



FRUIT FLASH

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FRESH FROM SAPO TRUST

Here at SAPO we're always embracing change, with the latest being our brand new offices. The building was inaugurated on 8 September with guests from all over the industry. What an honour to have Peter Dall, Chairman of Upstars Trade 22 at Fleurbaix (from which we are renting), cut the ribbon.

Our metamorphosis didn't end there. We decided to restructure our business after a fruitful strategic conference.

The process is underway and several small committees are working on chosen issues. The restructuring is due to be implemented by 1 March 2016.

Last but not least, during the end of August, right after the migration to the new offices and the SANAS audit, the SAPO laboratory accreditation was reinstated at SANAS.

We're very excited to see what the future holds!

Until next time,
Dr Phillip Fourie
General Manager



SAPO GIVES BACK

In the vein of Mandela month, SAPO Trust decided to clean their offices prior to the big move into their new offices and give back to those in need. The used office furniture was put on tender, whilst the remaining unused furniture such as desks, chairs and cupboards were donated to churches and schools in the Stellenbosch area.

This photo of a pre-primary class, whom the furniture was donated to, shows how thrilled the children were about finally having proper furniture to work on.



A PIERCING TRUTH

In the USA, Pierce disease is caused by the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, which lives in the xylem of grapevine plants. This disease also causes poney peach disease, oleander leaf scorch and citrus variegated chlorosis disease (CVC) in Brazil. In Europe, it has attacked and devastated olive trees in southern Italy, causing the olive quick decline syndrome (OQDS).



Fortunately, this disease has not occurred in South Africa yet and is regarded as a quarantine organism. All overseas plant material originating from countries and areas that contain this disease must be tested extensively at the Plant Quarantine Station (DAFF) in Stellenbosch on arrival. This bacterium holds a serious threat to various plant varieties in South Africa and could force a major decline in affected crops, as well as a loss of income.



THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

This season, several problems were experienced with graft union of vines. This problem led to many rejections of plant material due to non-compliance with regard to the requirements of the South African Plant Certification Scheme.

The presence of a new quarantine invasive mite, a citrus flat mite called *Brevipalpus lewisi*, within local vines caused a lot of confusion and delays in the distribution of vines from nurseries. The adult is extremely small, barely visible to the naked eye.



SPROUTING NEW SEEDLINGS



Newly appointed Tania Dreyer from Finances, Warren Koopman from Production, and Brendan Barry and Craig Pietersen, both from Pathology, all went on a visit to SAPO's Nursery at Riviersonderend. Part of the initiation is that newly appointed personnel visit Tygerhoek to see how the nursery operates and meet fellow personnel. Here Mr Adam Mouton demonstrates the budding process on a seedling to some of the newcomers.



HERE'S TO NEW ROOTS

After seven years of diligent service as a plant improvement technician in the Pathology and Registration Business Unit, Stuart Amos is leaving SAPO Trust for greener pastures. Dr Philip Fourie and the rest of the SAPO Trust team wish him well for the future in his new working environment.



FRUIT FOR THOUGHT

The South African Plant Breeders' Rights Office recently granted rights to two new apple varieties discovered by two prominent individuals in our industry. Plant material of these two apples, Bigbucks and Golden Joy, will be distributed and managed by SAPO Trust. Bigbucks is a mutation of Corder Gala, selected for its high (red) colour and stability. Golden Joy, on the other hand, is a Golden Delicious mutation selected for early ripening and stability. More information on availability, marketing and royalties will follow in the press soon.



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