

Bio-Blog

December 2023/January 2024

Keeping all RBX Group Stakeholders Informed

Note from the Managing Director

Since the first days of COVID lockdown, the world has seemingly been hit by one thing after another. To now be still sitting with significant wars in Europe and the Middle East, it is no wonder that the five-year plans made in 2019 are nowhere close to being realised by many companies and industry segments.

The result of this is significant pressure on the world economy at a level not seen for many years with inflation in previously “steady” economies starting to become the norm. Our economy has not escaped this and more specifically our citrus industry sees input and logistics costs remaining significant threats to the long-term sustainability of the industry.

Closer to home we had no option but to reposition the SIT programme back to how it was originally researched to give it every possibility of survival and contribution to the long-term industry sustainability. This unfortunately meant we had to drop a shift at the Citrusdal facility and 27 of our colleagues had to leave our team.

Thankfully there is some good news for the RBX group this year. The Citrus industry enjoyed a more successful year than last season and the SIT programme was able to sign up more than 20,000 hectares for the revised programme this season. Although the hectares achieved still do not make SIT profitable, the programme received support from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture to try to make the programme more affordable for growers. We are extremely grateful for this support and look forward to building on this in the future.

River Bioscience also launched the distribution of three new products, and we are doing all we can to grow these into significant volumes in the future. These products are focused on macadamia nuts and apples which broadens our portfolio diversification.

The forecast for 2024 is that it may well be no easier than 2023, so we all need to be ready for another tough year. Although it is a really busy time of the year for our companies, it is still important to enjoy the summer when we can and recharge through some quality time with family and friends.

Wishing all our team a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CHEERS, ROB

December Birthdays

Joshwell Simon, Petrus Lessing, Hester van Wyk, Gert Fransman, Joseph Jacobs, Sizwe Madyo, Gretchen Mentoer, Vusiwe Gxothiwe, Eben Mundell, Durell Lukas, John Mzwamadoda, Jacques Links, Deirdre Nesbitt, Juthon Fransman, Alex Kotze, Emanuel Potgieter, Thandisizwe Jack, Ilse Coetzee, Eva Adams, Hugo Nel, Bruce Olifant, Cameron Brink, Arno Cyster, Gert Miles, Ntombesizwe Nxakala, Noleen Baithei

January Birthdays

Xolelwa Zinto, Jean-Lee Bezuidenhout, Lehanro Maritz, Lwandile Msuthwana, Daniel Pietersen, Thozama Jovuka, Wilfred Fransman, Andile Tsewu, Anzil Dirks, Peter Valentyn, Siyabulela Diba, Christopher Maarman

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