



Packhouse Action Group (PAG) Fresh Notes – August 2015

Membership Changes

Werner van Rooyen (FPEF) was co-opted onto the PAG. Werner is operations manager of FPEF. He deals with several issues that are common to the PAG. His role is logistical co-ordinator in the Cape Town area. He, for instance, chairs the Western Cape Operations Forum which includes Transnet and other parties. He is also involved with DAFF in establishing protocols for market access to China.

Over Arching Deciduous Logistics Co-ordinator

The citrus industry appointed a logistic co-ordinator in Durban to deal with their congestion issues, and enquired whether other industries would like to access this capacity. It was recommended that the logistic functions of the larger producer exporting groups first be consulted regarding their potential involvement in logistical co-ordination in the Cape Town region. Also, the FPEF, as indicated above, are involved in logistical co-ordination.

- [Contact Malcolm Dodd](#)

Cold Sterilisation

Johan Strydom has initiated a cold sterilisation work group. While some progress has been made with the assistance of PPECB, the option of using CA as a cold sterilisation treatment for Nigeria was still under discussion.

- [Contact: Johan Strydom](#)



Containers Risk Management

A container risk management system is being implemented to establish a database of containers for all fruit kinds so that underperforming containers can be identified and isolated. An article has been published in the 2015 August/September issue of SA Fruit Journal.

- **Contact:** Jacques du Preez (jacques@hortgro.co.za), or
Werner van Rooyen (werner@fpef.co.za), or
Bernard Henning (bernard@ppecb.com)

Monitoring of container temperatures

Experico will co-ordinate the additional recording of delivery air temperatures of containers. They will approach packhouses for assistance.

- **Contact** Richard Hurndall

Chlorates/perchlorates

The EU is reviewing scientific opinion and further discussions on possible levels for different food commodities would be held on 21/22 September 2015.

- **Contact** Lindi Benic (lindi@hortgro.co.za)

CA and Postharvest Group

Kobus van der Merwe and Jeff Wedgwood completed a successful trip to visit CA facilities in Europe and USA, with the view of establishing a blueprint for a future CA research facility in South Africa. A report will be presented at a CA meeting to be held in November. An edited version of the report will also be published in SA Fruit Journal.

The next phase will include the involvement of other researchers in the formulation of a prototype facility.

The information gained would be used to plan an industry CA operators' international visit next year.

- **Contact** Richard Hurndall



Load Shedding Work Group

The following issues were discussed:

- The limit for passive cooling of warm fruit in containers was around 4°C.
- The flesh temperature rejection point for pome fruit has been reduced from -1,5 °C to -1,9 °C.
- Individual exporters should select loading temperature options directly with PPECB.
- Several research requirements were listed, and the following project was accepted by the Hortgro Science Technical Advisory Committee:
 - Quantifying the effect of bag perforations on forced-air cooling cycles and post storage quality of apples.
- [Contact Richard Hurndall](#)

PhytClean

PhytClean is an electronic data interchange to support phytosanitary certification between DAFF and Industry.

The Industry is represented at steering group level by Hortgro. Aileen Zulch of Tru-Cape is involved at systems and rules level, as well as with IT service providers linked with all the major systems/pack houses. At this stage Hortgro deems the linkages to be adequate, and will consult if additional inputs are needed.

Projects for 2016

The following projects were motivated to SAAPPA for funding:

- Logistical co-ordination
- Container checklist/steri co-ordination
- NTI benchmarking
- CA research facilities phase 3
- [Contact Richard Hurndall](#)



PAG Disciplines and coordinators

Please contact the relevant person if you have any queries regarding the PAG.

- **Chairman – Koos Bower** (bouweb@orangenet.co.za)
- **Engineering – Henk Ryke** (henk@tad.co.za)
- **Packaging – Prof Malcolm Dodd** (malcolm@alaceraer.co.za)
- **Environmental Footprint – Eddie Vienings** (eddie@bluenorth.co.za) / **Hugh Campbell** (hugh@hortgro.co.za)
- **Packhouse – Dawid Malan** (dawid@tad.co.za) / **Francois Malan** (francois.malan@cfg.co.za) / **Willem Coetzee** (willemc@kromco.co.za) / **Heinrich Woeke** (Heinrich.Woeke@fruitways.co.za)
- **Post Harvest Quality – Prof Linus Opara** (opara@sun.ac.za) / **Dr Elke Crouch** (elke@sun.ac.za)
- **Logistics – Johan Strydom** (pslog@mweb.co.za) / **Andy Connell** (Andy.Connell@dole.com)
- **Communication Strategy – Richard Hurndall** (richard@hortgro.co.za) / **Koos Bower** (bouweb@orangenet.co.za) / **Elise-Marie Steenkamp** (elise-marie@hortgro.co.za)

