



APR 2019



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FRUIT FLASH



SAPO CLIENTS WEATHER THE STORM AMIDST A DRY 2018

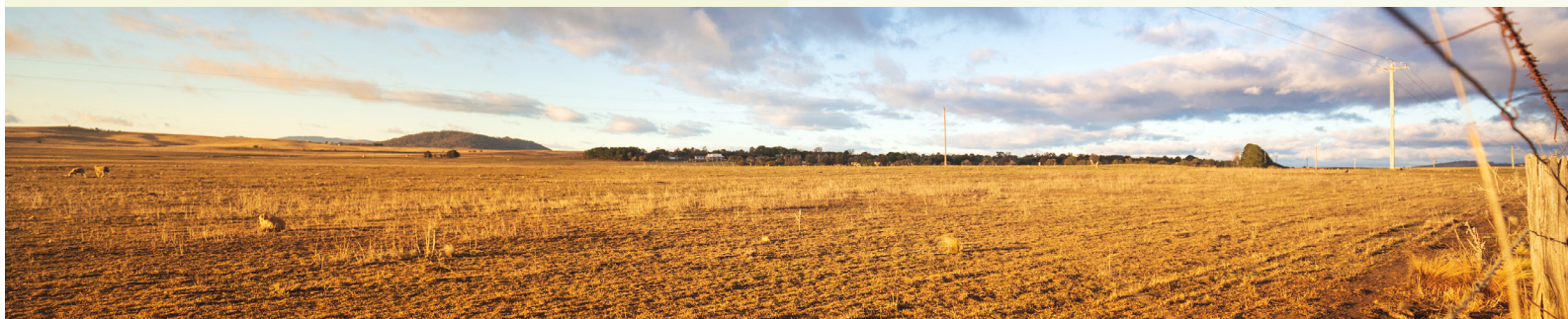
Having witnessed the worst ever drought in South Africa during 2017, 2018 was marked by much skepticism concerning plant material volumes earmarked for the ensuing planting season. Conversely, farmers continued to order rootstocks and scion material of considerable sizes, indicative of a growing and healthy agricultural sector. Plant production remains a priority amongst farmers in a quest to contribute towards economic growth and the severe food security challenges facing South Africa as a developing nation.

SAPO continued to play a key role in supporting the above-stated national goals. An increased focus was subsequently placed on ensuring that demand for plant material were timeously met and distributed to clients in an optimum condition. This past year, SAPO has significantly reduced its lead times to nurserymen and, despite the drought, ensured that plant material of low chilling apples distributed to farmers, as far as the Limpopo province, have almost doubled in volume. Similarly, an increased supply of the varieties Selma Pete and Sugra39 have been witnessed in anticipation of a growing raisin sector. SAPO has since expanded its production capacity on its vine foundation blocks to service this industry, and the production of a greater number of virus free rootstocks are earmarked for the ensuing future.

Die begeesterheid by Tafeldruif produsente in die Hexrivier was duidelik te bespeur tydens die onlangse blok kompetisie ten toon gestel tydens die jaarlikse Hexrivier gala-dinee funksie in De Doorns. SAPO Trust was bevoorreg om dié gesogte funksie by te woon en op die wyse in direkte kontak te kom met die produsent as gewaardeerde kliënte, van SAPO. Intussen verwelkom SAPO die aanstelling van Mnr. Jacques Beukes as Raadslid van die SAPO Trust. Produsente beslaan 'n groot deel van die SAPO Raad van Trusteë en daarom is dit vir ons 'n groot voorreg om Jacques, 'n vooruitstrewende produsent van die Hexrivier en Brandwacht en 'n Direksie lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse Tafeldruif Industrie (SATI) aan boord te hê.

On the international scene, SAPO continued with its quest to attract popular varieties to the benefit of the South African producer. SAPO, as an industry organisation has the distinct benefit of offering newly found cultivars to ALL clients in the industry with no exclusivity involved, thereby presenting a significant offering to the broader fresh produce industry. As the licensing agent of several local and international institutions, SAPO remains committed to increase its cultivar offering of rootstocks and scion material, amidst a growing agriculture and fresh produce industry. We invite you to watch this space and engage SAPO on potential synergies and innovations to further ignite growth in the sector.

Until next time,
Shawn Coetzee, Chief Executive Officer





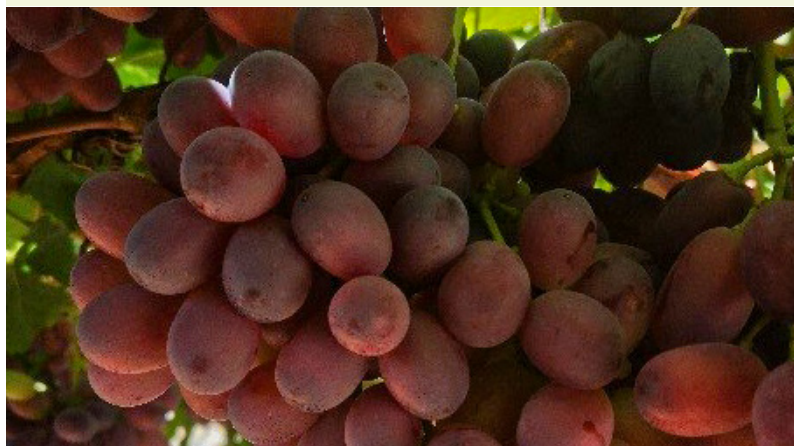
PLANT MATERIAL TENDENCIES FOR 2019

The demand for stone fruit plant material supplied to nurseries during 2018/19 for planting of trees in winter 2019 decreased by 4%. This decrease was mainly due to the lower demand for Plumcots (-52%), prune (-36%) and plum (-13%) material. The demand for peaches, nectarines and almonds increased slightly compared to previous years. The demand for pome fruit plant material supplied to nurseries during 2018 for the planting of apple and pear trees this coming winter were still high in comparison to previous years, especially for apple plant material which increased by 13%.



AVAILABILITY OF TISSUE CULTURE PLANT MATERIAL

The availability of tissue culture plant material increased over the past two seasons, due to an agreement between DAFF and the Italian Ministry of Agricultural services through CAV and Vitroplant. This temporary agreement enabled the import of bigger volumes of apple, cherry, peach and vine rootstocks. Nurseries can order their rootstocks of choice during March / April 2019 for delivery in September / October 2019 via orders@saplant.co.za.



CRIMSON KLONE TOON GROOT BELOFTE IN DIE HEXRIVIERVALLEI

Die eerste Crimson druive is geoes in week 5 van 2019 op 31 Januarie in die Hexriviervallei. Die kleur van die trosse was eenvormig en 'n goeie korrelgrootte dwarsdeur die blok. Vroeë indikasies toon die potensiaal van 4 500 – 5 000 karbonate per hektaar. Huidiglik is die troskleur en algemene egaligheid in rypwording beter as die tradisionele Crimson kloon. Daar is tans ses Crimson klone beskikbaar by SAPO Trust wat alreeds deur die proses van virus eliminasië gestuur is.



SAPO VISIT TO UKZN

Shawn Coetzee and Sophia Malan visited world renowned Professor Johannes van Staden, a tissue culture specialist at UKZN. They gathered and obtained valuable information and recommendations for the planned tissue culture facility that the industry is envisioning. SAPO foresees an important collaborative relationship with UKZN emerging from this visit.



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