



# FRUIT FLASH

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## FRESH FROM SAPO TRUST

SAPO Trust completed their restructuring process in February 2016. During this process, SAPO lost the services of three senior employees. Ferdi van Zyl continues his career in the consultation field, Rudi Vos is exploring new horizons and Fred Absalom has gone on early retirement. Other changes include new business ventures

and important changes to our organisational structure to enhance SAPO's functions.

*A new Business Unit namely Innovation and Support Services was established with Burgert van Dyk as the new Business Unit Manager.*

Paul Stemmet was transferred to Riviersonderend as Operational Manager and Myra Mouton

promoted to Administration Manager; both responsible for the foundation nursery.

Johan Laubscher, Vine Technician, was replaced by Divan Venter. Johan will complete his career at SAPO as a mentor and guardian to help the new appointments understand the importance of plant improvement. Albert Bredell was appointed in the place of Paul Stemmet to collect and distribute pome and stone fruit

plant material. Andreas Lötze is the new appointment at Quarantine and Nuclear Services. Nine other additions to the SAPO team were also made.

Through these changes SAPO tried to bring continuity and fresh ideas to the table to ensure a better and more focussed service to the deciduous fruit industry.

See you soon!  
**Dr Phillip Fourie**



## SAPO TRUST REPRESENTS SA FRUIT IN GERMANY

*Frederik Voigt, Business Unit Manager: Production at SAPO Trust, was invited by the Rheinlandplaz Dienstleistungszentrum, near Bonn in Germany to give two lectures at their annual pome fruit symposium from 12 to 14 January 2016. The two lectures entailed an overview of the South African apple fruit industry and the South African pome fruit rootstock scenario and future initiatives.*



Frederik Voigt (right) with Gerhard Baab and Michaela Schmitz.



## CRIMSON SEEDLESS VIRUS ELIMINATION



Crimson seedless in the Hex River Valley.

SAPO Trust has performed virus elimination processes on the Crimson seedless variety during the past couple of years. The clean clone was planted and performs very well in terms of colour and production — as can be seen in the photo above taken at the Hex River Valley. This clean clone is available for nurseries to order from SAPO.





## FROM BERLIN TO THE USA

Burgert van Dyk attended Fruit Logistica in Berlin, and the International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) conference in Grand Rapids, USA. Fruit Logistica covers many sectors of the fresh produce business and provides a look at the latest innovations, products and services in the international supply chain. Fruit Logistica offers superb networking opportunities where many meetings with SAPO Trust's clients were held.

The theme of the IFTA conference 2016 was The Precision Generation. The conference was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where many different tree fruit species are grown. Various aspects of the conference stressed precision orcharding of apples, sweet and tart cherries, peaches and apricots. Precision orchard systems seem to be popular with all growers and especially young growers. Many topics including orchard systems, training systems, nutrition, irrigation, fertigation, chemigation, pest control, mechanisation and harvest,

post-harvest handling and storage were discussed. Topics featuring Honey Crisp, Gala and Fuji emphasised the grower needs to find profitability in growing these modern apple varieties.

The Fruit Logistica in Berlin.



## BIGBUCKS FIELD DAY IN THE ELGIN AND CERES AREA

SAPO Trust held field days on 3 February in Elgin and on 4 February in Ceres to introduce the newly released Bigbucks apple variety. Bigbucks is a full red Gala mutation, discovered by Buks Nel and owned by the Pink Vein Partnership. Tree and production royalties apply. There is a lot of interest in this new attractive variety and SAPO has a high demand for plant material.



Bigbucks is a full red Gala mutation, discovered by Buks Nel.

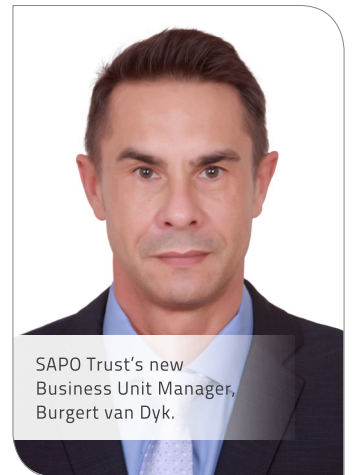


## PROFILE ON NEW APPOINTMENTS IN SAPO

After 23 years of service at SAPO, Burgert van Dyk was promoted to Business Unit Manager: Innovation and Supporting Services. He is excited about filling this critical role.

"I liaise with Plant SA, universities, ARC and other research institutions inland or similar overseas institutions and new developments that are relevant to SAPO Trust; like plant improvement and new varieties," says Burgert.

Other responsibilities include the development of new technology for plant improvement, all processes and material in the SAPO lab and all Information Technology Management.



SAPO Trust's new Business Unit Manager, Burgert van Dyk.



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