

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021



Sizwe Magagula

When I addressed you this time last year, I was confident that SAAGA would have gained access to at least two markets, India and Japan, and that access to China would have been advanced, following the granting of market access for SA pears by China. As you would recall, avocados are placed next in the queue after pears.

Mr Magagula sadly passed away in 2021 during the COVID pandemic

What we did not know was the world was about to change for the worse when COVID-19 hit the globe, freezing international travel and restricting gatherings for people. Some organisations had to close doors temporarily to comply with government protocols on COVID-19. Some of those companies will never open their doors again – the impact was simply too severe.

Agriculture on the other hand became an overnight flavour, as one of the few industries allowed to keep their doors open. Suddenly, everyone realised that when the chips are down, you only need a farmer. The impact of COVID-19, however, has been felt by industry as we were preparing to pop champagne, celebrating access to the markets stated earlier.

Efforts to get governments to relax the inspection regime in light of the travel restriction, did not bear any fruit. As a result, we do not have the access we had hoped for. Hope is not lost, however. The CEO and SAAGA's technical team continue to work hard to make sure that these agreements are finalised.

With the departure of SAMAC three years ago, there was a lot of uncertainty among the Subtrop personnel and doubt among members whether Subtrop would be viable and by implication that SAAGA would be left to carry most of the costs, thus placing the financial burden on SAAGA members. There were questions whether SAAGA should not follow suit and stand on its own as a result. There was a move to give assurance that the structure would be sustainable financially and, that for government relations, it made the umbrella body carry a stronger voice.

One of the benefits pointed out was that the exit of SAMAC would free up the CEO's time to focus on the SAAGA strategic issues which had been clearly outlined. I am happy to say that these benefits have been realised. Subtrop has been able to reorganise and build a strong and stable team of people to support SAAGA's strategic objectives. The Association is now in a much stronger position financially, with a strong balance sheet to cover members should a need arise.

The financial reserves built over the years unlock the opportunity for SAAGA to invest in key strategic projects to gain market access in Asia and America.

With the appointment of the Transformation Coordinator, we have begun to invest in emerging grower development programmes to ensure greater participation of black farmers in industry.

Some of the exciting transformation projects are the One Hectare project, which is the development of a hectare of avocado on emerging growers' land. It is aimed at teaching, developing and transforming emerging avocado growers. The project will also be used to link growers, inputs providers, packhouses, government offices and other stakeholders. The partial funding of infrastructure and inputs of SAAGA Cost Sharing at 50/50, is another innovative project that has been rolled out to lend financial support to emerging farmers. SAAGA's partnership with Prokon to train emerging growers in the Levubu area on fruit maturity is yielding positive results.

The new initiative of linking emerging growers to mentors is a project that will undoubtedly grow the industry – we challenge other members to avail themselves to mentor emerging black farmers.

We believe that building a strong pipeline of young people in industry is pivotal. SAAGA has moved to partner with Stellenbosch University and sponsored the horticulture department to introduce a subtropical fruit production course to channel some of the horticulture students towards the subtropical industry. This was successfully implemented.

SAMAC was also invited to come on board to contribute towards this project, and they enthusiastically came to the party. We will continue to invest in this project as part of the industry's sustainable development initiatives.

Local market development is one of the strategic pillars for the Association. SAAGA has increased investment in local market development to grow local consumption of avocado as one of the ways to mitigate the single market risk that the industry faces.

Strengthening government relations was one of the things we said we would undertake, for better coordination of market access efforts. SAAGA's membership in Fruit South Africa through Subtrop ensures that the industry is well represented at Fruit South

TO PAGE 5

SAFT



Southern African Fruit Terminals (Pty) Ltd
Member of the **SEA**-invest Group

YOUR BUSINESS
PARTNER IN
COLD STORAGE



OUR PEOPLE MAKE IT HAPPEN



SAFT HEAD OFFICE
Oosbosch Street,
Daljosaphat, Paarl, RSA
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 7440
ockert@saft.co.za
www.saft.co.za

SAFT ATLANTIC
Atlantic Drive, Atlantic Hills,
Durbanville, Cape Town, RSA
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 7440
willie@saft.co.za
www.saft.co.za

SAFT KILLARNEY
Sati Road, Killarney Gardens,
Cape Town, RSA
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 7400
james@saft.co.za
www.saft.co.za



COLDHARVEST
Oosbosch Street,
Daljosaphat, Paarl, RSA
Tel: +27 (0)21 202 2500
deonh@saft.co.za
www.saft.co.za



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

HORTICULTURE

6 WATER USE OF AVOCADO ORCHARDS – YEAR 4

NJ Taylor, E Mazhawu, AD Clulow and MJ Savage

18 EFFECT OF PACLOBUTRAZOL AND POTASSIUM NITRATE SPRAYS AT FLOWERING ON NEW SHOOT DEVELOPMENT, LEAF NUTRIENT ELEMENT CONCENTRATIONS, FRUIT DROP, SOLITARY FRUIT WEIGHT AND TREE YIELD IN MALUMA HASS AVOCADO

SA Oosthuysen

30 INVESTIGATION INTO THE POTENTIAL USE OF AVOCADO TOTAL SOLUBLE SOLIDS CONTENT FOR CROP ESTIMATE AND ORCHARD MANAGEMENT PURPOSES

FJ Kruger, GO Volschenk and E Volschenk

32 RESEARCH TOWARDS REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF LENTICEL DAMAGE OF SOUTH AFRICAN 'HASS' EXPORT AVOCADO FRUIT

D Lemmer, HW Viljoen and JF Fourie

PATHOLOGY

66 AVOCADO SUNBLITCH VIROID (ASBVd) SYMPTOM IDENTIFICATION AND DETECTION IN AVOCADO ORCHARDS

AEC Jooste and ZR Zwane

72 EVALUATING AMMONIUM- AND POTASSIUM PHOSPHONATE FOLIAR SPRAYS OVER TWO SEASONS BASED ON ROOT PHOSPHITE CONCENTRATIONS FOR THE PREVENTATIVE MANAGEMENT OF PHYTOPHTHORA ROOT ROT

A McLeod, L Moyo, JG van der Westhuyzen, P Novela, JG Modisane and P Mohale

POSTHARVEST

80 PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE MATURATION RATES, TASTE SCORES AS WELL AS THE SHRIVELLING AND STEM-END ROT INCIDENCES OF HASS FRUIT CULTIVATED AT LOWER AND HIGHER ALTITUDES IN THE MOOKETSI AREA

FJ Kruger, GO Volschenk and E Volschenk

84 FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE EFFECTS THAT ARTIFICIAL CO₂ ENRICHMENT HAS ON 'HASS' AVOCADO FRUIT STORAGE POTENTIAL

FJ Kruger, GO Volschenk and E Volschenk



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

FROM PAGE 3

Africa level. We have seen a lot of initiatives to strengthen government relations through this platform. I am hopeful that soon this partnership will lead us to the conclusion of access to the two markets, India and Japan.

We cannot talk about the industry and not refer to the technical support role SAAGA plays in supporting growers to manage export risks, to support market access led research, yield improvement and overall quality improvement research. Dr James Mehl has been instrumental in developing the technical division to respond to the Association's and growers' needs. We thank James for his sterling contribution.

My term as Chairman came to an end. Clive Garrett takes over from here. I will remain on the SAAGA Board as a past Chairman for the next two years. I would like to thank Derek Donkin for the leadership role he played, especially during

the uncertain time of SAMAC's exit – he has now built a formidable, balanced team in Subtrop that looks after the members' interests well.

I would like to thank Johan Benadé for the seamless supply of financial information which we do not take for granted. Thank you to the unsung heroes and heroines in the Subtrop office. I want to thank the Board members who helped me to drive the Association agenda. It has been an absolute pleasure to lead a team of this calibre. It is a unique opportunity that I will treasure for many years to come. I want to thank the growers for challenging and supporting this leadership at all times. The Association is over the difficult times and is stronger than ever. We can only grow from here.

Sizwe Magagula