



South African Table  
Grape Industry

South Africa

... preferred country of origin  
for the world's best grapes



## SA TAFELDRUIF INDUSTRIE NUUSBRIEF 4: 2009/10

### STREKE TROTS OP PLAASWERKER VAN DIE JAAR WENNERS

Die plaaswerker van die jaar kompetisie is elke jaar vir beide produsente en plaaswerkers 'n hoogtepunt. Die weners van die 11 onderskeie areas het gedurende Oktober aan die Provinsiale kompetisie deelgeneem om die titel as Plaaswerker van die Jaar Wes-Kaap 2009 te verower.

Vanjaar se kandidate was soos gewoonlik uitmuntend en die kompetisie besonders straf. Vier van die vyf Tafeldruif streke is reeds betrokke by die kompetisie, nl. Oranjerivier, Hexrivier, Bergrivier en Olifanstrivier. Die weners van ons streke kompeteer natuurlik teen verskeie ander boerdery bedrywighede.

Die prysuitdelings funksie was op 30 Oktober 2009 by die spoggerige Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset-Wes gehou. In die derde plek met 'n kontant prys van R5 000 was dit Rita Andreas, wenner van die Bergrivier kompetisie wat stof in die ander deelnemers se oë geskop het. In die tweede plek het Cathleen Beerwinkel, wenner van die Hexrivier kompetisie die kontant prys van R10 000 weggeraap en Marie Mallan van die Olifanstrivier het almal verbaas toe sy met die eerste prys van R20 000 wegstap. Ons is werklik vanjaar trots om te kan sê dat al drie hierdie weners een van ons streke verteenwoordig.

Dit blyk ook dat al hoe meer dames by die kompetisie betrokke raak en soos vanjaar bewys neem hulle die voortou. Vanjaar was ook die eerste maal wat die OTPV besluit het om ook by die kompetisie betrokke te raak en dus is hulle eerste plek 'n besondere prestasie.

Gerrit van Rensburg, minister van Landbou Wes-Kaap het tydens die funksie bekend gemaak dat hy 'n Plaaswerker Forum, bestaande uit al die streeks weners van die afgelope nege jaar se kompetisies, gaan stig. Hierdie forum sal dan die geleentheid kry om op 'n kwartaallikse basis met hom te ontmoet en belangrike kwessies te bespreek.



Op die foto regs bo is **Voor:** Maria Mallan; **Middel (Vlnr):** Ilze Ruthford, Cathleen Beerwinkel en Rita Andreas; **Agter (Vlnr):** Kobus Swart (Sanlam Streekhoofbestuurder: Wes-Kaap) en Gerrit van Rensburg (Minister van Landbou: Wes-Kaap).

### Florida A&M University sends first Farmer to Farmer Consultant early in December

SATI will, early in December, welcome the first consultant to volunteer his time under the newly awarded Farmer to Farmer Programme funded by USAID. Florida A&M and SATI are in partnership to bring key trainers to South Africa for specifically defined technical, private standards and financial management consulting and training assignments.

Grant Holder, who will share his expertise in Fair Trade accreditation, brings experience not only from his work in California, but though also his academic and development affiliations with Romania (Galati), France (Bordeaux), China (Gansu, Shaanxi, Jiangsu), New Zealand (Christchurch), Canada and the University Dunarea de Jos, Galati, Romania.

### From the Transformation Desk

#### **SA Table Grape Industry career classification study for strategically focused bursary awards**

The first phase of the industry career classification and skills assessment has been concluded. Growers are still encouraged however to have their say by completing a questionnaire if they have not yet done so. Agri Expert's Ian Olckers is following up with several growers on a person to person basis in order to conclude the project by the end of the year. Thank you to those who have taken the time to meet with Ian for this important exercise.

#### **South African Agribusiness Linkages programme (SAIBL)**

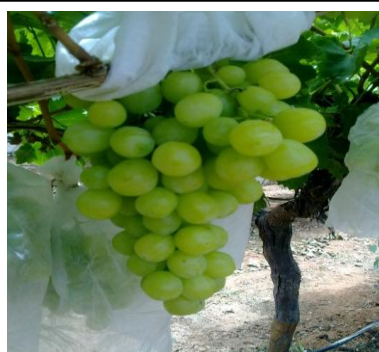
The SAIBL programme recently registered some of SATI's emerging growers on their business support system. Registration enables SAIBL to assist growers to access support for training, exposure visits and markets where this might make sense. Participation in SAIBL programs can be well worth while. Growers are encouraged to enquire with SATI in this regard.

**Intakes Week 47:**  
**Accumulative Totals**

Region Name	2009/2010	2008/2009	% Diff
Northern Province	464 905	886 675	-48%
Orange River	359 161	617 022	-42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>828 594</b>	<b>1 513 888</b>	<b>-45%</b>

**Exports Week 47:**  
**Accumulative Totals**

Market	2009/2010	2008/2009	% Diff
<b>All</b>	<b>355 041</b>	<b>864 010</b>	<b>-59%</b>
UK	178 076	326 540	-45%
N-EU	168 486	518 930	-68%
Far East	4 640	6 560	-29%



**REGIONAL FEEDBACK**

Packing in the **NTA** region commenced in Week 44/45. The earliest producers reported that their first Prime harvest would be 7-10 days later than expected whilst the balance of producers would start harvesting at the normal time. Unseasonal cold weather with some rain hit the region in Week 47. No damage or quality impacts were reported, but the cold weather caused the region to now be 5-7 days late. Acid levels are high whilst sugar build up is somewhat slow at the start of each variety's harvest window. Berry size and the general condition of the grapes are very good.

Packing in the **ORPA** region commenced in Week 45. In general the season start is normal, with only Flame Seedless being 4-6 days early in Blouputs and 4-6 days later in Upington. Acid levels are high whilst sugar build up is somewhat slow at the start of each variety's harvest window. Berry size and the general condition of the grapes are very good. Bunches are also quite heavy. There is a heavy Thompson Seedless crop hanging in the vineyards.

The **Olifants River** region will probably start at the end of Week 48 (Trawal) whilst Vredendal producers should start packing at the end of Week 49. Early indications are that quality will be very good. Downy Mildew has been detected on the young growth in vineyards but is being kept under control at the moment.

The **Berg River** region should start their packing period just after Christmas (normal start). Berry sizes seem to be somewhat small and uneven at this stage. A further worrying factor is Downy Mildew that literally appeared overnight in the vineyards throughout the region and have also infected the bunches (light to heavy infestation) of most of the early varieties (Prime, Sugraone and also Sunred Seedless).

The **Hex River** region should have a normal start to their packing season but there are also concerns regarding uneven berry sizes as well as 2 to 3 generations of grapes hanging on the vines. Downy Mildew is also prevalent but is still being kept under control.