

"People who are not from South Africa don't know what this means for our country. Our country goes through a lot. I want to tell the people of South Africa, thank you so much" Siya Kolisi

WORLD CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Jacques Nienaber and the coaching team, Siya Kolisi and his gladiators for the grit and resolve shown in winning back-to-back world cup rugby championships – the only side to win 4 World Cups. It was the never-give-up attitude, the playing for one another and the wish to do something for your country and community that separated you from the also-rans.

ALBERT COETZEE TAKES UP INDUSTRY AFFAIRS MANAGER ROLE AT CITRUS GROWERS' ASSOCIATION (CGA)

The CGA is pleased to have Albert Coetzee join the CGA team in the role of Industry Affairs Manager (IAM), having started on 1st November 2023. Albert steps into the vacant role created when Paul Hardman moved into the recently created COO position. Albert comes with fruit industry experience having worked in an integrated citrus and grape export business and at a fruit industry data (e.g. benchmarking) service provider. Albert will be working mostly out of the Western Cape. His initial focus will be on sustainability matters and project work within Vision 260. He will be working closely with Paula Bester, with Paula focusing more on keeping up with the Food Safety requirements. The nature of the IAM will require Albert to stand by to tackle industry issues as and when they arise. We wish Albert all the very best and look forward to his contribution to the citrus industry. Albert is married to Rhona and they have a 2-year-old son.

CITRUS SECONDARY PROGRAMME

The Citrus Academy has developed a programme aimed at providing learners at high schools in citrus-producing regions with the opportunity to complete a qualification in citrus production by the time they finish school. The programme is being implemented country-wide in 2024, and the schools that will be participating have been finalised. Sixteen schools will implement the programme, in Bonnievale and Riversdale in the Western Cape, Patensie, Kirkwood and Fort Beaufort in the Eastern Cape, Umzimkulu in KwaZulu-Natal, Kakamas in the Northern Cape, and Hoedspruit, Namitwa and Tzaneen in the Limpopo province. An estimated 300 learners will enrol in the programme. If you know of a school in your region that might be interested or want more information, please email Jacomien de Klerk at jacomien@citrusacademy.org.za.

FRUIT SOUTH AFRICA TURNS 10

Members of the fruit industry and invited guests attended a celebration in Pretoria this week to mark the tenth year of Fruit South Africa. Although Fruit South Africa has been around as a platform for deliberations between the different fruit sectors for longer, it was in 2014 that the organization was established with full-time staff – with Konanani Liphadzi taking up the CEO position. Since Konanani's departure, the CEO position has been filled by Fhumulani Ratshitanga.

In her address, Fhumulani had the following to say: *"Fruit South Africa has given itself permission to pause, and truly appreciate the significance of the milestone of our 10th anniversary.*

In the humdrum of everyday life, we often forget to celebrate ourselves. We've eaten too many bags of salt together as an industry and as partners, to just let this one go by without a bit of fanfare.

On our social media platforms – Twitter and Facebook – we've highlighted through storytelling, key snippets of the Fruit South Africa journey in the lead-up to this event. In one of our videos, we ask the rhetorical question, "Who do we thank?" to illustrate that success and milestones such as this one are hardly ever due to the efforts of a single individual. We could go as far back as the 1800s when South African fruit was exported experimentally for the first time. But for today, we'll keep it at the people in this room and the entities that they represent. So, I'd like to express sincere gratitude for my colleagues, our industry stakeholders, the government, and everyone else who has contributed to varying degrees to the Fruit South Africa journey culminating in this milestone."