

# HORTGRO SCIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2024

## 2019 KEY INDUSTRY FACTS

- Deciduous fruit production is largely export based. Therefore, accessing, developing and maintaining markets is a key priority while losing markets a major threat in light of threatening phytosanitary pests and diseases
- Our climate is becoming increasingly suboptimal for producing high quality deciduous fruit and water resources are under pressure in certain areas
- Faster gains in orchard and production efficiency are required to maintain profitability
- Plant material quality and availability is restricting industry growth
- Losing key chemicals is a threat to crop protection and postharvest decay control
- We have a small pool of researchers and limited R&D funding

## INDUSTRY R&D FUTURE VISION

To increase the competitiveness of South African deciduous fruit farming, R&D needs to:

- A) Align with a strong efficiency drive throughout the entire value chain
- B) Address the key risks to the sustainability of the industry
- C) Provide information to access, develop and maintain export and local markets

## PRIMARY R&D STRATEGY

**Refocus long-term R&D and drive clustering of capacity and infrastructure within these areas:**

- a. Market access and management of phytosanitary and invasive pests and diseases
- b. Production efficiency (volume of exportable fruit per unit area) through use of rootstocks, technology and data systems
- c. Climate change mitigation and water productivity
- d. Plant material quality and availability
- e. Maintenance of postharvest quality and reducing risk throughout the value chain

## ENABLING STRATEGIES

- 1) Communication strategy:**
  - a. Addresses customers (all levels) and stakeholders needs
  - b. Actively promotes and supports the R&D strategy of each programme.
- 2) Funding strategy:**
  - a. Increases R&D funding to 1% of turnover
  - b. Ensures that adequate research capacity and infrastructure is available to address industry needs
  - c. Pursues international collaborations
- 3) Operational strategy:**
  - a. Ensures that succession is in place at Hortgro Science
  - b. Provides an effective programme structure to identify and conduct relevant research
  - c. Entails an electronic project management system

## THE R&D PORTFOLIO IN 2024

- R&D enables the development and maintenance of markets
- R&D provides strategies to manage key phytosanitary and invasive pests and diseases
- R&D underpins the establishment of more efficient planting systems
- R&D drives efficiency gains throughout the entire value chain
- R&D mitigates climate risks and increases water productivity
- Developing and clustering of capacity increases our research footprint in key areas