Despite the extreme weather conditions experienced in many of the production regions the apple and pear industry experienced satisfactory to above normal returns during the 2015/2016 season.

Due to aggressive expansions within the industry over the last few years, both apple and pear production showed increased export volumes from the previous year. This despite it being a tough season due to one of the driest winters industry has experienced in years, combined with very high temperatures in summer.

The South African Apple and Pear Producers’ Association (SAAPPA) continued to serve the apple and pear industry by focusing on its core functions. The budget was spent judiciously and effectively on research, market access and development, market activities, industry representation, economic and socio-economic development, transformation, and training. These core functions were continually revisited and debated on during executive and board meetings to ensure that the wishes and needs of all our constituents were met.

Hoewel die appel- en peerbedryf hul voetspoor oor die wêreld vergroot het, is toegang tot nuwe markte en die handhawing van ons teenwoordigheid in bestaande markte van kritieke belang vir die volhoubare groei van ons bedryf.

Hegter samewerking tussen die bedryf en die verskillende regeringsdepartemente is van kardinale belang om groei te verseker. En heelwat vooruitgang is reeds gemaak om te verseker dat Suid-Afrikaanse appels en pere in baie lande die voorkeurprodukte is.

Market development or awareness campaigns in many countries continue to play a major role in ensuring the access of apples and pears into new markets with the economic benefits to be realised in the near future.
Navorsings- en tegniese aktiwiteite was steeds die dominante sleutelaktiwiteit binne SAAPPA en het 60% van die kostebegroting uitgemaak, met die langtermyn doel om dit te verhoog afhangend van bykomende inkomste.

Die behoud en uitbreiding van navorsingskapasiteit is van die uiterste belang om te verseker dat ons bedryf kompeterend bly en as ’n verskaffer van hoë kwaliteit produkte geplaas word. ’n Opwindende projek wat baie waarde by die bedryf sal voeg, is die nastrewing van ’n onafhanklike kultivar-evalueringsinisiatief om produsente by te staan in die neem van ekonomies lewensvatbare besluite wanneer die aanplant van nuwe kultivars beplan word.

Transformation remains a priority within the industry and the Deciduous Fruit Development Chamber (DFDC) continues to receive support from SAAPPA to assist in achieving the transformation goals as laid out by the NAMC. It is also pleasing to note that the apple and pear industry is at the forefront when it comes to private transformation initiatives, and that SAAPPA plays an active role in supporting these initiatives administratively.

The administrative team serving SAAPPA, ably led by Anton Rabe, continues to punch above its weight when addressing the myriad of issues to be dealt with in addressing the challenges facing our industry, as well as in ensuring that we can compete internationally on a level playing field.

Transformation remains a priority within the industry.

I would like to thank them and my fellow board members who strategically drive SAAPPA forward for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that we as the South African apple and pear industry stay ahead of the game and remain competitive and relevant in a very challenging environment. I wish the apple and pear industry a blessed and prosperous 2017 season.