

# FRUIT FLASH

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### SEASON'S GREETINGS

At the time of this publication, we would be fast approaching the 2018 Festive Season. It is at this time, that one reflects on the year past, and where possible, take a breather from the daily hustle and bustle whilst attempting to re-energise for the year ahead. Moreover, it is also the time when many people around the world celebrate Christmas and revive family ties, and a time when one becomes mindful of the gifts of life, friendships, etc.

As we draw closer to the end of 2018, SAPO Trust can reflect on many successes during the past year. Whilst there are many opportunities to further strengthen our value proposition to our clients, we had a relatively good year with the demand for plant

material continuing to grow across most commodity sectors served from the SAPO basket of products and services. We are indeed very grateful for the support and patronage received from all our clients, partners and associates during the past year, and we look forward to continue strengthening the SAPO friendships and our business offering to our clients, in the upcoming year.

As we take a break and reflect on the past year's performance, one must acknowledge the contributions of the SAPO team members, who have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of our clients. The employees of the SAPO Trust Organisation are gifted in many ways, with an exceptional work

ethic and determination to make a meaningful contribution to the industry. On behalf of the SAPO Management team, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude and appreciation to each employee of SAPO Trust for their respective contributions, and dedication shown over the last year.

We would like to wish all our clients, partners and associates a joyous Festive Season and a prosperous start to the New Year. Geniet die welverdiende ruskans!

Tot weersiens.

**Shawn Coetzee**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



### SUNMUSCAT



Sunmuscat early November 2018 in VanRhynsdorp

*SAPO are excited to see the first full harvest of our new raisin grape variety this coming season. Early indications are very promising with great fruit set, and many bunches per vine. Sunmuscat is a late ripening variety with high yield potential due to its big natural berry size and its resistance to damage caused by rain, which makes it the perfect variety to plant in the summer rainfall regions. Commercial vines will be available in the winter of 2020.*



### BUDDING SEASON

The start of the 2018 summer budding season has started. We had a long winter and a cold spring, but the warm temperatures and bit of rain in November, will help to deliver good quality budwood that will be cut and delivered to different nurseries over the following two months.







G778 in vitro October 2018



## GENEVA G778 APPLE ROOTSTOCK WILL BE MORE AVAILABLE

*The Geneva G778 is currently one of the most promising and precocious Geneva apple rootstocks in the MM109 growth category. The availability of G778 rootstocks was however limited until now because of stool beds and tissue culture propagation difficulties. During the past year, in vitro initiated plant material was sent to Italy to help with these propagation difficulties. Good results were obtained in Italy and resulted in the import of about 100 000 plants during August 2018 and distributed from October 2018, to nurseries for the establishment of stool beds and the production of finished trees in 2020. More plants are currently being initiated in Italy to be imported and supplied to nurseries from March 2019.*



## PRESS RELEASE: NEW DYNAMIC IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR AGRO SELECTIONS FRUITS



LTR: Aurelie Ferrieux, Burgert van Dyk, Laurence Mailard & Alfonso Riviera

AGRO SELECTIONS FRUITS (ASF) – also known as 'Maillard genetics' – has been working for decades to obtain new and improved varieties of peaches and nectarines, with round and flat fruit with white, yellow and highly pigmented flesh as well as cherries, apricots and apples.

In South Africa, where ASF has been present since 2005, many of these varieties have been introduced in order to bring ever greater competitiveness to operators.

Today, after the experimentation time required to confirm their adaptation, ASF signed an agreement with SAPO Trust, which will be responsible for the development of the ASF varieties and the REGAL'IN™ concept in South Africa.

SAPO Trust, established in 1974 as The South African Plant Improvement Organisation, was operated since 1999 under the name of SAPO Trust. This company has experience and expertise in the field of fruit variety management, and therefore an acute knowledge of the South African context in this area. Convinced of the success of the ASF varieties, but also of the REGAL'IN™ concept developed by REGAL'IN EUROPE, SAPO Trust has approached ASF to take charge of the management and development of the ASF varieties in South Africa. It is therefore a win-win partnership that has just been formalised in Madrid during the FRUIT ATTRACTION 2018 FAIR. For more information, do not hesitate to contact us.

Recognised for its worldwide development of varieties with a very high taste value in round peaches and nectarines, the company is now working very actively to meet the concept of 'eating better, eating healthy', by offering rustic varieties requiring fewer chemical treatments. It also offers ranges of 'snaking' varieties with flat fruit, or bleeding flesh. The launch of its first scab-resistant apple CANDINE® with exceptional organoleptic and storage qualities, also meets consumer expectations.



## SAPO TRUST NURSERY

The nursery has made good strides concerning this year's growth on the March budding of the apples and pears (number budded about 76 000). All apples and pears were cut back to the graft union, with the budtake to be determined in December. Water restrictions resulted in some challenges but with drip irrigations and weed nets, soil moisture was kept at reasonable levels. Challenges with soil quality were addressed with the help of Agri Motion. Changes were made with regards to soil preparations. Spraying of chemicals was made more effective with the new Marignani electrostatic spray pump, acquired to support production practices.

At Oewerzicht, the following trees were planted: 216 517 pome fruit rootstocks, 93 553 cherry rootstocks and 102 640 stone fruit rootstocks (412 710 trees in total). Some of the cherry rootstocks planted, were tissue culture plants which reveals an upward trend on future demand. At Tygerhoek foundation block, 18 573 pome fruit rootstocks, 4 800 cherry rootstocks and 37 295 stone fruit rootstocks were established.



Rootstocks at Tygerhoek



## SAPO TRUST: CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOLARS



Nduli Primary in Ceres



Ronwe Primary in Paarl

*SAPO Trust started a tree planting project at several schools during spring in an endeavour to support the need for skills development and to cultivate a passion for agriculture amongst primary school learners. Schools visited included Nduli Primary in Ceres, Wellington School of Skills, Ronwe Primary in Paarl and Kyamandi Primary in Stellenbosch. The idea is to train the scholars to plant the trees, grow and attend to the trees, and ultimately harvest the fruit! Training sessions will be held throughout the year, and will hopefully trigger the interest of scholars in the promising agricultural industry.*



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