



SWEET ARRIVAL: SOUTH AFRICAN APPLES MAKING A GRAND RETURN TO THAILAND

The first consignment of South African apples arrived in Thailand this week, after Thailand reopened its doors to South African apples in December last year. Mr. Darkey Ephraim Africa, the **South African ambassador to Thailand**, was at the port to oversee the joyous occasion.

[More info>>>](#)



TRAGEDIE VAN ONWETTIGE HANDEL IN LANDBOUMIDDELS IN SUID-AFRIKA

Omgewingsaktiviste is lief daarvoor om Landbou oor die gebruik van gifstowwe aan te vat, 'n sektor waarin besonders hoë veiligheidstandaarde geld. Die probleem lê veel eerder by onwettige 'straatgifstowwe'.

[More info>>](#)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Johann Engelbrecht, a skills development guru in agriculture, has been the Skills Planning Manager of the AgriSETA as well as Chief Operating Officer later, amongst a host of other achievements.

[More info>>](#)

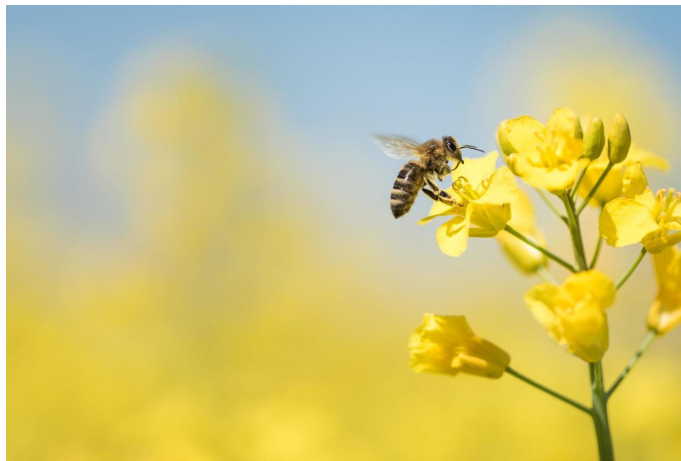




SA VRUGTE-UITVOERVOORUITSIGTE NA VERRE OOSTE ROOSKLEURIG

Suid-Afrikaanse appels en pere het reeds 'n stewige vasstrapplek in China en as alles reg loop, sal Chinese verbruikers binnekort ook aan Suid-Afrikaans steenvrugte kan smul. Oor die afgelope vyf jaar het China se appelinvoere opwaarts gewissel van 7,5748 miljoen ton in 2020 tot 9,7515 miljoen ton in 2024. Sedert die eerste houer Suid-Afrikaanse appels in China in Januarie 2015 aangekom het, het Suid-Afrika die tweede grootste bron van ingevoerde appels vir China geword.

[More info>>](#)



SPIKE IN HONEY BEE POISONING HIGHLIGHTS URGENT NEED TO TIGHTEN REGULATIONS

The Western Cape Bee Industry Association (WCBA) is raising the alarm over a concerning increase in honey bee poisonings across the province, attributed to the careless and often uninformed use of agricultural chemicals.

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AFRICAN GROWTH STORY: MEETING RISING DEMAND FOR QUALITY APPLES

With approximately half of all apples marketed by Tru-Cape sold in Africa, the fruit exporter continues to stay ahead of shifting consumer preferences and developments in the continent’s fresh fruit industry.

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ADDITIONAL INVASIVE PEST PAMPHLETS

- [Frequently asked questions about PSHB \(English and Afrikaans\).](#)
- [All about surveillance of PSHB and SWD.](#)

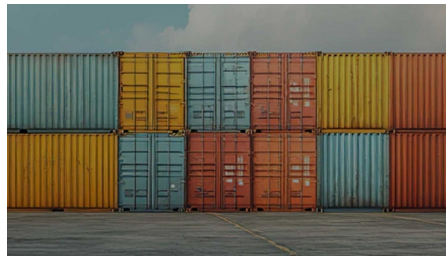
REALITY OF PLASTICS AND PACKAGING



PPWR is now very much a reality. South Africa has a long history of using plastics in fruit export packaging.

[More info>>](#)

ADDRESSING PORT CONGESTION



The Port of Cape Town has long suffered from operational inefficiencies that significantly delay fruit shipments.

[More info>>](#)

'n MYPAAL VIR LANDBOU-OPLEIDING



In September 2022 is 'n baanbrekersprojek vir landbou-opleiding in Tulbagh van stapel gestuur...

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NEW! HORTGRO SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PLATFORMS

- Hortgro Science Research Library. Find it [here](#).
- Hortgro Science Climate Change App. Find it [here](#).

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1455

The above figure is the number of applications received by Hortgro for the 2025 bursary allocations. A clear indication is that there is a huge interest in agricultural careers. The tragedy is that only 9 new bursaries could be allocated for a total of 25 undergraduate bursaries this year.

With another 32 postgraduate bursaries (Honours, MSc, PhD and Postdoc studies) linked to the Hortgro Science research programmes, a total of 57 students study a wide range of agricultural disciplines this year.

Students are registered at 7 training institutions of higher learning. The total investment in the bursary programme for 2025 amounts to R5.82 million. The bulk of this amount is contributed by Hortgro Pome and Hortgro Stone directly through the transformation portion of the levy, and the Hortgro Science programme, with the AgriSETA and Hortgro Dried Tree Fruit also making meaningful contributions this year.

Hortgro also has a proven track record of mentoring and supporting its students to cope with academic and related pressures. This, linked to our internship programme of workplace mentorships through which graduates are assisted within a working environment on farms and packhouses, ensures that individuals have the best possible chance to get permanent employment.

Overall, we have a +80% success rate with graduates securing permanent jobs in the industry and boast quite an impressive list of mentees/interns that went on to earn awards and recognition from various agri-worker competitions. The industry's leadership development programme, currently in its second edition with 24 participants, is another tangible outcome of our focused and successful learning and development programmes.

From the huge number of applications, it must be clear that the needs are much higher than the funds the industry structure can muster on its own. I would therefore like to invite and appeal to agri-businesses in our industry value chain to become involved and invest some of their CSI and training budgets in this programme.

Hortgro has the proven ability and capacity to administer bursaries and related support initiatives. So, any agri-business or stakeholder wishing to participate in this programme, also the training courses for middle management and supervisors, and participation in the internship placement programme, are welcome to contact Astrid Arendse (astrid@hortgro.co.za or tel: 021 870 2900) for more details.

One by one, we will change the future by not only creating opportunities for the few individuals we can support but also securing the future of our industry by training the next generation of managers, specialists and industry

leaders.

Together we can do more.

Until next time.

Anton.

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door - Milton Berle

The best way to predict the future is to create it - Peter Drucker

To hell with circumstances; I create opportunities - Bruce Lee.

→ HORTGRO UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Hortgro Bursary Function**
 - Bursary Function: 23 April 2025
- **Hortgro Research Showcase and Post-harvest Symposium 2025**
 - Research Showcase: 3-4 June 2025
 - Post-Harvest Symposium: 5 June 2025

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

- **Timely Hints**
 - [April 2025](#)
- **Fresh Notes**
 - [220 Implementation of pest control operator \(PCO\) regulations](#)
- **Hortgro News**
 - [All previous issues](#)
- **Fruit South Africa**
 - [Transformation Summary](#)

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

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE

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

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



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