



# FRUIT FLASH

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### FRESH FROM SAPO TRUST

The management and personnel of SAPO Trust would like to convey their gratitude to each and every producer, nursery, supplier, client and friend for their continued patronage and business. This was a year full of ups

and downs, but mostly ups as we had a record-breaking year regarding demand for stone fruit and apple plant material.

Despite the drought and unrest in South Africa, the deciduous fruit industry is doing well and we are thankful for that.

*SAPO would like to wish all of our clients, producers, nurseries and, most of all, the SAPO personnel a well-deserved break, time to reflect and an enjoyable Christmas with all your loved ones. May you all be blessed.*

We are looking forward to a fantastic and even better 2016. Please drive carefully, should you be on the road during the Festive Season.

See you soon!  
**Dr Phillip Fourie**  
General Manager



### BEARING GOOD FRUIT



The Santa Shoebox Project originated in Cape Town and has grown in leaps and bounds, with the number of Santa Shoeboxes growing from a humble 180 boxes in 2006 to an astounding 109 930 in 2014.

The focus for 2015 was on 'giving for good'. Top quality gift boxes were given to children – some of whom have never received a gift at Christmas time before.



### A NAUGHTY-CAL YEAR-END

Annamarie van As organised a "naughty-cal" affair for the personnel at the scenic restaurant On the Rocks in Blouberg, Cape Town. As always, this was a well-attended and dressed-to-the-theme occasion where the personnel and their better halves socialised. It was a most enjoyable night out on the town.



The youngsters rocking the "naughty-cal" theme



## SAPO SUPPORTS SUNFLOWER FUND

SAPO participated in Hortgro's annual golf day at Devon Valley Golf Estate. Our team decided to show support for the Sunflower Fund by putting on Sunflower bandanas and spreading awareness for the Bone Marrow Registry.



*Rudi Vos, Armand van Niekerk, Divan Venter and Frederik Voigt flaunt their sunflower bandanas at Devon Valley Golf Estate.*



## NURSERY TREES REACH A NEW RECORD HIGH

During the 2015 growing season, stone fruit trees propagated by nurseries increased by 39% to a new record high of 2.2 million trees since the 1996 nursery growing season. This increase was mainly due to the higher demand for plum and peach trees. The same growing trend was found with pome fruit trees, and a new record of 2.3 million apple trees were propagated by nurseries.



## LAB VISITS FROM THE INDUSTRY

*The management of Experico and Dried Fruit Technical Services visited the SAPO facilities on 16 November and combined this tour with a tasting and evaluation of SAPO's fruit varieties at the Evaluation Lab.*



## HAVING A FIELD DAY

Four separate field days were organised to promote SAPO Trust's low-chill peach varieties. The first was held at Overvaal near Rustenberg in the North Western Province on 29 October, followed by the Swartdam Farm near Riebeeck-Kasteel in the Western Cape on 5 November, at the Langkloof on 17 November, and Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape on 18 November.

*Swartdam Orchard walk*



*Swartdam tasting of varieties*



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