

SUBTROP BULLETIN

VOLUME 2

August 2020



Dear SAAGA, SAMGA and SALGA members

After concluding three Board meetings in July and with the new season on our doorsteps, we have many newsworthy announcements to share. Our sincere hope is that you will thoroughly enjoy this second edition of the Subtrop Bulletin. To first-time readers, welcome! This newsletter will be used as a platform to keep members informed on industry and market developments, Board meeting proceedings and general production and grower news.

- Sincerely, the Subtrop team

INDUSTRY NEWS



- SAAGA's video on Sustainable Avocado Production in SA: [Watch here](#)
- International avocado market expected to recover in COVID-19 aftermath – [Freshfruitportal](#)
- Westfalia launches two new avocado rootstocks, co-owned with SAAGA – [Eurofruit](#)
- Transnet Port Terminals brings on Velile Dube as chief executive – [Justin Chadwick, CGA](#)
- Finding the key to agricultural growth in SA – [Wandile Sihlobo, Agbiz](#)

PROMOTIONS

SABC 3 Expresso



- Click below to view previous inserts
 - July 9th – [Add an avo to your smoothies](#)
 - July 23rd – [Add an avo to your potato salad](#)
- Next insert dates
 - August 13th, September 1st

Advertorials

Heita June circulation 40k

WW Taste July circulation 22k

Kuier 8 July circulation 81.2k

Sarie July circulation 62.7k

Move! 16 July circulation 53.5k

Fresh Living June/July circulation 446k

PROTACTIC
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

- ...follow [iloveavocadoSA](#) for latest local marketing initiatives

facebook.com/iloveavocadoSA

instagram.com/iloveavossa

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SALGA Board Meeting held 15 July 2020

- **Cultivars**
 - New cultivars that can extend the litchi season (early & late) and have acceptable characteristics for new and existing markets is a key focus area.
 - Plans underway to propagate 34 litchi cultivars imported by SALGA for evaluation in different litchi producing areas.
- **Post-harvest treatments**
 - South African litchis on the export market are often perceived as having inferior quality to fruit from other countries.
 - Literature survey on litchi fruit colouration has been commissioned to determine what treatments or technologies are available to retain or enhance fruit colour.



SAMGA Board Meeting held 16 July 2020

- **Mango benchmark**
 - SAMGA is considering covering or subsidising the cost of a benchmarking system run by Source BI.
 - Growers will be able to benchmark their yields against the averages of other growers.
 - If you are interested in participating, contact André Botha on 082 462 2657.
- **Post-harvest irradiation**
 - Irradiation of mango fruit as a phytosanitary treatment for new markets will be re-investigated in the coming mango season.
 - Countries such as India and Australia currently use irradiation treatments for export to markets such as the USA and various Asian countries.
 - An improved fruit irradiation protocol may allow for irradiation treatment where it was previously found to cause cosmetic damage.
- **Cultivar trials**
 - SAMGA is in the final stages of negotiating an agreement with the ARC which will allow for the semi-commercial testing and possible commercialisation of mango cultivars identified in trials funded by SAMGA.



SAAGA Board Meeting held 22 July 2020

- **Study groups**
 - Study groups will resume in a virtual format until physical gatherings are possible.
- **Research**
 - New project on Integrated Pest Management of thrips has been launched and will include trials in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal.
- SAAGA's video **on Sustainable Avocado Production** in SA: [Watch here](#).
- **Subtropical appointment at Stellenbosch University**
 - SAAGA, SAMAC and Stellenbosch University are jointly funding a lecturing and research position at Stellenbosch University's Department of Horticultural Science.
 - Dr Aleyasia Kleinert has been appointed to the position as from 1 September 2020 and will teach a 3rd year course on Subtropicals (avocados and macadamias).
 - This appointment helps establish greater Subtropical horticulture capacity by producing more graduate and postgraduate students for the industry and facilitate more research aimed at increasing productivity.



TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

SAAGA's cost-sharing support project

SAAGA launched a cost-sharing support project to help emerging farmers as part of its transformation initiatives in the 2020/21 financial year. Under this initiative, funds are available to support the expansion of existing projects in which SAAGA members are involved.



Transformation committee appointment

The SAAGA Board approved the formation of a SAAGA transformation committee to oversee transformation projects. Committee members include Derek Donkin (Chair), Carl Henning (SAAGA Board Member), Bongwe Vhahangwele (Venda Growers' Representative), Lungi Mukansi (Letaba Growers' Representative) and Stephen Mantsho (Subtrop Transformation Coordinator).

TECHNICAL

FCM Awareness on Avocados

- **False Codling Moth (FCM)** continues to threaten the SA avocado industry.
 - Damage, visible from lesions and brown granular excreta, is caused by FCM larvae and renders fruit unmarketable.
 - Infestation also provides an entry point for other pests, such as fruit flies.
 - Avocados tend to be a poor host for the development of FCM larvae due to their hard, green state when harvested,
 - However, Subtrop has received several reports of FCM infestation in avocado production regions.
- Subtrop recommends that growers
 - scout for damage
 - do regular orchard sanitation
 - fruit on the orchard floor should be removed and destroyed regularly (at least once every two weeks)
 - use pheromone traps to monitor population levels throughout the year
 - If 10 or more moths are recorded in a pheromone trap in a week, then control measures should be initiated
 - Biological control agents registered on avocado against FCM include
 - entomopathogenic fungus (Eco-Bb)
 - entomopathogenic virus (CryptogranTM SC and Cryptex[®] SC).
 - Insecticides registered include Altacor[®] WG, Coragen[®] SC, Runner 240 SC, Marksman 240 SC, Chaser 240 SC, Sprinter 240 SC, Walker 240 SC, and Delegate 250 WG.
- For more information, please visit the Technical Info page on the SAAGA website – <https://www.avocado.co.za/technical-info/> under *Pests And Their Control, False Codling Moth*.



Orchard management in August

Avocado

- During August, the aim is to promote fruit set, enlargement, and quality.
 - Calcium nitrate (CaNO₃) can be applied at 100 - 300 kg / ha and applications should be done in 2-4 intervals over 6-8 weeks.
 - Apply Potassium Sulphate (KSO₄) at 10 g / m² soil surface under the canopy.
 - Apply 3 – 4 g / m² Solubor (± 21% Boron [B]) or 10 g / m² Boronat (10% Boron [B]) soil surface under the canopy. [Spread the Boron \(B\)](#) over the wetting surface under the tree.
 - Apply 6 g / m² soil surface under the canopy Zinc sulphate (ZnSO₄ with 35% Zinc [Zn]) in [small piles or strips and not spread](#) under the tree.
- Good water management is critical in August.
 - Irrigate as often as possible with 2-3 hour cycles at a time to ensure that the organic matter and nutrients remain moist.
 - Shallow tensiometer readings can be kept between -10 and -20 kPa while deeper tensiometer readings should be kept between -20 and -30 kPa.
 - Make sure the meters installed are well calibrated for the soil type.
 - Organic mulches are essential to reduce evaporation, maintain moisture under the trees, and protect the roots.
- Prune directly after harvest until fruit set to manage tree height, light penetration and airflow.
- Scouting for thrips damage during this time is critical. Refer to the latest SAAGA MRL Lists for recommended chemical- and bio-control measures on thrips.
More management information is available on the SAAGA website under "[Technical info](#)" or the [Avocado Production Guide](#) app on your mobile device: avoproductionguide.co.za



Mango

- Production unit and packhouse registration for export of mangoes to the EU will open on 1 September 2020 and close on 30 September 2020. The forms will be made available as soon as possible by the DALRRD and the links and/or documents will be communicated to all parties involved.
- Please see the latest MRL lists on the SAMGA website for flower sprays.



Litchi

- Apply foliar spray of Zn, B, Cu, Mn on 1st male flower
- Flower growth and fruit set uses a lot of energy so steadily increase your irrigation to limit stress and enhance good fruit set and development

