

FRUIT INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN ROUND TABLE (FIVCRT)
RECORD OF DECISIONS (14th SESSION)
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Fruit industry prosperity still key goal

The Fruit Industry Value Chain Round Table (FIVCRT) concluded yet another hard year due to a prolonged drought in the Western Cape. The continued drought conditions experienced in the major pome fruit production areas could impact negatively not only on the fruit export volumes but also on employment and economic growth in general. Additionally, Europe, the major market for South Africa's fruit exports, was in a turbulent and uncertain period due to Brexit, accompanied by its uncertain future trade terms and various SPS compliance requirements. These are some of the factors hindering growth of South African fruit industry globally. The 14th session, held at the OR Tambo Airport on the 23rd of November 2017, grappled, amongst other things, with the above factors together with issues of transformation and the draft Farm Worker Rights Charter.

Progress reports from the working groups

The Trade Working Group reported its dissatisfaction on its mission to obtain, regain, optimize and maintaining market globally, mainly due to the non-participation of some major stakeholders. The FIVCRT will continue to provide support the working group in its quest. The baseline transformation database for the fruit industry was completed and presented to the sitting. The baseline will serve a

Date of the next meeting

The Schedule for the 2018 meetings is available and the next meeting will held on the 30th of May 2018.

For more information on the FIVCRT, please contact: Mr. J. Mokoena @ JulyM@daff.gov.za Or 012 319 8081:

Name and surname	Position	Email address	Telephone
Dr. K. Liphadzi	Chairperson	ceo@fruitsa.co.za	012 433 6422
Dr. J. Jaftha	Co- Chairperson	JulianJ@daff.gov.za	012 319 6024

basic departure point to strategise and formulate transformation programmes in the fruit industry. It shows that at least 8% of the land planted to fruits is in the hands of previously disadvantaged persons. On research and technical matters, a major achievement thus far relates to the signing of an SLA by the DAFF and industry recognising Phytclean as an official platform for certification purposes and for registration of growers, packhouses and exporters. The platform enables the industry to build a framework to enable compliance with future EU-FCM requirements.

On labour matters, the Employment and Worker Welfare Working Group (EWWWG) jointly with its counterpart in the Wine Industry Value Chain Round Table developed and launched the Farm Worker Rights Charter. The charter is a labour and civil society document which aims to address the challenges faced by farmworkers and farm dwellers as well as labour tenants in the Republic of South Africa. Within the FIVCRT, a task team has been established to assess the document, deduce responsibilities of the FIVCRT stakeholders and make it acceptable to all members of the FIVCRT.

End of year message

The Chairpersons wished a peaceful and safe holiday seasons to all FIVCRT members and the entire fruit industry.