

FRUIT INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN ROUND TABLE (FIVCRT)
RECORDS OF DECISIONS (9th SESSION)
Bulletin No. 1 of 2016

Date: 16/02/2016

The FIVCRT moves into 2016 with renewed energy

The FIVCRT met on the 12th of February 2016 at DAFF offices in Pretoria to, amongst other things, consider the funding modalities of key FIVCRT programmes and the operations of the round table, discuss the progress report of the FIVCRT for the financial year 2015/16, monitor the progress of the Workplace Mediation pilot project; discuss proposed commodity-based extension support collaboration plan, and to exchange information and feedback on the five Working Groups. The purpose of this bulletin is to highlight some key decisions on some of the above-mentioned issues that were discussed during the 9th sitting.

Plans to implement the Extension Recovery Plan gain steam

The roll out plan for the deployment of extension practitioners to commodity organizations was presented to the FIVCRT for consideration. According to the plan, Extension Practitioners will be seconded to the industry organizations for a period of 1 to 2 years depending on the actual agreement. The aim of this secondment is to create a pool of Specialist Extension Practitioners per commodity within the government. According to the plan, the DAFF will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the industry organisations while the provincial departments will enter into Service Level Agreements (SLA's) with the industry. The plan will be aligned to CASP and will take into consideration the existing MoUs between provincial departments and the industry. A refined commodity based extension plan will be presented during the next sitting in May 2016.

Workplace Mediation Service pilot project launch set to go

The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) has concluded all major preliminary activities (stakeholder engagements) relating to the Workplace Mediation Service (WMS) in the pilot region, Western Cape. A pre-launch communication presentation was held with stakeholders on the 15th of February 2016 in Stellenbosch. The launch date has been changed from the previously reported 18 January 2016 to the 1st of March 2016 due to time and resource constraints. The CCMA has identified and capacitated six Commissioners to be based in Cape Town and George to conduct the WMS processes. The WMS is anticipated to run for six months, with an option to extend for a further three months. The FIVCRT co-chairpersons will lead the launch of the programme on 1 March 2016 in the Western Cape and release a media statement during the launch.

Progress reports of the FIVCRT Working Groups

The Trade Working Group provided feedback regarding the *Berlin Fruit Logistica* that took place in February 2016. Fruit South Africa (FSA) thanked the DTI (EMIA) for the support in terms of funding the South African stand at the trade show. Various fruits continue to gain access in the east (Asia) while various other challenges such as uncertain labeling standards, food safety, cold sterilization requirements and inconsistent implementation of standards still hinder progress in some markets. A representative from the Export Marketing and Investment Assistance Scheme (EMIA) presented the scheme to the FIVCRT. The FIVCRT will work with EMIA regarding the prioritisation of trade shows of interest to the fruit industry. On Employment and Worker Welfare Working Group, the Secretariat was tasked to monitor funding request to the ILO for the implementation of Farm Wellness programme. On Resources, the sitting requested the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to consider increasing the size of dams in the wake of the recent drought. As per original proposal, the Research and Development Working Group plans to extent the roll-out of the management plan for fruit flies and false codling moth in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga regions.

Date of the next meeting

The next FIVCRT meeting will be held on the 23rd of May 2016 at the offices of the National Agricultural Marketing Council in Pretoria.

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