact of so-called zoonoses (diseases that are spread between humans and animals and vice versa) to improve the health of humans, and animals and the environment and ensure early detection and a coordinated and effective response.

The notion being that the risk of transmittable/infectious diseases between animals and humans is on the increase given climate change and the potential of pests and diseases to change their patterns and hosts in an unpredictable manner. We have witnessed this with various new challenges to our crop protection programme, which is exacerbated by a dwindling list of chemicals available to agriculture.

This approach is echoed internationally within the United Nations (UN) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) with a global focus on collaboration and coordination of initiatives to reduce risks and ensure prevention, early detection and control of such cases.

This approach must be welcomed and the Western Cape Initiative needs to be applauded for their pro-active actions. Hopefully, this will be duplicated in other provinces and nationally to ensure alignment and optimal utilisation of limited resources and capacity.

This matter also features as a high priority in Hortgro's sustainability programme where the so-called triple bottom line – Plant, People and Profit – is being dealt with in balance with the wide range of aspects in this space within the context of financial sustainability. Cooperation and joint action both within FruitSA and SHAFPE with other fruit groups and countries will also be enhanced with dedicated capacity having been created to deal with the range of challenges.

Until next time – after the 2024 election and the results are done and dusted!  
Anton

The health of soil, plant, animal and man is one and indivisible – **Albert Howard** (1873-1947)

No civilisation has survived the ongoing destruction of its natural support system. Nor will ours – **Lester R. Brown** (1934 - present)

#### → 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 24 Preharvest and Postharvest](#)
- Hortgro Stone: [June Timely Hints/ June Tieljoh Wenske](#)
- Fresh Notes: [212 PAG Feedback & 213 FEMA programme](#).
- Fruit South Africa [Transformation Summary](#)
- New Roots: [Volume 5 | May 2024](#)
- Hortgro News: [All previous issues](#).

#### → HORTGRO YOUTUBE

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting [hier](#).  
PLUJS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGLIS](#)



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