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 HORTGRO Pome NPC - Reg No 2002/008690/08

Press Release

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## **The 2025 South African Pome Fruit Industry gearing up for a fruitful season**

The 2024 apple export season ended at a high of 48.6 million equivalent cartons (12.5kg); an increase of 12% compared to the 2023 season. The initial estimate for the 2025 export season indicates a 5% increase in the 2024 volumes. The growth in export volumes is attributed to increased production because of young orchards coming into production, higher-yielding varieties and the recovery from the 2023 hail and flood impacts as well as more favourable weather conditions. Pear volumes are also expected to increase slightly compared to the previous season. At this stage, the cooler nights are beneficial for specifically fruit growth and colour development. Very little sunburn has taken place thus far and the moderate weather is positive all-round. The timing of the season is currently 7 – 10 days later compared to last season, although the overall timing of the season is seen as normal.

Apple export volumes are anticipated to increase by 5%. Red bi-coloured apples such as Royal Gala/Gala (+6%), Cripps Pink/Pink Lady® (+7%) and Bigbucks/Flash Gala (+24%) are expected to drive the bulk of the volume increase. There is also a positive outlook on Cripps Red/Joya® volumes which is anticipated to increase by 9%. The increase is mainly attributed to many new hectares coming into production and good fruit quality.

The pear export estimate is set to reach 21.1 mil eqv. cartons; up 4% compared to 2024. Export volumes for Forelle and Abate Fetel are estimated to increase by 7% respectively, with a moderate increase of 2% for Packham's Triumph. Summer pear volumes such as Cheeky, Celina, Rosemarie and Sempre are all expected to increase compared to last year. Early Bon Chretien, Rosemarie, and Celina pears are currently being harvested, and the quality of the fruit is excellent. In general, the fruit is clean with little wind marks so far.

### **Pome Fruit Export Estimates (12.5kg equivalent cartons)**

POME	2021	2022	2023	2024	3 yr Average	2025 Estimate	Estimate vs 2024	
Apples	44 739 753	45 258 135	43 580 735	48 653 031	45 830 634	51 318 422	2 665 391	5%
Pears	18 997 626	22 065 969	18 498 472	20 291 939	19 854 022	21 106 430	814 491	4%
Total	63 737 378	67 324 104	62 079 208	68 944 971	64 380 230	72 424 852	3 479 881	5%

Directors: NdV Dicey (Chairman) - CvdM Du Toit (Vice-Chairman) – SC Rabe – D Du Toit



## **Logistical Considerations**

Transnet has started implementing the strategic replacement and refurbishment of equipment and machinery at the Port of Cape Town, contracting maintenance and related services, and additional staff. Productivity improvements are already being seen and much lower wind delays thus far.

As collective fruit industries, we continue to work closely with the Transnet management and will do everything within our reach to ensure a smooth logistical operation during 2025.

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