

HORTGRONEWS

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IVAN MEYER OPENS INDUSTRY TISSUE CULTURE FACILITY

A state-of-the-art Tissue Culture Facility (TCF) was opened by Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Dr Ivan Meyer, at Bernheim Farm, outside Paarl, early November. This initiative driven by the South African deciduous fruit industry is an effort to keep up with international trends and to make sure local producers have access to world-class plant material. Read full story [here](#).

Pictured above: Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Ivan Meyer, opened the facility by ceremoniously 'tilling the soil'. From left: Minister Meyer, Anton Rabe (TCF Chairman), Charmaine Stander (TCF Manager), Dr Mogale Sebopetsa (HOD WCDA) and André Smit (TCF Project Manager).

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR NEW LEADERS

Twelve fruit farm production managers recently completed a year-long leadership programme aimed at developing human capital on-farms. The twelve graduated recently and received their diplomas at a ceremony in Tulbagh.

In 2019 Hortgro along with a discretionary grant from AgriSETA, funded the design and pilot phases of a Leadership Development Assessment Centre for Production Managers - Mazars Advisory was the service provider. Read more [here](#).

SIZA ELECTS NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN

SIZA has announced that it is bidding farewell to Nigel Mudge, the long-standing and first official chairman of its board of directors. **Nicholas Dicey** has unanimously been elected as Mudge's successor.

Read latest SIZA newsletter [here](#).

Pictured here: Nigel Mudge and Nicholas Dicey

CELEBRATING 30 & 50 YEAR HISTORY OF STONE AND POME FRUIT INDUSTRIES

Industry leaders give their view on the rich history of South Africa's deciduous fruit industry in a special digital book available to download [here](#).

MEASURING AND MANAGING TRANSFORMATION

At the end of October, significant role-players within the DFI came together with the sole aim to develop an implementable, measurable, and future-focused transformation strategy and blueprint for the industry that is equitable, fair and just for all. Read more [here](#).

12 POINT SAFETY RURAL PLAN

In an attempt to facilitate a safe, protected and secure agricultural environment and farming community, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture shared a 12-point rural safety action plan at a recent stakeholder engagement session.

Read more [here](#).

CAPE TOWN PORT BEACON OF HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

During the past season, logistics, and in particular the functioning of the main ports from where we ship our fruit, have been a huge headache during the initial and further

lockdown levels in South Africa and abroad. There has, however, been great improvement in the SA ports since the excessive delays experienced earlier this year.

Read more [here](#).

GEVAAR EN GEWIN VAN NUWE KULTIVARS

Vervanging van boorde is noodsaaklik vir die winsgewendheid van Suid-Afrikaanse steen- en kernvrugprodusente. **Anna Mouton** het bedryfskenners se raad gaan vra. Lees meer [hier](#).

HORTGRO: PRINCIPLED STANCE ON IP RIGHTS

Hortgro was requested to express its principled stance on IP and related Plant Breeder Rights as such material forms the backbone of our continued relevant and internationally competitive industry. Read [here](#).

THE SOUTH AFRICAN APPLE STORY

WHY DID APPLE VARIETIES DISAPPEAR?

In this column about the history of apple varieties in South Africa, we will investigate and explore why some varieties succeed and others disappear

The column will consist of extracts taken from a book by Henk Griessel and Buks Nel, *The Newcomers and Their Friends*, that was published by Tru-Cape early in 2020.

In our first insert, we will discover why some varieties disappear. Read it [here](#).

THE FIRST WITTE WIJN APPLES ARE GROWING ON SA SOIL AGAIN

Since returning the Witte Wijn apple to The Company's Garden in Cape Town on April 17, 2019 and planting it at Babylonstoren and Oak Valley Estate the following year, three small apples have formed on the Witte Wijn apple tree in the Tru-Cape Heritage Orchard at Oak Valley Estate. Read more [here](#).

FRESH QUARTERLY #11 - DEC 2020

The latest issue of the Fresh Quarterly look at all aspects of nursery trees from their physical and physiological characteristics to their health. Some articles examine handling practices and consider the potential benefits of potted trees. You can learn more about the Deciduous Fruit Plant Improvement Scheme and what a blue label actually means. And you can read about specific diseases that are spread with infected plant material. Download the FQ [here](#).

FRESH NOTES 182

Feedback on the recent PAG meeting. Download [here](#).

BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY WITH SOUTH AFRICAN STONE FRUIT

[DOWNLOAD RECIPES](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Langkloof Seminar & Orchard Walk, Misgund - POSTPONED TO JANUARY 2021, new date will be communicated.

Contact Thea van Zyl for more information via email on thea@hortgro.co.za

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

D6/Hortgro24 Information app.

[Stone fruit app](#).

E-mail taryn@hortgro.co.za for more information.

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke: December 2020](#)

Fresh Quarterly: [Issue 11](#)

Transformation Times: December Issue

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinligting [hier](#).

PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGELS](#)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PEN

What will 2021 bring?

As we rapidly progress through to the last few weeks of 2020, it is somehow unreal that we (as a fruit collective and value chain) have mostly come through a year that many of us would like to put behind us and age to start 2021 which most people believe would bring some much needed economic recovery on the back of an effective C19-vaccine.

Unfortunately, still a way to go, and the risk of an imminent 2nd wave given a seemingly widespread lackadaisical and non-compliant mind-set with protocols being ignored on the back of Covid-fatigue and a general urge for some normality.

So, what can we expect from 2021 from a pome & stone perspective?

Firstly, a good to excellent crop (although a bit later than in recent years) after a more normal winter with adequate (although also somewhat late) chilling units and full dams in most production regions. On-farm and packhouse protocols and practices have mostly been adapted and harvesting and packing operations should be under control subject to continued and diligent compliance with regulations.

On the other hand, I am somewhat concerned about the trade side with our traditional markets heavily in the grip of a 2nd wave, with a global economy starting to creak at the seams. This, linked to a strengthening Rand, will in my view lead to a tight trading environment. Any logistical and quality mistake will be severely punished. It might just be the final straw for many businesses.

Luckily, with the industry interventions, new equipment and a revised Transnet protocol and management, the bottleneck experienced at ports should be something of the past. We have also actioned a clear industry focus on logistics and daily exchange of shipping and related statistics and intelligence.

We also, believe that we are in the right industry with fruit being regarded as part of a healthy diet that boosts the immune system as we have already experienced during the past season with good demand for deciduous fruit.

I trust that producers, packers and marketers/exporters ensured that they have properly registered their orchards and facilities for the various markets they are targeting. Various phytosanitary and food safety protocols also need to be fully complied with for consignments not being delayed or have to be re-routed for any manageable reason.

For those that take a break from what proved to have been an exhaustive year over the Festive and New Year period, please enjoy and rest well – COMPLIANTLY! 2021 will have its surprises, but lets' not create the surprises ourselves. Lets' manage those things under our control, very, very well!

Until next time, keep well and stay healthy.

Anton

What the new year bring to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year - Vern McLellan

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right! – Oprah Winfrey

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