

MEET THE TEAM

PhytClean and eCertification

PAUL HARDMAN¹, KEZIAH NAIDOO² AND PAULA COMINELLI³

All citrus producers, packhouses and exporters will use PhytClean at some stage during the season, either for registration or to demonstrate compliance with the various management systems for key markets. Likewise, for pome, stone and table grape producers. By October 2019 eCertification will be in place and that solution will have been rolled out across the various fruit sectors.

Both PhytClean and the eCertification IT platforms have been developed and are maintained on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development by the Fruit South Africa (FSA) IT team based in Hillcrest, KZN. Below, we give context around team members and their roles.

¹Industry Affairs Manager,
Citrus Growers' Association of
Southern Africa

²IT Project Manager,
Seconded to Fruit South Africa

³Project Administrator,
Fruit South Africa



SEAN HAY was appointed as the eCertification Project General Manager and joined the team mid-May 2019. His role: business analysis (i.e. determining the client's requirements and feeding those requirements into a pipeline of work for the team) and providing general management for the project to assist Paul Hardman (overall Project Manager). Sean has worked on numerous IT projects and has a wide base of experience to draw on. The team is already benefiting from Sean's guidance and input.



WAYNE SCHMAHL joined the team in June 2019 as a senior software developer. This additional resource is warranted by the ramping up of PhytClean work, with the addition of the Fruit Fly management systems for citrus and stone fruit. Furthermore, Wayne provides the much needed ongoing maintenance that is a significant requirement on PhytClean. His substantial business experience ensures that our solutions have global relevance.



DOMINIQUE NAIDOO also joined the team in June 2019 and has taken over the role of Dean Pillay, who left us in April 2019. Dominique's focus areas include client support and managing the web services (API's). She comes with experience of port operations and the IT requirements for handling product through the ports.



PAUL HARDMAN is the overall project manager. Though he continues to oversee the project, he has handed over some project management duties to Sean and Keziah, to allow for more focus on his responsibilities at the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA).





PAULA COMINELLI AND NJABULO NXELE (JABS): Paula (left) provides administrative support for the project and arranges various activities and events on behalf of the team. Jabs (right) is a senior software developer working between PhytClean and the eCertification platforms. Jabs has also been providing technical support to clients when required – a function that he's started to delegate to Dominique and Wayne.



THEMBEKA MEYIWA offers frontline support and is the voice you will most often hear when calling the FSA office. She also assists with general office tasks.

fruit journal

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ELIZABETH CHIBVURI, DONALD MAFA AND ANVEER RAMNATH: Donald (centre) is an experienced senior software developer and has played a significant role in the development of the eCertification platform. Anveer (right) is a .Net developer working closely with Donald on the eCertification solution. He's also taken the lead in the creation of the User Authentication System. Elizabeth (left) assists with support calls and is a Junior Software Developer. She will be going on maternity leave later this year (her baby's due in October).



KEZIAH NAIDOO who's been the main developer on PhytClean, has progressed to an IT project manager role. She's coded most of the management systems used by the citrus and stone fruit sectors, and is currently coaching Wayne and Dominique to operate these tools.