PAG Notes

PACKHOUSE ACTION GROUP

PAG Notes 2 (NOVEMBER 2026)

UPDATE:

PAG meeting notes: November 2026

New PAG web page and downloads

Find the PAG web page on www.hortgro.co.za under Science and Tech Hub, click on Packhouse Action Group/App. The Postharvest page will be displayed. Click on Packhouse Action Group and select the appropriate discipline e.g. Logistics, Communication, etc.

Lifetime PAG Downloads Contact: E Steenkamp

- 'Quo Vadis' – long term CA storage regimes of
- Cripps' Pink apples and fruit quality 15 058
- CA Manual Revised 13 778
- RLOS on Packham's Triumph 10 842
- Long-term controlled atmosphere storage techniques on 'Granny Smith' apples 10 789
- The effect of DPA on internal browning of Cripps' Pink apples 10 435

PPECB Container Testing Contact: B Henning

PPECB functions are:

- Apply the container cleanliness standard
- Conduct the PTI test to see that the container meets the cooling specifications

Thereafter, it is the shipping lines' responsibility to supply daily temperature information. PPECB places daily temperatures on its website.

Update on Logistics Chain Efficiencies Contact: J du Preez

Fruit volumes of all fruit kinds to date have increased by 18%. Corresponding volumes at Cape Town port have decreased by 21%.

Cape Town harbour experienced 63 hours more disruptive winds than the previous season.

Transnet war room meetings were now held twice a week in Cape Town and once per week in Eastern Cape.

New EU PPWR (Paper & Packaging Waste Regulations) Contact: N Baignath-Pillay

1. A CSIR funded Circularity Project (By the University of Stellenbosch) will be undertaken in the apple industry. We are looking for 2 - 3 packhouses to participate in this project. We will need technical experts to participate in the questionnaires that will focus on water, waste, energy and other resources that can be put back into the system to saves costs/ render revenue. NB: This was done successfully in the grape and wine industry last year, and we may replicate it to other fruits, as it does have relevance and significance on ESG / sustainability targets at Farm and Packhouse levels.

   Action: Please send your interest (name and contact) to N Baijnath-Pillay. The experts are needed by January next year for a short period of time.

2. A presentation on Solar installations, carbon footprint, carbon tax and credits was provided by the MD of Electech (Bidvest Renewable Solutions), Mr Wesley Reddy. It was suggested that an assessment of the older systems vs. new systems are needed to establish real ROI and carbon credit opportunities. See link below.

   https://postharvest.hortgro.co.za/pag/2026-solar-for-packhouses/

3. **Action:** Any new suggestions on topics that need to be covered under ESG and sustainability may be forwarded to N Baijnath-Pillay.

CA Engineer's Webinar June 2027 Contact: R Hurndall

The next webinar, subject to suitable presentations being available, is scheduled for 10 June 2027. Packhouses are requested to alert R Hurndall to any new technologies of interest.

Market Access Feedback Contact: J du Preez

Mexico

The programme has been completed. PPECB is busy with the cold store programme for 2027.

Taiwan

No movement. The strict in-transit protocols for shipments was noted.

Brazil

The industry is awaiting draft proposals and hoped to have this for apples by the year end. Pears to follow.

Philippines

The industry is awaiting draft proposals for apples and pears

Logistics Changes over the Years Contact J Strydom

The fruit industry has come a long way since deregulation in 1997. Some logistical innovations that had been used in pre-deregulation days were vested in a few individuals and this information should be preserved.

Changes included a shift from porthole to integral containers and the switch from rail to road. This gave rise to the disposable pallet. Innovative ways at the time to load containers were not documented.

Another example was the use of radio communication to ensure that haulage drivers knew when to deliver their loads to specific conventional shipping moorings.

Considering that road transport to ports may be restricted in future, innovative ways to streamline port access should be investigated.

It was agreed to form a working group to investigate this matter. Please contact J Strydom if you have any information that can add value.

PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

Please get in touch with the relevant person below if you have any queries regarding the PAG.

Chairman – Koos Bouwer (bouweb@orangenet.co.za)

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