



LANDBOUSKRYWERS
AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA

AGR pen

SPONSORED BY BAYER

APRIL 2021

A bitter toast at Press Freedom Day

IFAJ NEWS

Statement by the IFAJ Press Freedom committee

Yes, we should be enthusiastic about celebrating the International Press Freedom Day on May the third.

Unfortunately, there is a risk that the toast we raise this year is a bitter one, and there are several reasons to believe that the situation is not better for agricultural journalists than for journalists in other sectors.

The best thing we can do right now is to try to encourage each other and strengthen our connections with journalists who face threats and repression.

Decreasing democracy and freedom

According to the latest report from Freedom House, "Freedom in the World 2021 Democracy under Siege", the global situation for democracy has been declining during the last 15 years.

The report found that the share of countries designated "Not Free" has reached its highest level



since Freedom House started tracing a decline in democracy in 2006. The report for this year downgraded 73 countries, representing 75 percent of the global population.

The international association, Reporters without Borders concludes in "World Press Freedom Index 2021" that freedom of the press has gone the same way. The Index was published by April the twentieth.

There have not been so few

countries on The World Press Freedom map with light color – indicating a situation that is at least good if not optimal – since 2013, when Reporters Without Borders started to measure the World Press Freedom Index with its current method.

It is also commonly known that several regimes are keeping control of the information about the COVID-19 situation in their countries. They do what they can to prevent journalists from making independent reports



on the actual situation. Some regimes have even used their efforts to censor news about the pandemic situation and civil unrest – inflamed by measures to control the pandemic – as an opportunity to suppress media in more general ways, decreasing press freedoms.

You can find examples of that from the regional analyses in the World Press Freedom Index 2021.

Besides, most of us as daily working journalists have been able to observe the development by ourselves as we have been following the media through the past year.

Public mistrust of journalists

The public mistrust of journalists nowadays does not make our job easier, either. Reporters without Borders refers to the 2021 Edelman Trust barometer, published in January this year.

The barometer reveals a disturbing level of public mistrust of journalists, with 59 per cent of respondents in 28 countries saying that journalists deliberately try to mislead the public by reporting information they know to be false information they know to be false. A mistrustful public may be more likely to disregard our reporting and less protective of the rights of its journalists.

Can we report independently about food supply?

Is the situation with public mistrust, decreasing democracy and press freedom related to

agricultural journalism? We are not able to give a clear answer to that question because we do not have access to better statistics than Reporters Without Borders can give us, and those statistics are not specified by journalists' area of focus.

However, it is obvious that many regimes around the world do what they can to give the impression that their own actions and way of governing their countries are the right ones. It is hardly much different for example, when it comes to food supply, which is linked to agriculture.

This brings us to the United Nation's World Food Programme. According to the programme, hunger has been on the rise since 2015 and is back to the levels seen in 2009–2010.

The number of chronically hungry people has increased from 629 million in 2014 to 688 million people in 2019. About one billion people in low and lower-middle-income countries do not have sufficient

We cannot explain all increasing hunger with climate change, droughts or other weather disasters, nor with poor harvests or diseases. Although the population of the world has been growing during the same time, there still should be enough food produced globally to prevent hunger.

As agricultural journalists, it is also our right to try to analyze from a political point of view why hunger is increasing. Is it possible today? For some of us, but hardly for all of us. That is one reason for us to support each other.

Networking with colleagues under pressure

In the IFAJ, we decided at the

Delegate Assembly in New Zealand 2015 to accept member guilds in countries that operate without freedom of the press. It is a criterion, that the guild is supporting press freedom.

The reason behind this decision is that we can better promote freedom of the press by trying to build networks and to keep as many contacts as possible open to colleagues trying to do their job under pressure from regimes that do not tolerate criticism.

The decision was made almost six years ago, and we are still learning. During the years, we have been able to welcome new member guilds and support them in their activities and promote professional development.

We still have a way to go, but we are working on intensifying our global networks. We shall hope that the world is going to win the struggle of COVID-19, which also would make it easier to create and to keep up contacts between colleagues.

Anyhow, the situation entails that journalists in free countries protected by national and international rules have to support and encourage colleagues working under pressure in countries without democracy, without freedom to express themselves independently. Just as important, we will have to do that without putting our friends in danger.

This is also a risk that has to be considered. It is our responsibility as professional working agricultural journalists. It is also a part of the soul of the IFAJ family: We are supporting and encouraging each other. ■

We can raise a toast for that – as always.



Name change for Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Department

The formation of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is complete now that all the relevant officials have been transferred to the newly amalgamated department.

This follows the announcement of the sixth administration in 2019, where the forestry and fisheries functions were amalgamated into the Department of Environmental Affairs, which became known as the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

The department said in a statement on Wednesday that the name of the Department of Environment,

Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) will change on 1 April 2021.

“The DEFF will in future be known as the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE),” it said.

The substitution and designation of names for National Department and Office of the Premiers and heads thereof was published in Government Gazette 44229 (Notice No. 172) in terms of the Public Service Act on 5 March 2021. ■



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Room for growth in the South African avocado sector

Jennifer Roets

Over the last five years, The South African avocado sector harvested approximately 125,000 tons of avocados per annum. The area under commercial avocado orchards stands around 14,700 hectares, with new plantings of about 900 hectares added per annum.

The avocado sector contributes to at least 11,500 jobs on farms and packhouses. South Africa expects an uptick in avocado exports this season of 66,000 tons compared to 60,000 tons in the previous season.

This is according to Derek Donkin, CEO of the South African

Subtropical Growers' Association (Subtrop). He says: "Between 45 and 50% of South Africa's avocados are exported; 10 to 12% are processed into oil and guacamole; and the rest is sold locally. About 95% of South African avocado exports are to Europe, the United Kingdom (UK), and Russia. The South African industry and government are currently negotiating market access to the USA, China, India and Japan,"

According to Joe Shaw Roberts, Consumer Insight Director at international research company Kantar, the UK avocado market has seen astronomical growth over the last five years, however, long term growth is at risk if price deflation continues in the market.

Trevor Dukes, CEO of the Fruit Farm Group SA (TFFGSA), says to offset the price pressure expected from Europe, the South African avocado sector needs to increase production from 10 tons to at least 15 - 20 tons per hectare. "We also need to develop alternative markets, and undoubtedly the focus on the East is going to help us release some of the pressure. Finally, with extended seasons - if you are fortunate enough to have production in different regions - one could balance the windows of supply."



Derek Donkin, CEO of the South African Subtropical Growers' Association (Subtrop).

"In the off-season, South Africa imports from Israel and Spain and is looking into importing from Tanzania. That will give us a full season of consumption in South Africa," Dukes said.

Dukes expects that innovation in the avocado sector will be continual and gradual. The introduction of precision agriculture and agtech are the areas where we will see the greatest innovation and the largest leaps in the South African avocado sector. With existing and new varieties and rootstocks, we are already harvesting better than before, and we are using innovative techniques to manage orchard conditions and tree architecture. One thing we do not have yet that will change projection, is the availability of dwarf type genetic material to plant high density. It is a little bit of everything that adds up to a lot. ■



Trevor Dukes, CEO of the Fruit Farm Group SA (TFFGSA)



SA Dairy Product of the Year: Third triumph for Woolworths Mature Gouda

Lactalis South Africa's 10-months Mature Gouda, made especially for Woolworths, was crowned the South African Dairy Product of the Year for an unrivalled third time at the South African Dairy Awards on Friday 26 March 2021 at Cavalli Estate near Stellenbosch. This achievement is a first for the SA Dairy Championships, celebrating its 188th year of existence.

The Gouda, an aromatic and full-flavoured cheese, was one of almost 900 dairy products from 68 producers that vied for the attention of the 60 judges. From the big number of entries, only eight were honoured with the *Qualité* mark of excellence (full list of the *crème de la crème* below) and 106 – the winners in each championships class – were named SA Champion.

“For a product to be chosen as Dairy Product of the Year in a competition of this nature is the dream of every cheesemaker,” says dairy expert and chief judge Alan Fourie. “That the honour befalls this year’s winner of the prestigious title for the third time, is exceptional.

The Woolworths 10-months Mature Gouda truly is a product that has stood the test of time, but also a proof of the continued use of excellent ingredients. Technically and gastronomically it is as close to perfection as a cheese product can come.”

Marek Warzywoda, General Manager: Lactalis South Africa (LSA), says his team is overjoyed at



having the choice Extra Mature Gouda named as the Product of the Year for an unprecedented third time.

“In addition, this is also the fourth time we’ve claimed the overall top award in five years. Team LSA’s hard work, dedication and ambition to produce top quality products have once again paid off. We are immensely proud of our 2021 SA Dairy Championships performance.”

Warzywoda also complimented Agri-Expo on organising “yet another successful SA Dairy Championships and Awards”. ■



2021
SINCE 1834

The South African Dairy Awards

Only major Dairy Competition worldwide during Covid-19

The SA Dairy Championships has been presented by Agri-Expo with great success since 1834. According to Johan Ehlers, CEO of Agri-Expo, most important international dairy events worldwide were cancelled in 2020 and postponed in 2021.

“The South African Dairy Championships is in fact the only major dairy championships in the world that took place in 2020 and 2021,” says Ehlers. “To make this possible, we had to adjust the judging process to two days and present the awards as a hybrid event.”

According to Ehlers, the large number of entries and extraordinary products entered this year are reasons to be optimistic about the future of the dairy industry in South Africa: “This year’s results testify to an innovative industry and healthy competition between individuals, small and medium businesses, as well as national and international companies.”

Agri-Expo would like to thank the Platinum partner Synercore as well as all the other partners of the SA Dairy Championships for their commitment to the development of the dairy industry, namely AECl Food & Beverage,

the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Condio, Hollard, the Milk Producers’ Organisation (MPO), The Dairy Mail, Woolworths, MANE, Orchem, Polyoak Packaging, IMCD and Tetra Pak. ■

2021 QUALITÉ AWARD WINNERS

Clover – Frankfort (2)	Mooi River Salted Butter Clover Salted Butter Mini Tubs
Lactalis South Africa (Ladismith) (2)	Woolworths Mature Gouda - 10 Months Matured Président Mature Gouda - 6 months Matured
De Pekelaar Boerenkaas	De Pekelaar Boerenkaas Old
Famous Brands Cheese Company	Steers Processed Cream Cheese Spread - Onion and Chives
Fairview Cheese Company	Woolworths Chevin with Garlic and Herb
Fair Cape Dairies	Checkers Vanilla Flavoured Custard

For more information and full results please visit www.cheesesa.co.za or contact Agri-Expo at +27 (0)21 975 4440 or cheese@agriexpo.co.za

Join the conversation on social media with #SADairyChamps #SADairyAwards @AgriExpo1

The SA Dairy Awards can still be viewed at www.cheesesa.co.za/sa-dairy-awards

Agri SA en vennote maak 'n vars impak met Covid-19-voedselverligting

Nadat Agri SA in 2020 'n betekenisvolle verskil in die lewens van baie mense gemaak het, loods hy op Woensdag 31 Maart sy 2021-oor-skotvoedselhulpveldtog by die Joburg Market.

Die eerste veldtog vir 2021 is 'n samewerkingspoging met die Mike Loutfie-stigting, Total South Africa en die RSA Group, en sluit **R110 000** in skenkings en 'n beraamde **30 ton** se vars produkte in. Begunstigdes sal kospakkies ontvang wat bestaan uit voedsame, vars produkte van hoë gehalte – iets wat huishoudings in moeilike omstandighede dikwels nie kan bekostig nie.

“Dit is 'n groot voorreg vir Agri SA om deel te wees van sakevennote soos Total South Africa, die Mike Loutfie-stigting en die RSA Group, wat soveel aandag gee aan gemeenskappe in nood. Die gevolge van die Covid-19-pandemie word steeds daaglik gevoel en die behoefte aan voedsame kos is 'n harde werklikheid. Agri SA het sedert die aanvang van die pandemie na behoeftige gesinne en gemeenskappe in Suid-Afrika uitgereik, en het in 2020 byna 400 ton gesonde kos afgelewer,” het Andrea Campher, risiko- en rampbestuurder van Agri SA, gesê.

Een van die begunstigdes is die organisasie Afrika Tikkun. Total South Africa werk al ses jaar saam met hulle en ondersteun hulle kinder- en jeugontwikkelingsprogram. Afrika Tikkun se visie is om 'n einde aan kinderarmoede en jeugwerkloosheid te maak. Die organisasie implementeer sy bekroonde Cradle-to-Career (C2C) 360°-model in vyf townships regoor Suid-Afrika.

Hierdie holistiese benadering, wat fokus op onderwys, voeding, gesondheid, maatskaplike welsyn, persoonlike ontwikkeling en vaardigheidsontwikkeling, is ontwerp om 'n jongmens te omskep in 'n selfversekerde volwassene wat toegang tot die ekonomie het.

Alex Meulenberg, uitvoerende hoof van Afrika Tikkun, beklemtoon hulle fokus op voeding: “Aangesien voedselsekerheid in 2020 'n nuwe dringendheid begin kry, het ons ons vennootskapsbasis uitgebrei om kwesbare gesinne te help om voedsame kos te kry. Op hierdie



manier kom ons nader daaraan om die Reg op Kos 'n werklikheid te maak.”

Die kospakkies sal aan al vier Afrika Tikkun-sentrums versprei word, naamlik Orange Farm, Diepsloot, Braamfontein en Alexandra.

“Die Mike Loutfie-stigting, in die hartjie van die varsproduktebedryf, is opgewonde om sy vennootskap met Agri SA voort te sit om werklike en onmiddellike voedselhulp te bied waar dit die nodigste is,” sê Jade van Buuren, bedryfsbestuurder.

Die voortslepende Covid-19-pandemie, tesame met Suid-Afrika se algemene ekonomiese probleme, hou steeds baie voedingsuitdagings vir heelwat mense voor. Dit is positiewe samewerking soos hierdie een wat 'n tasbare impak maak deur om te gee oor die gesondheid en welstand van ons kwesbare burgers. ■



What you need to know about African Swine Fever to protect your piggery African Swine Fever (ASF)

African Swine Fever is a highly contagious viral disease of wild- and domestic pigs of all age groups. It is important to note that African Swine Fever is not the same virus as Classical Swine Fever nor Swine Flu viruses.

ASF is a global disease responsible for serious production and economic losses. The ASF virus spreads rapidly and can cause a mortality rate of up to 100%. Why is this disease feared globally you might ask?

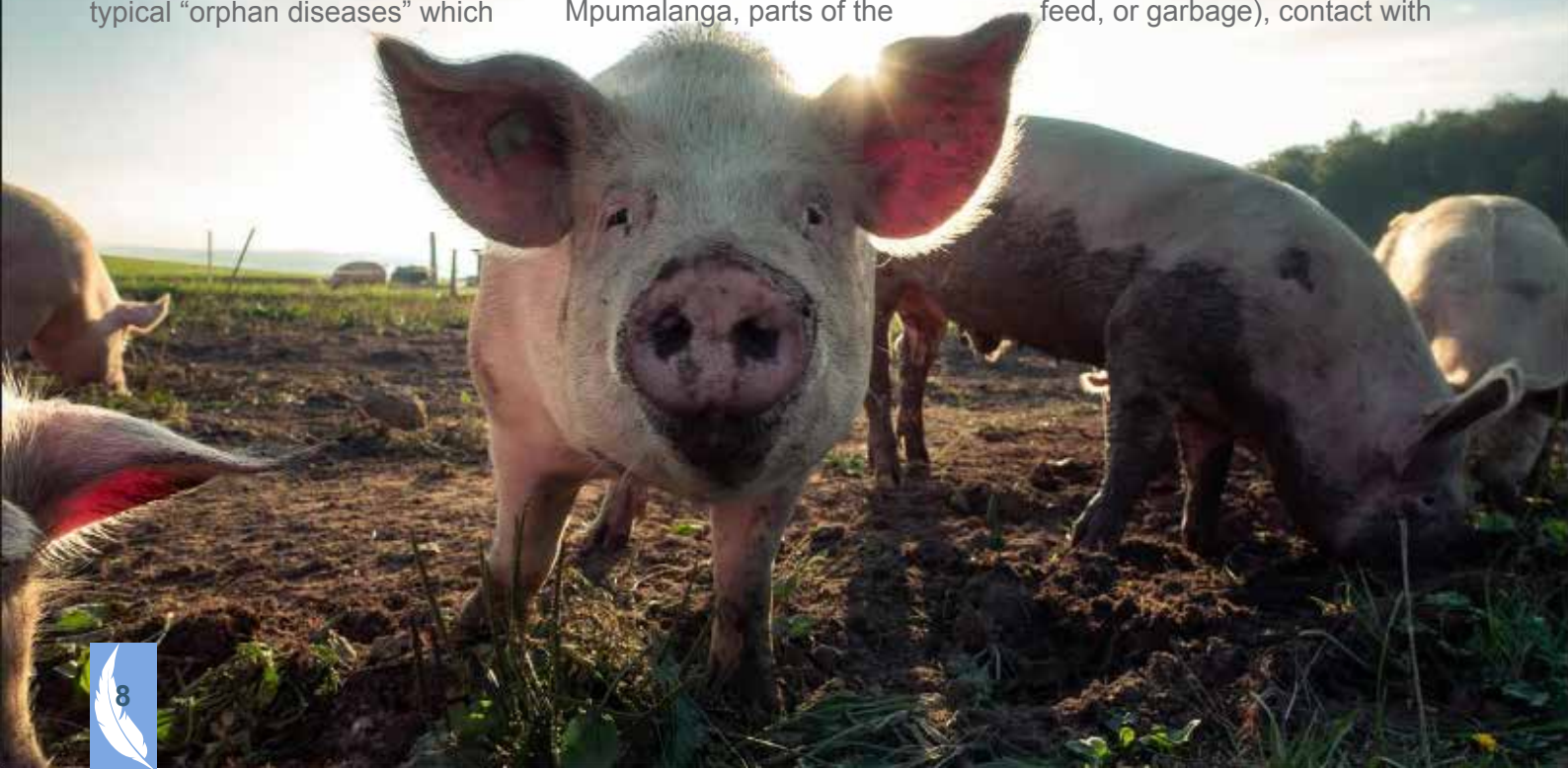
The reason is that there is no vaccine or treatment for this disease, which is one of those typical “orphan diseases” which

are largely ignored while they are confined to places like Africa. However, the recent rapid spread to especially China, has greatly increased the international focus on the disease.

One of the best resources to refer to when anyone needs more information on infectious livestock diseases is the world renowned Anipedia - <https://www.anipedia.org>. Afrivet proudly supports Anipedia and is an affiliate of this resource platform. The only particular way to keep this virus out of your piggery is by implementing and maintaining good biosecurity principles. Historically South Africa has a ASF controlled area which consists of Limpopo, Mpumalanga, parts of the

Northern Cape and KwaZulu Natal. Since 2012, a broader infection rate has been noted outside of the controlled area. Occurrence of outbreaks have been noted in various provinces such as Northern Cape, Gauteng, Free State, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, North West.

Up to date recent outbreaks occurred in Western Cape and North West Provinces. According to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), the disease is transmitted by contact with infected wild (usually asymptomatic carriers) or domestic pigs, indirect contact, through ingestion of contaminated material (e.g., food waste, feed, or garbage), contact with





contaminated people, vehicles, or equipment.

The incubation period is 3-15 days, which is the time from when the animal is first exposed to the virus to when it starts showing clinical signs suggestive of ASF. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, high temperature (fever), not eating, red/purple discolouration of the skin around the ears, legs and lower part of the belly, vomiting, diarrhoea, coughing, difficulty breathing, abortions and a high mortality rate.

In South Africa, ASF is classified as a controlled disease, Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984).

Therefore, if you are a vet or an owner who suspects ASF, based on clinical signs or presence of high mortalities, you need to report this to your local state veterinarian immediately. The state officials will investigate and take samples.

If a pig unit/farm/piggery has a suspected or confirmed case of ASF, the infected premises will be placed under quarantine. Dr. de Beer is committed to the task of educating the public about the importance of biosecurity.

Farmers are urged to take responsibility and have the best biosecurity measures possible in place. It is important for each pig farmer to have good relationship with a private or state veterinarian and to report any abnormalities in the herd. It is important that all producers understand biosecurity principles and seek advice from the correct sources.

Good biosecurity principles are the only way pig keepers can keep the dreaded disease out of their piggery. It is important that you know your “enemy”, this virus can stay viable in blood, faeces, other tissues for long periods.

The producers need to know how to build their “fort”/piggery in order to keep the “enemy” out:

- Source pigs from a reliable source.
- Controlled human and animal access that includes but is not

limited to fences, gates, shower or changing facilities.

- Good disinfection protocol for vehicles and foot dips.
- Make use of a reliable feed source and as far as is possible, do not feed swill.
- If swill must be fed, it should first be boiled and sterilised for at least an hour before feeding it to pigs. (According to Act 35 (1984). ■

**Ultimate biosecurity test question:
Are you sure everyone and everything entering your unit is not carrying a potential risk of transmitting a disease into your piggery?**

If your answer is no, you learn about ASF and biosecurity measures to protect your piggery.



GENERAL NEWS AND INDUSTRY NEWS

Increased rainfall has a rising effect on animal disease transmission

SAVC

Biosecurity entails following preventative measures through risk awareness in pre-empting the spread of new diseases from entering a farm or production unit.

Aspects relating to biosecurity that should be considered are not only limited to acquiring new livestock but expands over a broader feature concerning the transportation of animals, people, equipment, and vehicles. The best defence against risks is to implement good biosecurity practices at farm level. Quick and simple measures built into the daily practices will help in

securing the financial longevity for farm owners through limiting the loss of animals to disease.

On 13 November 2020, the Biosecurity Rules for Livestock Agents were published in Government Gazette 43900, Board Notice 135 of 2020.

These rules are primarily to ensure that the South African Livestock and Game industries comply with the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE)

terrestrial code to enhance international trade. Secondly, the rules are to regulate the livestock agent's industry with specific reference to required precautions that must be taken at auctions (as a second level of detection for animal diseases) to reduce the risk of spreading controlled, notifiable, and other animal diseases.

The rainfall thus far during January and February 2021 has shown a significant impact on the spread of disease, and farmers must explore all reasonable aspects of biosecurity and the implementation of procedures to curtail the spread.

GENERAL NEWS AND INDUSTRY NEWS

With rivers, dams and pans filling up, insect numbers are increasing, and with this, insect-borne diseases are on the increase.

Practical guidelines that extensive livestock farmers can follow include checking the health status of new animals before they are bought; appointing a Biosecurity practitioner that is registered with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), i.e. veterinarians and/or para-veterinary professionals who were trained in biosecurity, such as animal health technicians and ensuring that all animals are procured through registered agents with the Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC), which is now a compulsory element of the Agricultural Produce Agents Act, Act no 12 of 1992. 2 In keeping with all requirements within the Act, new animals must be kept separate from livestock for 14 days so that they can be monitored, allowing time for any disease symptoms

to be displayed. "Implementation of a structured immunisation programme is paramount as a preventative measure and is essential to maintaining good animal health and welfare, whilst also reducing the impact of disease transmission in pets and livestock." says Mr Mongezi Menye, CEO for the SAVC.

Implementing an effective on-farm biosecurity plan can be costly, but not nearly as costly as losing some or all the livestock on a farm to a disease.

While having a well-designed biosecurity plan that is carefully followed by everyone associated with a farm is not an absolute guarantee against infectious diseases entering the farm, the benefits associated with containing outbreaks and reducing the need for additional vaccines that come with heavier price tags and limited stock is simply an outlay that you cannot afford not to pay attention to.

Mr Menye reiterated that, "The responsibility lies on all stakeholders, and although the disease may still find its way onto your farm through other avenues, early intervention is the key to containing outbreaks and ensuring that there is less financial impact on all farm owners in South Africa."

The advantages of healthy animals will not only be important to the seller but will also play an integral role in consumers' buying decisions.

Consumers will have peace of mind over the health of livestock, and a positive relationship between buyers and sellers will be maintained to the benefit of the industry. ■



Celebrating a new international partnership



Sauvignon Blanc, as the most-exported varietal of South Africa's wines, is one of the country's finest internationally known brands. Sauvignon Blanc SA is therefore proud to announce a Platinum Partnership with international brand EVER srl, based in Italy, and represented in South Africa as EVER Solutions.

This exciting new partnership rings in a new era for South African Sauvignon Blanc. "Over the last fifteen years we have built the Sauvignon Blanc SA brand together with our Platinum Partner FNB," says RJ Botha, Chairperson of Sauvignon Blanc SA.



GENERAL NEWS AND INDUSTRY NEWS



Beanstalk PMA table grapes.

“Sauvignon Blanc is a great example of the complexity and diversity of South African wines, and likewise, FNB offers innovative and diverse financial services that assist producers with developing new vineyards and increasing production.”

“We are excited about the involvement of our new Platinum Partner, EVER Solutions, who is a leading producer of winemaking biotechnologies and processing aids that work closely with winemakers in the development, improvement and best applications of solutions for wine production.” ■



Clayton Swart.

More information about the Sauvignon Blanc SA #SauvBlancDay Celebrations and participating wine brands are showcased at www.sauvignonblanc.com/sauv-blanc-day

Anyone interested can also contact Sauvignon Blanc SA at reinette@sauvignonblanc.com or 021 975 4440.



NERPO announces the retirement of its MD, Mr Aggrey Mahanjana



The founder and the Group Managing Director of NERPO, Mr Aggrey Mahanjana has decided to take an early retirement as the Managing Director of NERPO as from 1st April 2021.

However, the members of NERPO have requested him to extend his stay as the Non-Executive Chairperson of the organization, just to allow for a smooth transition over the next three year.

This followed the untimely passing away, of Mr Paradise Mahlangu who served as chairperson of NERPO for the past 10 years, until he died three months ago.

Mr Mahanjana said he has been contemplating about stepping down as an active operator of NERPO since 2019, but the outbreak of Covid-19 in January 2020, compelled him to stay, until the Emerging Livestock farmers got a chance to reorganise themselves as strong voice at a District Level.



Image: www.nationinconversation.co.za/aggrey-mahanjana

He further confessed that running a commercial farm and be a full-time employee at the same time does not work. The saying by the Afrikaans speaking people, “Ver van jou plaas nader jou skader” is very true.

“Farming is about day-to-day and hour-to-hour decision making, guided by the circumstances of the moment. If you are far and

you do not know or see what is going on, on an hour-to-hour basis you are bound to be slow in making success of your farming enterprise,” said Mr Mahanjana.

Mr Mahanjana is living a team of capable persons who understand the industry matters, and he will also continue to contribute to the industry matters, both as a full-time farmer and Chairperson of NERPO. Dr Florence-Nherera will in the meantime act as the CEO of NERPO, until further notice. ■

**For more information, please contact:
Congress Mahlangu
@083 245 2294 or**

Syngenta launches new fungicide seed treatment

Syngenta recently announced that its newest corn and soybean seed treatment, VAYANTIS® fungicide, has received registration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

VAYANTIS® fungicide contains the active ingredient picarbutrazox, a completely new systemic fungicide seed treatment developed to protect seedlings from key blight and damping-off diseases, such as *Pythium* and *Phytophthora*, in many different cropping systems.

This new registration will help protect plant health and support farmers to grow more productively and sustainably.

The introduction of VAYANTIS® fungicide represents one more tool to help growers combat early-season disease with less inputs and offset variable environmental conditions associated with climate change. Reinforcing *Pythium* protection at the seedling stage, allows farmers to adopt reduced or no-tillage cropping systems, protect the soil and avoid costly replants. In addition, stronger emergence and stand

establishment help maximize genetic yield potential.

"We are proud to offer VAYANTIS® fungicide, a new seed treatment to the market confirming our position as a global leader in the seed treatment space" said Jonathan Brown, Global Head of Syngenta Seedcare.

"Picarbutrazox, with its novel mode of action will strengthen Syngenta's leading *Pythium* portfolio of MEFENOXAM™ technology and azoxystrobin in corn, soybeans, canola, oilseed rape, cereals and other crops. Discovered by Nippon Soda, this is a great testament to the fact that both companies identified the needs in the seed treatment space, and, with Syngenta Seedcare's leadership, we now can bring a product to the market. Syngenta is committed to building partnerships with third parties when the potential impact of joint action is greater and when, of course, it increases the benefits to farmers," added Jonathan Brown.

Chinami Yokota, Nippon Soda Director of Development Department, noted that "Nippon Soda is excited to partner with Syngenta Seedcare to bring

our latest fungicide discovery, picarbutrazox, to the market. Syngenta's long history of success in the seed treatment segment makes them the ideal company to deliver this novel product to U.S. farmers."

VAYANTIS® fungicide contains picarbutrazox, a new seed treatment developed to protect corn and soybean seedlings from key diseases such as *Pythium*. VAYANTIS® fungicide brings a major innovation to the control of *Pythium* diseases and adds a novel mode of action to Syngenta's leading Seedcare portfolio, supported by best-in-industry expertise and the Seedcare Institute Global Network. Picarbutrazox was discovered by Nippon Soda and licensed to Syngenta under the terms of a global seed treatment licensing agreement. ■

To learn more visit

www.syngenta.com and
www.goodgrowthplan.com

Follow us on Twitter at
www.twitter.com/Syngenta
and

www.twitter.com/SyngentaUS



Global acquisition by Netafim to support food security and strengthen local greenhouse industry's access to technology

Netafim, the global leader of precision irrigation solutions and agricultural projects, announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Dutch turnkey greenhouse projects provider, Gakon.

Netafim has been active in the greenhouse market for several decades and is now expanding its offering in the production and supply of top-tier greenhouse projects to meet the increasing demand for the most advanced farming methods.

In Southern Africa, Netafim's activity in the greenhouse industry is driven by Vegtech Netafim. Vegtech Netafim has been providing greenhouse solutions in Southern Africa for more than two decades, with this acquisition it will be even more equipped to serve this market.

"Gakon offers highly specialised technology and expertise in greenhouse systems, and we have already been using many of these systems in some of our advanced greenhouse projects.

These technologies and the accompanying expertise will





GENERAL NEWS AND INDUSTRY NEWS

now be even more accessible to Vegtech Netafim and its clients,” says Barney Isralls, managing director of Vegtech Netafim. The company can offer these technologies to its clients with immediate effect and will bring it into the market as required.

The acquisition will combine Netafim’s global presence and expertise in precision agriculture and Gakon’s advanced greenhouse technology. The resulting strengthened greenhouse offer will allow Netafim to better support agricultural industries such as blueberry, medical cannabis, and undercover vegetable production across the globe.

Netafim’s entity for irrigation and fertigation solutions in Southern Africa, Netafim South Africa, will continue to provide irrigation and

fertigation solutions for orchards, vineyards, and other open field agriculture in parallel with Vegtech Netafim’s work in the greenhouse sector and especially with turnkey greenhouse projects.

“We are very proud to be part of a global group of companies that band together to progress agriculture worldwide.

The acquisition will support an industry that is key to our local economy and we are pleased to be associated with this watershed moment in the history of the global greenhouse industry,” says Etienne Erasmus, managing director of Netafim South Africa. “We are, as always, committed to offer the best irrigation and fertigation equipment selection as well as advanced agronomic and technical support to both our dealers and end-users.”

The expanded offering will leverage Netafim’s capacity as a holistic destination for farmers of year-round crops and farm-to-table local produce.

It will further support the company’s continued drive to support efforts towards food security and sustainable agriculture across the globe. ■

Enquiries:
Netafim South Africa:
+27 21 987 0477
infoza@netafim.com

Vegtech Netafim:
+27 021 987 6980
info@vegtech.co.za

Media enquiries:
Marike Brits
072 185 5157
Marike.brits@netafim.com

Unieke aanlyn-konsep: Boks voer vir 'n boer

Waar lê die fokus van hierdie droogtehulp konsep?



Die sentrale deel van die Noord-Kaap waar moedige boere steeds wag vir reën, is boksvoervirboer se fokusgebied.

Dit lê wes van Vanwyksvlei en Carnavon, af na Sutherland en Frazerburg, om na die somer- reënvalgebied noord van Calvinia, op na Brandvlei, die hele Boesmanland, 100 km noord van Loeriesfontein, na die Pofadder omgewing, oos van Springbok na Aggeneys, deur Pofadder, noord na Kakamas en suid tot by Kenhardt.

Die leser kan gerus 'n kaart gebruik en die sirkel trek. Dit is gewoonlik bemagtigend om presies te weet waar die nood is.

HOEKOM DAAR?

Die breë publiek sal nooit beseft dat slegs 'n handjievol boere slegs strepies reën in daardie gebied gekry het nie.

Die afwagting en angstigheid was voelbaar met goeie reëns wat om hulle geval het. En nou is dit reeds 19 April, die tyd vir somerreëns is weereens verby.

WAAROM BLY BOERE DAAR?

Want die meeste boere het geen keuse nie. Hulle het ALLE finansiële bronne gebruik om

hulle diere te voer. Hulle het geen ander heenkome nie. Geen ander keuse as om daar te bly nie. Ook GLO hulle in daardie wêreld. Hulle het daar grootgeword. Hulle is steeds lief vir die wêreld wat hulle nou so op hul knieë het. Hulle was gewoon aan droogte siklusse.

Hulle kon dit met kundigheid bestuur. Die weiveld is soos beskuit, vertel hulle. Jy kon dit vir jare bêre en dit sou steeds die nodige voorsien om die skaap deur te kry. Maar hierdie droogte hou nou net te lank aan. Alles is tot niet. En tog beskaam die hoop nie.

HOE WERK BOKS VOER VIR 'N BOER?

Tik "boks voer vir 'n boer" in op jou soek-enjin (google). Die webtuiste bied jou al die inligting.



Jy ontmoet die boere wat nou op die konsep is. Daar is foto's van hulle.

Hul plaasname en 'n kort storie oor hulle. Jy word die geleentheid gebied om aanlyn een van 4 produkte te kies vir een of meer van die boere.

**Produkte behels:
'n Boetie-boks, 'n Pappa-boks, 'n Oupa-boks en 'n Menere of Maatskappy-boks. Dit is virtuele bokse voer en die boer gaan laai die voer by sy naaste Koöperasie.**

Geen bokse word gepak en gestuur nie, daar is geen vervoer nie, geen koolstofvoetspoor en geen logistiek nie. Jou aankoop word direk in die boer se rekening inbetaal. Hy is welkom om die fondse aan te wend na behoefte.

BOKS VOER VIR N BOER is n NPC en jy ontvang dadelik 'n formele Bank-bewys van betaling na die boer, asook 'n Artikel 18 A serifikaat vir SARS aftrekking op jou donasie.

WIE STAAN AGTER DIE PROJEK?

Elria Steinberg is die 'ou siel' en stigter van die konsep. Sy is boervrou naby Hendrina in Mpumalanga, maar is 'n gebore Namakwalander en later Boesmanlander.

Thea van der Merwe is ons jong prokureur en sorg dat die ou siel tegnologie bemeester.

Jack Radford is ons bemerkings ghoeroe. Hy werk as siviele ingenieur op Secunda, maar het op Askam grootgeword. ■

KONTAK ONS:

Facebook: Boks Voer vir n Boer

E-pos: boksvoervirnboer@gmail.com

Whatsapp: 082 387 9889

Website: <https://boks-voer-vir-n-boer.myshopify.com/>

Webinars, Webinars, Webinars!



IFAJ will be presenting 3 webinars in the month of May in partnership with the Swedish, Finnish and Argentinian guilds, all the details available on the IFAJ website.

<https://www.ifaj.org/webinars-webinars-webinars/42377/>

“Agricultural Reporting – A Crash Course for Newbies”	“The Beauty & The Beast of Digital Media”	“Animal Cloning Technology”
7 May 2021 at 09h00 GMT	13 May 2021 at 14h00 GMT	17 May 2021 at 14h00
With Linda Grimstedt, Swedish agricultural journalist	With Tuulikki Viilo, Finnish agricultural journalist	With Dr. Gabriel Vichera, Argentinian biotechnologist, Kheiron Biotech
Presented in English	Presented in English	Presented in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English

IFAJ portal

Remember to sign up to the IFAJ Portal: <https://portal.ifaj.org/>

IFAJ virtual congress

IFAJ virtual congress 21-23 June 2021

Nuwe NWK-winkel in Vryburg

NWK Retail Vryburg het onlangs sy deure amptelik geopen! Dit bring die aantal winkels in die NWK Retail-stal op 43 te staan. Dié winkel spog met 'n wye reeks produkte wat tot produsente en ander verbruikers in hierdie gebied se behoeftes spreek.



Heinrich Krüger, voorsitter van NWK se direksie knip die lint, terwyl Pieter Coetzer (heel links), bestuurder van kleinhandelbedrywe by NWK, Stefan Venter (winkelbestuurder van NWK Retail Vryburg), Cas Venter, operasionele bestuurder van kleinhandel en Theo Rabe, hoof- uitvoerende beampste van NWK, toekyk. Let wel: maskers is afgehaal vir die neem van die groepfoto



CALENDAR

KALENDER

15 October 2021	Boer van die Jaar Noord/Farmer of the Year North Function:
19 November 2021	Boer van die Jaar Nasionaal/ Farmer of the Year National
17 – 20 Augustus 2021	NAMPO Bothaville:
8 – 10 September 2021	Nampo Kaap: Bredasdorp

Upcoming IFAJ congresses

2022 – Denmark
2023 – Canada
2024 – Switzerland
2025 – Israel
2026 – Kenya
2027 – Croatia



2021
22 - 24 June
SUN ARENA, TIME SQUARE
MENLYN MAINE, PRETORIA

Media Advisory

Africa Agri Tech 2021 Date Change Announced

As 2020 draws to a close it is evident that the current Covid-19 restrictions would negatively impact on a February 2021 date for the second edition of Africa Agri Tech.

We have therefore revisited the date discussion and reserved the venue as follows:

Expo Dates: Tuesday 22 – Thursday 24 June 2021

Venue: Sun Arena, Time Square, Menlyn Maine, Pretoria

The three-day conference programme will focus primarily on profitability, the need to embrace technology and examining which technology to implement and economic impact.

The event is also extending to embrace:

- Women in Agriculture
- Innovation Start-Ups
- Farming Training and education workshops

Die eerste koue van die winter kom oor
die Kaapse berge
*The first cold of the winter appearing over
the Cape mountains*

Fotos/Photo's: Alani Janeke



Stuur vir ons jou stories

Alle lede word uitgenooi om bydraes vir Agripen voor die 15de van elke maand te stuur aan Magda Du Toit, magda.du.toit@outlook.com of Petrie Vogel, petrie@abevents.co.za

Send us your stories

All members are invited to send contributions to Agripen before the 15th of each month to Magda Du Toit, magda.du.toit@outlook.com or Petrie Vogel, petrie@abevents.co.za



LANDBOUSKRYWERS SA
AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA

**Secretariat sponsored
by Health Squared**

Petrie Vogel
+27 (0)74 051 3318
petrie@abevents.co.za

**HEALTH
SQUARED**

