

SUBTROP BULLETIN

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INDUSTRY NEWS

- Global avocado production expected to triple – [Fresh Fruit Portal](#)
- Z22 to build one of world's biggest packhouses – [Fresh Fruit Portal](#)
- Mango producer says 100 t/ha is possible – [Farmer's Weekly](#)
- 2021 SAMGA Research Symposium presentations: [Watch here](#)
- Grower in Bangladesh grows world's most expensive mango – [Fresh Plaza](#)
- World's biggest mango grown in Colombia – [Fresh Plaza](#)
- Careful management pays off for litchi grower – [Farmer's Weekly](#)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SALGA Board Meeting held 14 July via Zoom

- **Bram Snijder elected as new SALGA chairman**
 - Bobby Price stepped down from being chairman after leaving H.L. Hall & Sons.
 - André Schoeman elected as vice chairman.
 - Bram Snijder and André Schoeman represent SALGA on the Subtrop board.
- **Change from Voluntary Association to Non-Profit Company**
 - During the past few board meetings, the SALGA board considered ways to improve the corporate governance of the association to ensure that the board functions according to corporate governance best practice.
 - It was agreed that SALGA should embark on a process to convert from a Voluntary Association to a Non-Profit Company (NPC) in terms of the Companies Act.
 - NPCs are required to adhere to good corporate governance according to the provisions of the Act.
 - This will not change the current voluntary membership of SALGA.
 - The majority of fruit industry associations are NPCs, e.g. the Citrus Growers' Association and Berries ZA.
 - SALGA Members will be kept up to date with progress.
- **SALGA will again contract Richard Nelson in the 2021/2022 season to report on litchis from all origins on the Rungis Market (Paris) during the South African season.**
 - This will be the third season that he will do this work.
 - Apart from providing an indication of market conditions, his reports have helped exporters identify areas in which the South African litchi should improve in order to remain competitive.
- **Improvement of fruit colouration is one such area identified.**
 - As a result, SALGA commissioned a literature survey on litchi fruit colouration.
 - Researchers submitted proposals for research to improve fruit colour.
 - SALGA has a technical committee to review research project proposals to ensure that projects address industry needs, are properly planned and structured to provide meaningful results.
 - Technical committee members are: Bram Snijder, André Schoeman, Dr Regina Cronjé, Dr James Mehl, Dr Karin Hannweg, Dr Nick Grantham and Nico Roets.

SAMGA Board Meeting held 15 July 2021 via Zoom

- **Pieter Buys re-elected as chairman for a further two years, Jaco Fivaz elected as vice chairman.**
 - The two-year term of several SAMGA board members has ended. Elections will be held at upcoming study groups in the various regions.
- **SAMGA is arranging non-propagation agreements to include Israeli mango cultivars in cultivar evaluation blocks in various production regions.**
 - These include the early cultivars 'Tali', 'Agam', 'Omer', 'Noa' and 'Orly'.
- **SAMGA will be funding a research project on thrips management.**
 - This pest is becoming more problematic.
 - Researchers working on thrips in other industries will be consulted.
- **SAMGA has entered into an agreement with Prokon to pay Prokon inspection fees on behalf of SAMGA members during the 2021/2022 mango season.**
 - A similar contract was signed for the previous season, and the arrangement worked well, with SAMGA members not invoiced for Prokon inspections on their mangoes.

SAAGA Board Meeting held 16 February 2021 & SAAGA AGM 18 February 2021

- **Edrean Ernst elected as SAAGA's vice-chairman.**
- **Change from a Voluntary Association to a Non-Profit Company**
 - During the past few board meetings, the SAAGA board considered ways in which the corporate governance of the association can be improved to ensure that that the board functions according to corporate governance best practice.
 - It was agreed that SAAGA should embark on a process to convert from a Voluntary Association to a Non-Profit Company (NPC) in terms of the Companies Act.
 - NPCs adhere to good corporate governance according to the provisions of the Act.
 - This will not change the current voluntary membership of SALGA.
 - The majority of fruit industry associations are NPCs, e.g. the Citrus Growers' Association and Berries ZA.
 - SAAGA Members will be kept up to date with progress.
- **At the SAAGA AGM held on 17 February 2021, it was proposed that SAAGA should appoint an independent person to drive access to new markets for South African avocados.**
 - This proposal was discussed by the SAAGA board.

- o The board decided it would currently not be beneficial to appoint an additional person to drive market access, as SAAGA had indirectly, through Fruit South Africa, appointed Dr Mono Mashaba to perform this task, with specific goals for avocados each linked to a success fee.
- o It was stressed that gaining of access to new markets is ultimately reliant on government-to-government agreements and trade negotiations which industry cannot participate in.
- o However, SAAGA is involved in providing government with the necessary technical information and guidance.
- **SAAGA has signed a contract with Prokon to carry out early season avocado maturity inspections on major National Fresh Produce markets in January and February 2022.**

TECHNICAL

Orchard management in August

Avocado

- **Aim is to promote fruit set, enlargement and quality.**
- **Plant nutrition**
 - o Apply calcium nitrate (CaNO₃) at 100-300 kg/ha in 2-4 intervals over 6-8 weeks.
 - o Apply potassium sulphate (KSO₄) at 10 g/m² soil surface under the canopy.
 - o 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.
 - o Apply Zinc sulphate (ZnSO₄ with 35% Zinc) at 6 g/m² to the soil surface under the canopy in small piles or strips and not spread under the tree.
- **Irrigation**
 - o Good water management is critical. Irrigate as often as possible with 2-3 hour cycles at a time to ensure that the organic matter and nutrients remain moist.
 - o Keep shallow tensiometer readings between -10 and -20 kPa and deeper tensiometer readings between -20 and -30 kPa. Make sure meters installed are well calibrated for the soil type.
- **Orchard management**
 - o Organic mulches reduce evaporation, maintain moisture under trees and protect roots.
 - o Prune directly after harvest until fruit set. Manage tree height, as well as light and air in the tree.
 - o **NB: Scouting for thrips during this time is critical.**
- *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

- **Flower and fruit complex spray programme**
- **Anthracnose and Soft brown rot**
 - o E.g. Copper oxychloride products @ 250-300 g/100L water together with a wetting agent. Apply first spray 2 weeks after fruit set and repeat every 3 weeks.
 - o Alternatively: spray Azoxystrobin on marble size fruit at a concentration of 40 ml/100L water. Medium cover spray: 800-1000 L/ha.
- **Powdery mildew**
 - o E.g. Tetraconazole @ 40ml / 100 L water or Propiconazole @ 20ml / 100L water. Only spray on flowers and not on fruit.
- **Insect monitoring and control**
- **Fruit fly**
 - o Monitor the fruit fly population and spray accordingly. Make use of products like GF 120 NF.
 - o For indigenous fruit flies (medfly, natal fruit fly and marula fruit fly), hang 300 M3α traps per ha, 4 weeks before fruit become susceptible to fruit fly.
 - o For the oriental fruit fly hang 6-12 MAT3 traps per ha. Replace every 6 weeks according to the label.
- **Mango weevil**
 - o Apply Actara from the last week in July to mid-August.
 - o Best results are achieved in orchards with a drip irrigation system where the product is applied directly under the dripper.
 - o In orchards with micro systems, apply the product around the base of the trunks.
 - o **N.B. Not to be used on mangoes destined for export whether fresh or processed. Not to be used on fruit intended for achar.**
 - o If Actara was not administered in July/August, spray after first egg laying and repeat after new egg laying. E.g. deltamethrin @ 40ml / 100L water. High volume application.
Apply when fruitlets are 1 cm in diameter (approximately September) and repeat when fruitlets are 3-4cm in diameter (4-5 weeks after first spray).
Applications may lead to an increase in scale numbers.

Litchi

- **Fertilization**
- **Foliar spray**
 - o Zn, Cu, B on 1st male flower
 - o Cytokinins on female flower (optional)
 - o KNO₃ (2%) on female flower (optional)
- **Pests**
- **Nematodes**
 - o Sampling and control (systemic chemical: early in season; contact chemical: any time)
- **Bark borer**
 - o Scouting
 - o Spray lesions with a registered pesticide
- **Bee management**
 - o Ensure ±4 bee hives per hectare – bees are essential for maximum fruit set
- **Propagation**
 - o Make air layers or graft on rootstocks
- **Land preparation**
 - o Establish new orchards
- **Irrigation guidelines**

- o Water requirement details: litre/tree/day at specific coverage / ha planted 6x9m (185 trees/ha) (Note: only a guideline, adjust according to scheduling tools and methods.)

Orchard maturity	August
At plant	18
25%	28
50%	57
75%	85
100%	114
Tensiometer 0-30cm	Micro -10 to -30 kPa. Drip -4 to -15kPa
Tensiometer 30 -60cm	Micro -15 to -30 kPa. Drip -10 to -20 kPa

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