



FRUIT FLASH

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SAPO EMBARKS ON AN EXCITING NEW BUSINESS VENTURE



Photo: Future Tissue Culture Lab

The South African (SA) fresh produce farmer and the SAPO Trust organisation have several things in common. When it comes to plant material there are indeed two very prominent commonalities – ***virus free plant material to be readily available at cost effective prices.*** A further noteworthy commonality is observed between

the SA government and SAPO Trust, an organisation aspiring towards cultivating future growth – both entities have a strong desire to feed the nation with healthy and nutritious crops whilst ensuring that SA enterprises are geared towards complying to stringent market access requirements, e.g. plant health.

It is in this regard that SAPO is exploring the possibility of a Plant Tissue Culture laboratory within the near future!

As an industry organisation, SAPO is best positioned to ensure that tissue culture

plants (mainly rootstocks) are made available to the industry cost-effectively and on an equitable basis. SAPO's contribution is in direct response to the growing demand for quality rootstocks and, with the benefits of rapid multiplication through tissue culture technology, SAPO would indeed contribute towards the greater goals and objectives of the SA Food Security and Nutrition policy.

Hierdie is een voorbeeld van SAPO se benadering tot besigheid in die voorsienbare toekoms – aktiewe luister na die behoeftes van kliënte en belanghebbendes, 'n gesindheid van toeganklikheid en oop wees vir nuwe besigheid, sowel as die konstante nastreef van 'n relevante waardeproposisie in lyn met die veranderende markomgewing van ons kliënte.

SAPO Trust endeavours to share regular updates on the tissue culture developments, so please watch the space! Should you be excited as we are at SAPO about this new venture, do contact me directly for any specific enquiries.

Cheers for now,

Shawn Coetzee
Chief Executive Officer



SAPO ACTIVELY ENGAGE THE NURSERY COMMUNITY



SAPO continued with its quest to prioritise stakeholder relations. Whilst an array of stakeholders has been met in recent times, SAPO had the privilege to host the last meeting of the Deciduous Nursery Association (DNA/SKV), at its Tygerhoek premises in Riviersonderend. SAPO used this platform to actively engage stakeholders and to share important insights of mutual interest to the broader industry. As an industry organisation, SAPO is reaching out to a wide set of role players to ensure the maximum benefit of plant material to the South African fruit farmer.

Photo: DNA members at SAPO's Tygerhoek Nursery including nurserymen from the Langeberg and Witzenberg areas, Plant SA and Topfruit



ALMOND SHORT COURSE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCERS

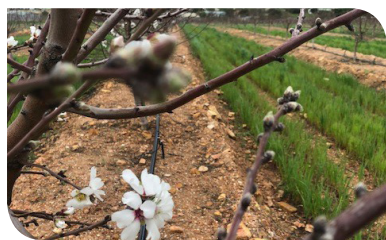


Photo: Almond blossom

Frederik Voigt and Elsa Muller attended an Almond short course in Riebeeck-Kasteel on 6 August. Prof. Patrick Brown from the University of California, Davis, and Prof. Daan Strydom, talented horticulturalist in South Africa, both shared their knowledge on almonds.



US PATOLOGIE STUDENTE BESOEK SAPO LABORATORIUM

Dr. Cheryl Lennox en haar 4de jaar honneursstudente het onlangs SAPO besoek. Roleen Carstens het hul 'n oorsig gegee oor die belangrikste virusse by kern- en steenvrugte. Daarna het Emcee Coetzee in die laboratorium vir hulle verduidelik watter virus-toetse uitgevoer word, asook die naspeurbaarheid van monsters. Emcee het ook vertel hoe groenvermeerdering uitgevoer word vir skaars onderstokke. Daar was baie belangstelling en studente is nou meer ingelig oor moontlike beroepskeuses.



PBRS FOR FUJI ROYAL AND SHORTIE



Photo Left: Shortie apple
Photo right: Fuji Royal apple



The year 2011 was indeed a year of good findings. During the autumn of 2011, Robert Zulch of Wakkerstroom Witzenberg found a shoot mutation in his Fuji orchard. Robert explained that the red colour of the shoot immediately caught his eye. Thus, the beginning of Fuji Royal.

Standard procedures were followed, and transferability of characteristics and stability were tested. In the following years, it was confirmed that these mutations were indeed true to the original selections made.

Plant Breeders' Rights applications were filed for three of these mutations. Already known to us, the Rights for Bigbucks has been granted and commercialisation is well on its way. This year, the good news was received that Plant Breeders' Rights have also been granted to Fuji Royal and Shortie!

Shortie has smaller trees with very close internodes – in fact a spur-type! The variety is precocious, bearing very heavy crops. The potential of a spur-type Fuji lies in high density plantings and possible eliminating of alternate bearing – common occurrence with Fuji. Tru-Cape, owner of Shortie, has assigned the plant material distribution license to SAPO Trust.

The exceptional characteristic of Fuji Royal is the full bright red colouring of the fruit. This mutation has the best colour of all the current Fuji selections available in South Africa – with little or no russetting. The fruit has excellent eating quality, is crunchy with a sweet and almost 'snappy' texture. The variety will be commercialised as a collaboration between RJF Boerdery and Tru-Cape. SAPO Trust will be responsible for the distribution of Fuji Royal plant material.



STUDENT VISIT

A group of students from the Koue Bokkeveld Opleidingsentrum (KBOS) visited SAPO Trust during June. They learnt more about plant improvement, and how such an organisation functions. The visit included plant improvement activities, laboratory tests on plant material, and how trees are grafted at SAPO to produce plant material. These students are busy with their NQF4 Plant Production Certificate, and will complete their course in 2019.



Photo: Students from KBOS



CFPA AND DFTS INFORMATION DAY – ROBERTSON



SAPO Trust was part of a canned and dried fruit exhibition at the Graham and Rhona Beck Skills Centre in Robertson.

Photo: SAPO exhibition at Information Day



CERES/WOLSELEY SCHOOLS VISIT SAPO

Schools from the Ceres/Wolseley area visited SAPO to learn more about what the agricultural sector can provide in terms of employment after school. Plant improvement, virus testing in the lab and how to graft trees were demonstrated.



Photo: Demonstration of grafting for scholars



APPLE SELECTION AND UPGRADING OF STANDARD VARIETIES



SAPO Trust takes great pride in supplying the best virus tested plant material to the South African stone and pome fruit industry. During harvest season, personnel are in the orchards to look for upgrades of existing clones and mutations of different varieties. With the new season ahead, SAPO is looking forward to what Mother Nature will bring to the table.

Please contact SAPO Trust if you see any interesting mutations in your orchards. You never know, it could be the next 'BigBucks' of the future!



ROLEEN WORD VEREER DEUR BOWWUS

Roleen Carstens het tydens BOWWUS (Bond vir oud Wingerd- en Winkunde-studente) se jaarlikse byeenkoms haar erelidmaatskap ontvang vir haar bydrae tot die Suid-Afrikaanse wynbedryf. Roleen is aktief betrokke in beide die wingerd- en vrugtebedrywe. Roleen dien op die Fitosanitiere Komitee van die Wingerd Verbeteringsvereniging en is tans ook president van die Suid-Afrikaanse Wingerd- en Winkundevereniging.



Foto: Roleen ontvang erelidmaatskap



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