

SA FRUIT & VEGETABLE CANNERS' ASSOCIATION

SAFVCA Newsletter: April 2007 (Issue 2 of 2007)

DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE DTI/INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP GROUP

The next Leadership Group meeting took place on 19 February 2007 and a follow-up meeting was scheduled for 06 March 2007 to give all stakeholders the opportunity to meaningfully consult with their constituencies in respect of the approval and support of the Business Plan. At this meeting, all the Leadership Group delegates endorsed their support of the Business Plan.

All the legal documents, required for implementation, has since been finalised and we are awaiting the signed agreements in respect of the Memorandum of Understanding, Contribution Agreements and Confidentiality Agreements.

Hereafter, SAFVCA will be in a position to draw-down funding in order to fully implement the Business Plan. In the interim, SAFVCA has already commenced with the priority projects, particularly in the area of Market Access.

The next Leadership Group meeting will take place during the latter part of May 2007.

Key Events/Meetings attended: Feb to Apr 2007

- ❖ **06/02**: Meeting with Index Capabilities re Benchmarking
- ❖ **08/02**: Visit to Fruit Farms & Depots (Witzenberg Area)
- ❖ **12/02**: Meeting with Floor Inc: Drafting of Legal Documents
- ❖ **13/02**: Meeting with Pastel: Upgrade of Accounting System
- ❖ **15/02**: Meeting with Stakeholders re Benchmarking Findings
- ❖ **19/02**: Leadership Group Meeting
- ❖ **26/02**: Meeting with EPPA/John Mare re. SA/EU Strategy
- ❖ **28/02**: Assisted the Growers Assoc. with the hosting of Inward Trade Visit: Chinese Delegation (From 28/02 to 06/03) – Presentation at Wesgro; Welcome Dinner
- ❖ **01/03**: Chinese Delegation: Visit to Rhodes Food Group
- ❖ **02/03**: Chinese Delegation: Visit to L&AF (Ashton)
- ❖ **05/03**: Quarterly Meetings: SAFVCA, SAFVCEC & Cottatrade
- ❖ **06/03**: Leadership Group Meeting
- ❖ **08/03**: Attended Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF) meeting
- ❖ **16/03**: Briefing with UCT re. Study on tariffs iro HS Codes
- ❖ **19/03**: Attended Industrial Partnership Forum (IPF) meeting
- ❖ **22/03**: Meeting: Lethu (Printers) re Design of Export Brochure
- ❖ **23/03**: Meeting with D/M Dr R Davies re EU Subsidies
- ❖ **29/03**: Tripartite Meeting: Mittal/Can Makers & SAFVCA
- ❖ **30/03**: Meeting: NPI re Draft Report – PPECB Project
- ❖ **13/04**: Facilitation of Anuga 2007 Applications
- ❖ **16/04**: Meeting: Wesgro re Areas of Cooperation
- ❖ **19/04**: Attended Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF) meeting
- ❖ **23/04**: PPECB Workshop: Review of PPECB Act
- ❖ **24/04**: Meeting with Dept Of Agriculture re Retention of Pineapples & Mushrooms on Sensitive Products List

HIGHLIGHTS

WORLD DECIDUOUS FRUIT CONFERENCE- SACRAMENTO, USA

A representative from SAFVCA attended the 8th World Deciduous Fruit Conference in Sacramento, USA from 15 to 19 April 2007. Formal reports are in the process of being drafted and these will be circulated in due course.

ILLEGAL EU SUBSIDIES

A delegation of industry stakeholders met with Deputy-Minister Dr Rob Davies on 23 March 2007 to discuss the way forward in respect of the Illegal EU Subsidies issue. A number of key actions were identified, which will require the following:

- Detailed formulation of the industry's position and objectives in respect of disparate tariffs and/or insufficient quota allocation, which the DTI will use as a basis during the EU Mid Term Review negotiations;
- Conduct the Econometric Study to show the direct impact on the industry and damages suffered as a result of the EU subsidies, market access barriers and inequitable tariffs;
- DTI would, where appropriate, raise the industry's concerns regarding the subsidies at the next Doha Round;
- Embark on an exercise which sets out the Global Perspective iro of market access i.e. SA's position versus the EU and other competitor countries.

EFTA: Implementation

To date, no revised date has yet been formalised in respect of the implementation of EFTA. To date, the ratification process in the BLNS countries is still underway, with the exception of Botswana who has completed the process and deposited their legal instruments with Norway. Whilst South Africa's ratification is complete, their legal instruments have not yet been lodged.

DATES TO DIARISE:

*23 May: Deciduous Fruit Forum
24 May: SAFVCA, SAFVCEC & Cottatrade
(AGM and Quarterly Meetings)*

Kindly contact SAFVCA's office on 021 871 1308 or email info@safvca.co.za for any further information.