



**Fresh Notes** feedback on the Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting earlier this month

### **Manage Breaks in Cold Chain**

Concerns have regularly been raised in the PAG regarding the lack of proper temperature control in the fruit cold chain. These incidents refer to breaks in the cold chain, lack of responsibility/accountability, poor service contracting, lack of performance measurement and the inability to demonstrate good service quality. The cost of failure is difficult to quantify without accurate management information, but the frequency of incidents, the frustrations demonstrated by members and the difficulty of solution implementation necessitates a new look at this problem from a systems approach. A project has been proposed to address this problem.

Contact: Koos Bouwer

### **CA Research Facilities**

The application for National Research Foundation (NRF) funding call for high-end capital research facilities was not successful. SAAPPA has agreed to fund small research cabinet systems of four supplier companies to be placed at Stellenbosch University to the value of R2,5 m. The software management systems of the respective companies will be evaluated. The longer-term plan is for SU to establish a CA research facility at Welgevallen Experimental Farm.

Contact: R Hurndall

### **Huhtamaki Pulp Tray Apple Packaging Trials**

Experico conducted cooling, humidity and wet strength trials on the Huhtamaki pulp trays in comparison with pulp and polystyrene trays. The Huhtamaki trays compared favourably with the other trays.

Contact: Dr Malcolm Dodd



## **Packhouse Benchmarking**

The packhouse benchmarking processes are ongoing. If additional packhouses wish to participate, please contact [dawid@tad.co.za](mailto:dawid@tad.co.za).

## **Water Management for Packhouses**

Blue North has proposed a project to:

raise awareness of the strategic importance and direct benefits of identifying and managing water-related risks at packhouse and cold storage levels

identify a process packhouses can follow to understand and manage their water-related risks

provide industry knowledge sharing.

Contact: Koos Bouwer

## **Transnet Rail strategy**

Transnet now has a focus on rail, and is working together with Fruit SA. Transporting containers by rail proved to be advantageous in certain cases. There are currently four rail services. A rail service is envisaged for the West Cape.

Contact: Andy Connell

## **Revisit PAG Principles**

The PAG has decided that it was necessary to revisit the purpose, priorities and representation of the PAG. A special PAG meeting will be held in October for this purpose.

## **Project Proposals for 2017/2018**

Following Koos Bouwer's Post-Harvest Innovation project for the optimisation of container capacity, which was completed at the end of 2016, the following 2 projects have been proposed for the research levy system:

Logistical considerations and limitations of refrigerated containers used in the pome and stone fruit export markets – Prof Leila Goedhals-Gerber, SU Logistics

Implementation of Next-generation Packaging Systems in High Cube Refrigerated Containers for Efficient Cooling and Improved Volume Usage – Dr Tarl Berry, SU SARCHI Chair



The following PAG projects have been proposed:

Fruit supply chain quality system  
Water management  
Packhouse benchmarking  
Logistical strategy

### **PAG Disciplines and Coordinators**

Please contact the relevant person if you have any queries regarding the PAG.

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**Packaging – Dr Malcolm Dodd** ([malcolm@alaceraer.co.za](mailto:malcolm@alaceraer.co.za))

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