HORTGRO
Growing Fruit IQ

Covid-19:
Update of important information
Opdatering van belangrike inligting
Covid Communique 6 (2 April 2020)

Dear Industry Role-player,
In this issue we address today:

- Availability of hand sanitizers and other PPE
- Hortgro statement about: General health and safety of farm workers

HYGIENE AND SHORTAGES OF PPE
Hortgro is aware that there is a national shortage of hand sanitizers (with +60% alcohol content), as well as scanner thermometers, and other protective personal equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.
In the absence of hand sanitizers we advise the agri community to use soap and water – which remains the gold standard for hand hygiene according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the national Institute for communicable diseases (NICD).
Please see articles with instructions on 'How to wash hands properly' and additional reading material here:
Article 1
Article 2
YouTube video
The Western Cape Department of Agriculture is negotiating with Distell to get hand sanitizers for agri workers in the coming weeks. We will report when this will become available and how this will be distributed.

Beste Rolspeler,
In hierdie uitgawe word aandag gegee aan:

- Beskikbaarheid van hand-ontsmettingsmiddels en ander PPE
- Hortgro-verklaring oor: algemene gesondheid en veiligheid van plaaswerkers

HIGIËNE EN TEKORTE VAN PPE
Hortgro is bewus daarvan dat daar 'n nasionale tekort aan hand-ontsmettingsmiddels is (met +60% alkoholinhoud), sowel as skandeertermometers en ander beskermende persoonlike toerusting (PPE) soos maskers en handskoene.
In die afwesigheid van hand-ontsmettingsmiddels raai ons die agri-gemeenskap aan om seep en water te gebruik - wat volgens die Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie (WGO) en die Nasionale Instituut vir Oordraagbare Siektes (NICD) die 'goue standaard' vir handhigiëne bly.
Lees artikels met instruksies oor 'Hoe om hande ordentlik te was' en addisionele leesstof hier:
Artikel 1
Artikel 2
YouTube video

In the absence of scanner thermometers some producers have added a "screening/observer" type process to their daily on-farm protocols. Although this is not ideal, at least it is another check in the chain to observe/implement proper measures to protect workers and groups as far as possible.

STATEMENT

The deciduous fruit industry takes the health and safety of agricultural workers very seriously. And in this regard we can report the following:

1. Hortgro has repeatedly and consistently communicated with its members and informed them of the Covid-19 guidelines, in particular those pertaining to the transport of workers and mitigating risks in the workplace – we will continue to do so in our daily communiques as new information comes available;
2. We have also noted the video clip doing the rounds of agri workers being transported in close contact from one another. We do not condone this behaviour. We are however not sure if this is indeed a recent video.
3. With regards to the financial aid and relief – Hortgro is working closely with the business community and various government departments and institutions and have distributed all the information about tax/other relief, UIF measures, etc. to our members to consider utilisation on a case-to-case basis. We will continue to explore other support measures as we go forward.
4. We will continue to do everything in our power to inform our members

Die Wes-Kaapse departement van landbou het aangedui dat hulle tans met Distell onderhandel om hopenlik binne die volgende weke handsanitasie middels vir landbouwerkers te verkry. Ons sal u inlig wanneer dit beskikbaar sal wees.

In die afwesigheid van skandeertermometers, het sommige produsente 'n "siftings- / waarnemer" -tipe benadering bygevoeg tot hul daaglikse siekte-moniteringsprotokol op die plaas. Alhoewel dit nie ideaal is nie, is dit nog 'n kontrolepunt in die gesondheidsketting om die werkers sover moontlik te beskerm.

VERKLARING

Die sagtevrugtebedryf neem die gesondheid en veiligheid van landbouwerkers baie ernstig op. En in hierdie verband kan ons die volgende rapporteer:

1. Hortgro het herhaaldelik en konsekwent met sy lede gekommunikeer en hulle in kennis gestel van die Covid-19-riglyne, veral die reëls rakende die vervoer van werkers en die risiko's in die werkplek. Ons sal voortgaan om dit te doen in ons daaglikse kommunikasie, soos nuwe inligting verkry word;
2. Daar is blykbaar 'n videogreep op sosiale media versprei oor agri-werkers wat saamgebondel op 'n vragmotor vervoer word. Dit is nie duidelik wanneer hierdie video geneem is nie, of deur wie dit verfilm is nie. In hierdie tye keur Hortgro hierdie tipe vervoergedrag ten sterkste af.
3. Met betrekking tot finansiële hulp en verligting - Hortgro werk nou saam met die sakegemeenskap en verskillende regeringsdepartemente

and communities with the latest information as it becomes available in order to ensure that essential production and packing operations continue, not only to feed the South African nation, but also to continue exporting in order to reduce the economic impact and potential job losses as far as possible.

Kind regards
Anton Rabe (Executive Director: Hortgro)

en instellings en het al die inligting oor belasting / ander regshulp, WVF-maatreëls, ens. aan ons lede versprei. Elke geval is anders en inligting moet dienooreenkomstig gebruik word. Met die verloop van tyd, sal ons voortgaan om ander ondersteuningsmaatreëls te ondersoek.

4. Ons sal voortgaan om alles in ons vermoë te doen om die jongste inligting aan lede en gemeenskappe beskikbaar te stel, soos ons dit ontvang. En sodoende te verseker dat noodsaaklike produksie- en verpakkingsbedrywighede voortgaan. Nie net om die Suid-Afrikaanse bevolking te voed nie, maar ook om voort te gaan met uitvoere en om die ekonomiese impak en moontlike werksverliese sover moontlik te verminder.

Vriendelike groete
Anton Rabe (Uitvoerende Direkteur: Hortgro)

Remember to visit our COVID-19 web page for more information: https://www.hortgro.co.za/news/covid-19-and-the-deciduous-fruit-industry/
Official SA Government information site: https://sacoronavirus.co.za/

Hortgro staff for assistance:
- Anton Rabe (083 453 3422)
- Finance: Louis van Zyl (083 658 8156)/Theunis Basson (082 830 5855)
- Special Projects/Producer support: Mariette Kotze (084 761 1310)
- Trade & Markets: Jacques du Preez (082 864 8149)
- Research & Technical: Hugh Campbell (083 306 6668)/Wiehann Steyn (082 331 0056)
- Communications: Elise-Marie Steenkamp (082 770 7858)