



CHOOSING AGRICULTURE

Inga Dlumane (second from left) certainly has the X-factor. He also has some profound ball sense. A lot of common sense, and the insight to let the right kind of sense prevail. He spoke to **Gerrit Rautenbach** about his extraordinary journey into agriculture and why he gave up becoming a pro footballer to become production manager at **Dutoit Agri**.

[More info>>](#)

MORSBAGS QUIET GUERILLA BAGGING

If you attended one of Hortgro's events over the past year, you walked away with a Morsbag and you might be forgiven for thinking "mors" refers to the Afrikaans word "waste". Unfortunately, Saffas cannot claim honour for this innovative project with the quirky tagline, "Sociable Guerilla Bagging," which sums up the spirit of Morsbags—grassroots, friendly, and quietly revolutionary.



SMALL ACTS, BIG IMPACTS

While climatic challenges have always existed, the scientific consensus is that climate change is a ‘threat multiplier’, increasing the likelihood and severity of climatic events. Hortgro developed the Climate Change Response Strategy (CCRS) for the deciduous fruit industry (DFI) in South Africa, focusing on climate change adaptation, building resilience, and mitigation actions.

[More info>>](#)

GRONDWATER BESTUUR RIGLYNE

Van alle varswater op aarde is 12% grondwater, 1% riviere en mere terwyl die res varswater in die pole is. Hierdie syfers dui op die noodsaaklikheid van verantwoordelike grondwater bestuur. *Download your groundwater management guide in English or Afrikaans.*

[More info>>](#)



SOUTH AFRICAN APPLES AND PEARS SHINE IN CHINA WITH CONSUMER CAMPAIGN

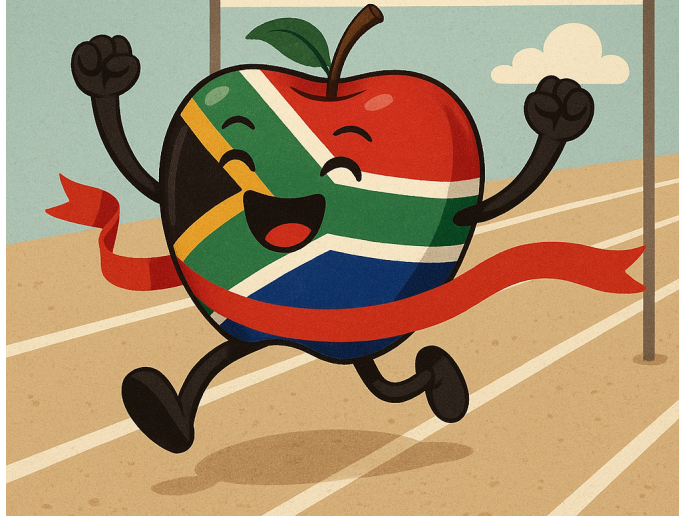
South African pome fruit is taking centre stage in China with the launch of an exciting consumer awareness campaign.

[More info>>](#)

SA GROOTSTE APPELUITVOERDER IN SUIDELIKE HALFROND

Sedert 2023, is Suid-Afrika die grootste Suidelike Halfrond appeluitvoerder. 'n Posisie wat voorheen deur Chili bekleed is. 45 % van Suid-Afrika se appels word uitgevoer na 86 verskillende lande. Hortgro se landbou-ekoonoom, **Pieter-Steyn de Wet**, vertel hoe SA Chili verbygesteek het.

[More info>>](#)



ADVICE FOR FUTURE FARMERS

New Roots asked established commercial farmers and producers along the entire value chain for their pearls of wisdom on how to get started and succeed in agriculture. For starters, we asked **Johnny Karolus**, General Manager at Disselfontein in the Koue-Bokkeveld, for his pointers.

[More info>>](#) | [Download latest New Roots](#)



Hortgro recently met with several Western Cape agricultural stakeholders and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture #fortheLoveofAgriculture.

IMPORTANT INDUSTRY INFORMATION

FOOD SAFETY

Hortgro strongly promotes the use of integrated pest management (IPM). This holistic strategy combines biological, cultural, and chemical tools to manage pests, diseases, and weeds and achieve other desired crop responses while minimising human and environmental health risks. Hortgro supports a **CropLife** press release addressing responsible **public dialogue and food safety**. [Find it here: Agriculture and food production are, by their very nature, long-term ventures.](#)

EXPROPRIATION ACT

There is considerable confusion regarding the **Expropriation Act**. Find a useful document by **Agbiz** addressing frequently asked questions here: [Agbiz FAQ on the Expropriation Act \(Act 13\) of 2024.](#)

RESTRICTED USE OF AGRICULTURAL REMEDIES; PEST CONTROL OPERATORS (PCOs)

Hortgro, alongside other agricultural organisations, formally requested a phase-in period to implement PCO regulations from the Registrar on 18 March.

Ongoing efforts are to amend the PCO regulations to consider the concept of prior recognition of learning. The suggestion is that previous on-the-job experience may be regarded as supporting PCO registration as an alternative to six months of practical experience under the supervision of a registered PCO. This will assist individuals who do not possess a relevant degree or diploma but have sufficient practical experience in becoming registered as PCOs within shorter timeframes.

There is also ongoing discussion about how the regulations will be enforced through audits on the farm level by third-party SIZA and GLOBALG.A.P. auditors.

Hortgro sent **Fresh Notes 222** to its stakeholders on 4 April as an update on restricted agricultural remedies and the implementation of PCO regulations. Growers who are using, or in the future may use, restricted agricultural remedies were

advised to immediately apply for one or more PCO licenses to avoid delays in operations.

AGRI'S GOT TALENT 2025 NOW OPEN

This competition isn't just about showcasing the talent of our agricultural workers—it's about recognising their immense contributions to our sector and our nation. Agri workers, we salute you. Get ready to shine on stage.

[MEER INLIGTING>>](#)



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2025

AGT is a platform empowering agricultural workers in the fruit and wine industries to showcase their singing talents, develop life skills, and make a lasting impact on their communities.



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Wednesday
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12:00 - 12:50



Moderator
Nitasha Baijnath - Pillay
Resource Management
& Sustainability Manager
(Hortgro)



Con Louw
Logistics Manager
(Ceres Fruit Growers)
Packhouse Action
Group Representative



Dr Kirsten Barnes
Expert Circular
Economy Analyst
(GreenCape)



Dr Mariana Jooste
Postharvest
Programme Manager
(Hortgro Science)

IMPORTANT FRESH NOTES

- [Summary of actions for export of apples – to the Kingdom of Thailand \(March 2025\)](#)
- [Restricted agricultural remedies and implementation of pest control operator \(PCO\) regulations \(April 2025\)](#)
- [Feedback of a Packhouse Action Group \(PAG\) \(March 2025\)](#)

NEW! HORTGRO SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PLATFORMS

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

OPVOLGING

Binne Hortgro is ons nou geruime tyd reeds besig met opvolging en die bou van diepte op senior bestuursvlak. In die laaste kwartaal van 2024, het Hugh Campbell en Louis van Zyl afgetree. Beide was meer as 25 jaar in Hortgro se diens en het 'n ongelooflike bydrae gelewer met die ontwikkeling van die Hortgro struktuur en dienste.

Hulle opvolgers, Wiehann Steyn (navorsing/tegnies en die plantmateriaal-portefeulje) en Dirk Crafford (finansies en IT), is reeds goed gevestig in hulle nuwe posisies en is ook besig om 'n verskil op hulle onderskeie terreine te maak.

'n Proses is ook aan die gang met die uwe se uitfassing in die tweede helfte van 2026. 'n Detail aksielys van kerntake vir die verskillende Hortgro-programme en -aktiwiteite is opgestel in 'n sogenaamde RACI-formaat (*responsible, accountable,*

consulted, informed) wat as “padkaart” vir die bestuurspan sal dien as verdere stabiliteit aan die beplande oorgang. Prosesse met die uitfassing van twee ander senior personelede (Matthew Addison en Lindi Benic) is ook aan die gang om ook op hulle spesialisterreine ’n sinvolle oorgang te bestuur.

Tussen bogenoemde vyf individue, het ons 156 jaar se institusionele kennis en bedryfservaring. Die idee is om in die toekoms sinvol van hierdie kundigheid gebruik te maak, sonder om oorgang op operasionele vlak te beïnvloed.

’n Bosberaad is ook in April met die seniorbestuurspan en ander sleutel personeel gehou, as deel van die oorgangsproses, om personeel in te lig en gemaklik te maak met die veranderinge in die dinamiese omgewing waarbinne ons opereer.

Hierdie opvolgingproses is pas verder gevoer met veranderinge aan die Hortgro Pome en Hortgro Stone direksies. Daar is ook ’n beleidsraamwerk vir die direksies aanvaar om voortaan selfs meer pro-aktief opvolging en rotasie van direkteure te rig. Dit maak onder andere voorsiening vir ’n maksimum van drie termyne van vier jaar, tensy daar goeie redes is vir ’n direkteur om langer te dien.

Nicholas Dicey, was na 22 jaar as Hortgro Pome voorsitter nie langer beskikbaar nie, maar sal steeds as die voorsitter van die Hortgro-direksie dien.

Calla du Toit en Danell du Toit is die afgelope week deur die Hortgro Pome-direksie as onderskeidelik voorsitter en onder-voorsitter verkies. Die ander twee Pome direksie-lede is Stephen Rabe en Paul Clüver. Paul is reeds in Maart vanjaar by die Hortgro Pome AJV as Nicholas se opvolger deur die Kernvrugprodusenteraad aangewys.

Die Hortgro Stone-direksie het vir Charl Herbst as nuwe voorsitter aangewys nadat André Smit die pos vir agt jaar bekleed het. André sal as ’n direkteur aanbly en sy huidige termyn uitdien. Grant Smuts sal as onder-voorsitter aanbly. Die ander Stone-direkteur is Charl Stander en Georgie Hewitt wat ook reeds in Maart by die AJV as ’n addisionele direkteur deur die Steenvrugprodusenteraad aangewys is.

Ons hartlike dank en waardering aan Nicholas en André vir hulle onbaatsugtige diens en ons sien uit na hulle verdere bydrae en bystand met die verdere oorgangsprosesse binne Hortgro.

Eksel en die Hortgro bestuurspan is verbind tot ’n gefokusde en sinvolle oorgang en sal ten nouste met die onderskeie direksies saamwerk om voortgesette effektiewe dienslewering aan die bedryf te verseker.

Tot volgende keer.

Anton Rabe

The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers – Warren G. Bennis

→ HORTGRO UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Hortgro Research Showcase and Post-harvest Symposium 2025**
 - Research Showcase: 3-4 June 2025
 - Post-Harvest Symposium: 5 June 2025
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→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

- **Timely Hints**
 - [June/Junie 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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→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- All of Hortgro's online platforms in one place, click [here](#)
 - 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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