

# Table grapes, tariffs, & profitability drivers in SA farming

Table talk conversations

July 2025

**BFAP** 



#### **OUTLINE**



#### Sense-making in a challenging global political environment

- 1. Global economic overview
- 2. Trump Tariffs
- 3. SA agriculture, growth factors and 10-year Outlook
- 4. SA Table grapes in context with the SA economy
- 5. Drivers of farm profitability

## OUTLOOK IS SET WITHIN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT



## Global growth prospects facing renewed turbulence

Early 2025 rising expectation of a soft landing. IMF has cut growth to 2.8%, WB to 2.3% Conflict in multiple regions, trade tension



# Need to rebuild buffers and accelerate growth – 2020s was slowest growth decade since 1960's

WB notes 3 priorities to accelerate growth:

- 1) Rebuild trade relations in a fragmented world
- 2) Restore fiscal order rebuild govt finances
- 3) Accelerate job creation in developing countries

## Policy uncertainty has ramped up substantially

Uncertainty already noted in January following multiple changes in govt
Trade discord has ramped up substantially







## SA's new GNU under pressure

Some progress in selected departments Budget impasse Unhappiness around Min. positions

## Complexity in trade environment rising for some time

Ongoing regional conflicts – A significant escalation in the Near East recently Growing compliance needs & mirror clauses affecting



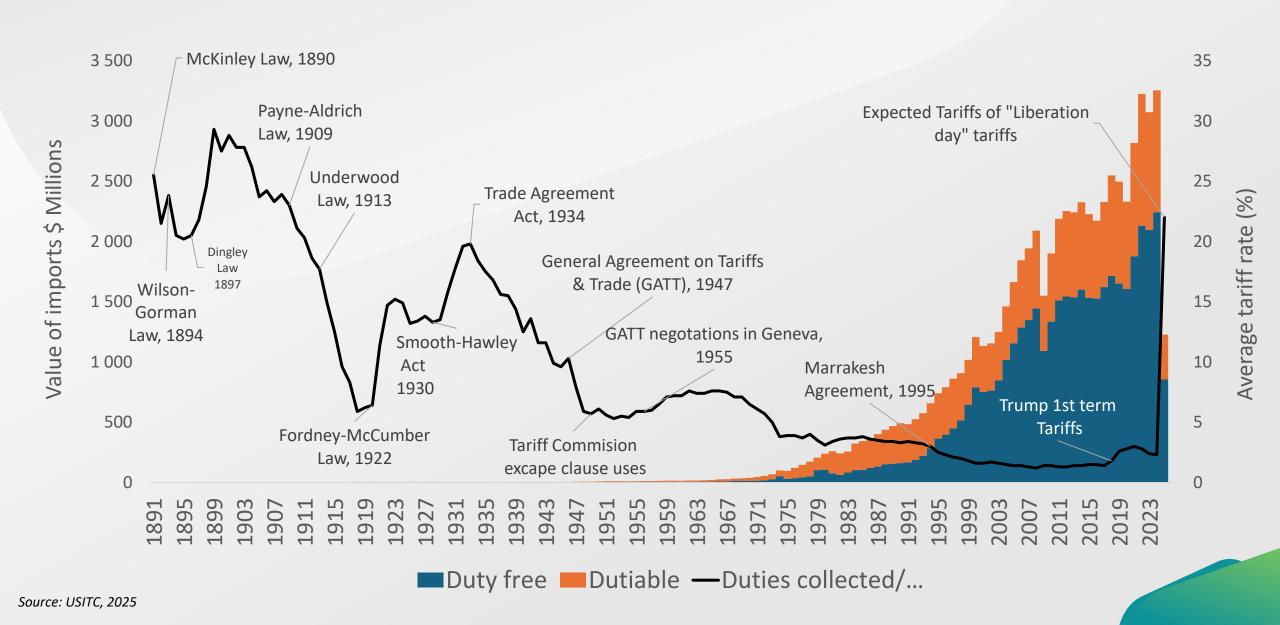
#### Disruptive technology & Al

Misinformation & Disinformation Cybersecurity risks amplified

#### THE US TRADE POLICY EVOLUTION SINCE 1890



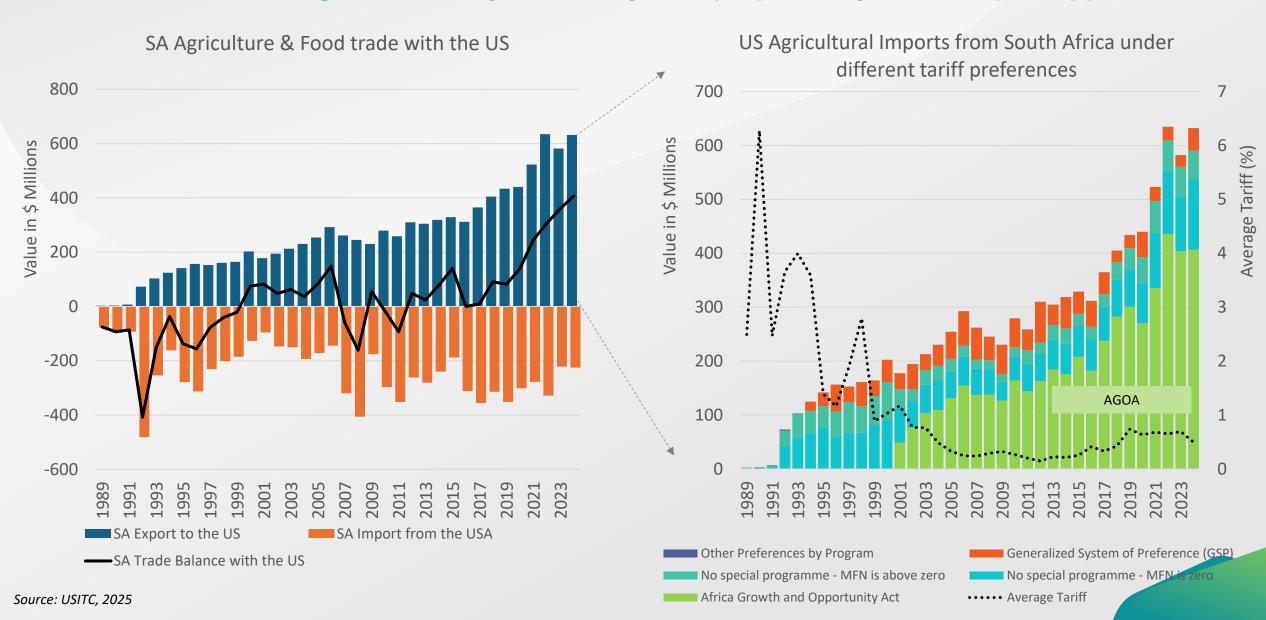
Trump tariffs could move the average US tariff to 22%, levels last seen a century ago



#### SA AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE US



SA trade balance have grown steadily in recent years, propelled by AGOA export opportunities

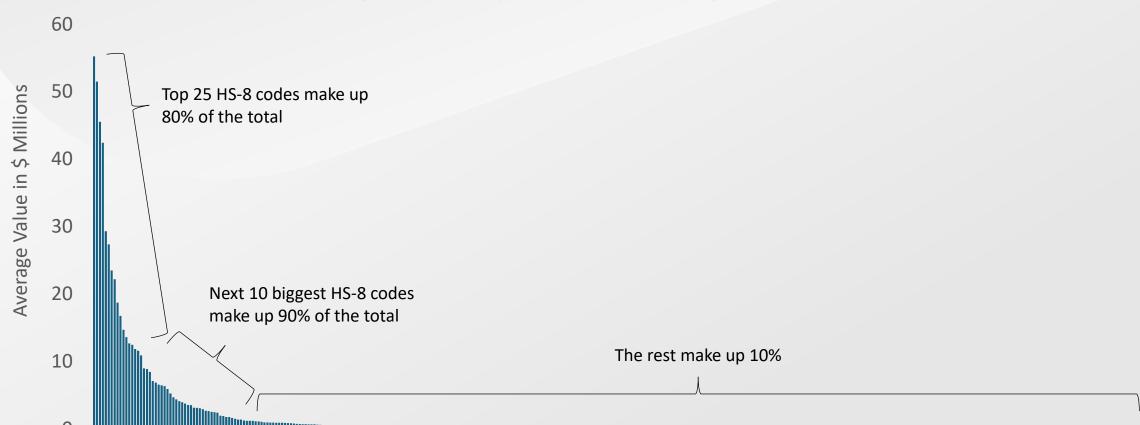


# MARKET ACCESS TO THE USA – SA EXPORTS TO US ARE HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN A FEW INDUSTRIES



Skewed distribution means only a few industries are more heavily affected

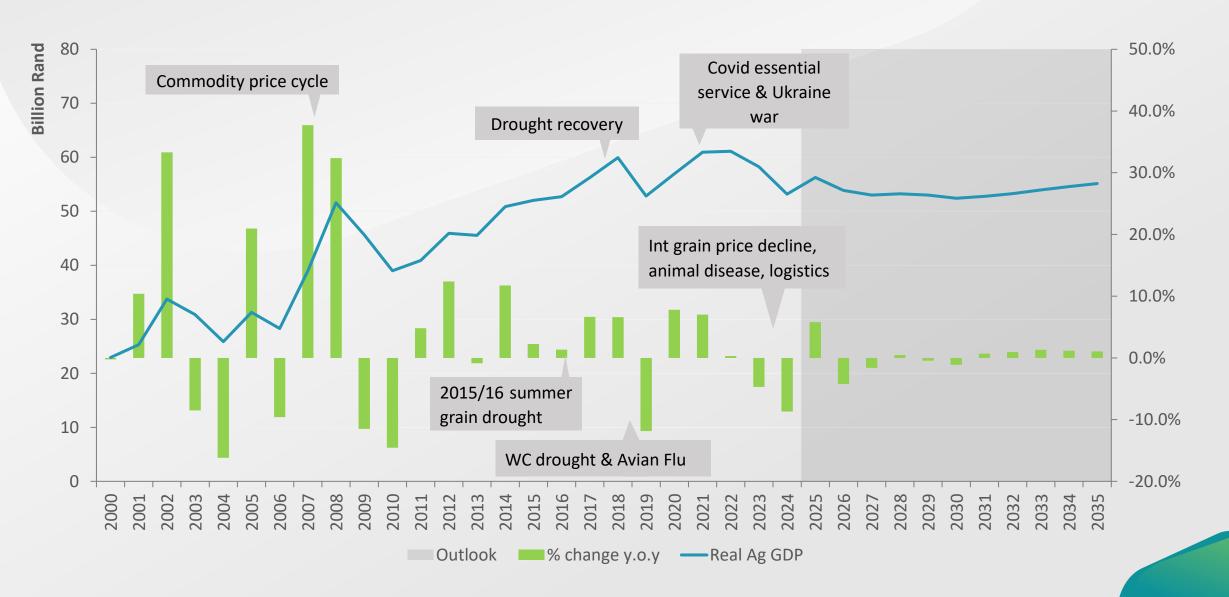




Source: USITC, 2025

# Despite the volatile and risky environment, primary agriculture has outperformed the rest of the economy

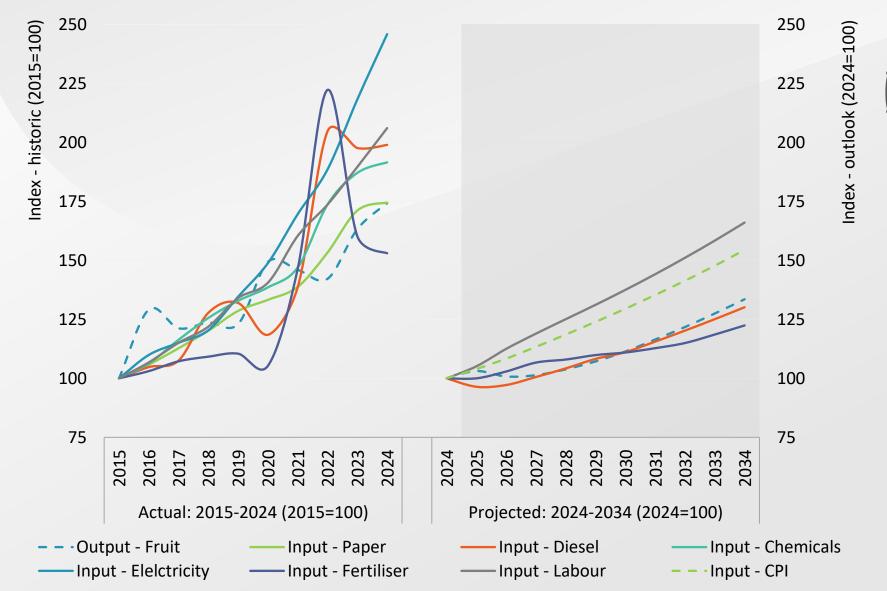




#### Input costs have generally increased faster than prices



Productivity growth critical to sustaining positive margins – high input cost environment elevates risks



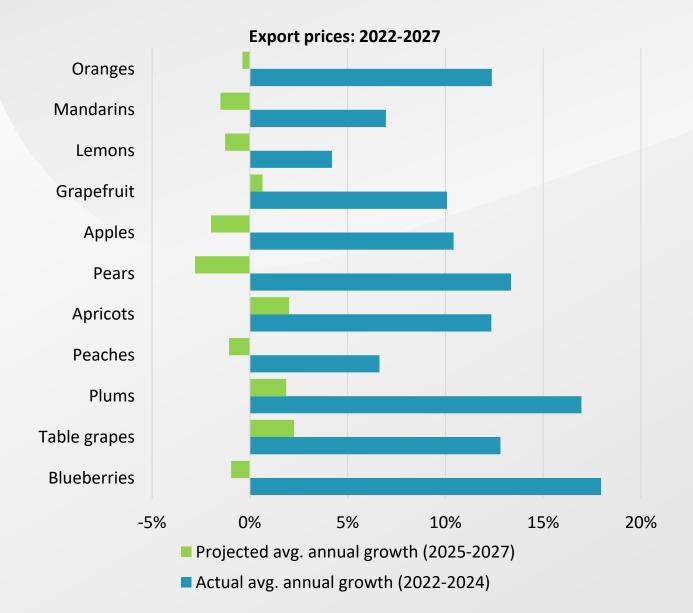
Inputs like fertiliser and fuel projected to grow at a slower pace than inflation over the outlook period. However, fuel did increase faster than the average fruit price, resulting in the increase in cost to market increasing faster than the prices of the produce.

Possible Rand strength could result in sharper decline in imported inputs.

Electricity and labour costs likely to increase at above inflation rates - both of which is a threat for intensive fresh produce crop production and distribution.



# Product prices vs input prices: After recent improvements in product prices, a slowdown in the short term is projected



While the export orientated fruit industries largely recuperated from the post-Covid challenges, softening of prices post-2025 is projected, resulting in marginally positive, or negative, price growth in the near future, while most of the major input costs are projected to increase.



Subsector has wide impact & strong contribution - ensuring long term sustainability of previous investments into industry is critical.



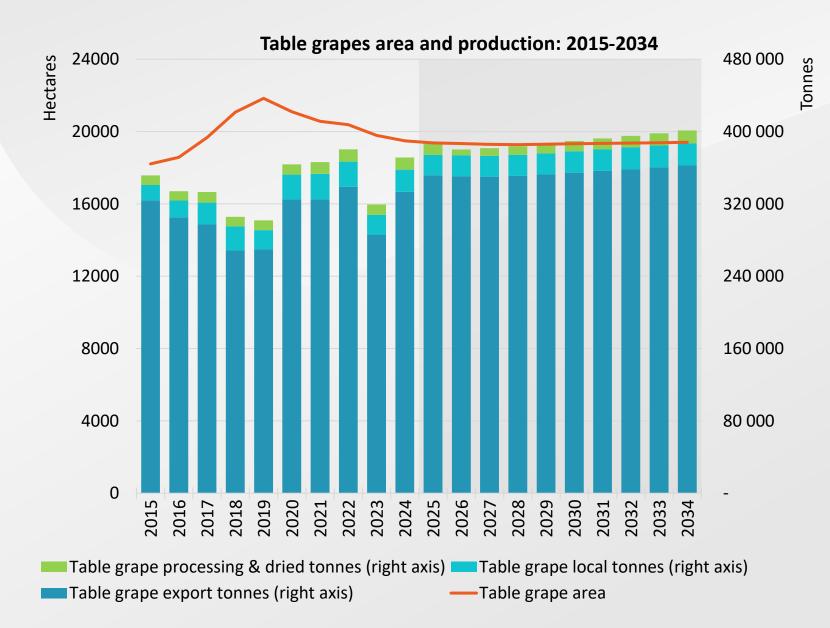
All stakeholders required – industry action must be complimented by government services – water, electricity, ports, markets all critical.



Risk management is critical. Protecting existing investments and creating opportunities for new entrants requires attention to detail.

#### Table grape area and exports outlook

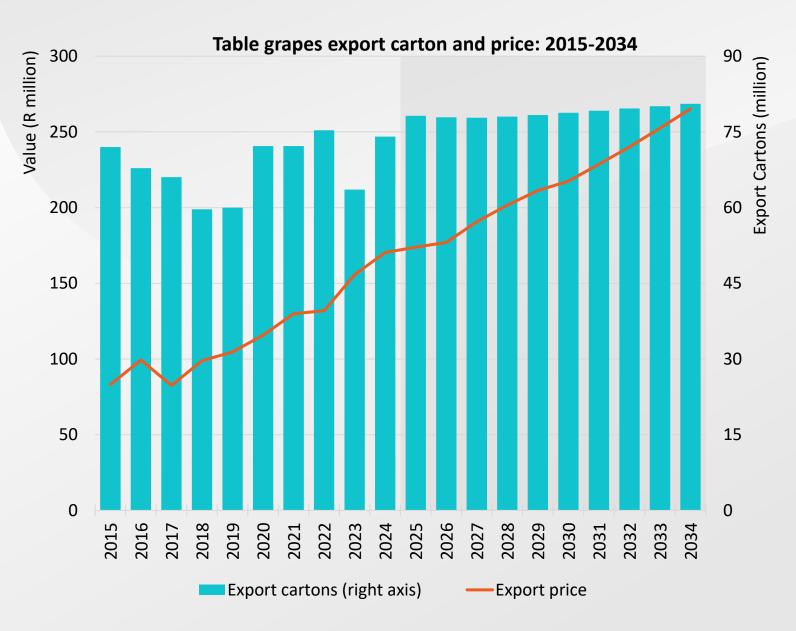




- While area has been consolidating since 2019, area is expected to stabilise just below the 20 000-hectare mark over the outlook under baseline conditions.
- Considering both cultivar choices and the removal of some marginal land from production, total exports is projected to continue to increase as the yield per hectare grow, although the growth tempo is expected to slow down due to base effects.
- Logistical challenges, combined with the fast rise in production cost, contributed to the uprooting of vineyards without replacement.
- Adverse weather and the risk of losses contributes to subdued business confidence and appetite for expansion.

### Table grape exports volume and price outlook





- Exchange rate driven increases in the export price over the last ten years resulted in an average export FOB price of R174 declared in 2025, compared to the R83 of 2013 - an increase of 109%.
- Over the outlook period, some price correction is expected in the short term, with an average annual growth of 4.5% projected over the outlook period.
- Careful balance between market offering (supply)
  and equilibrium prices within the context of total
  Southern Hemisphere supply. Industry has the
  potential to improve the number of cartons per
  hectare, but can only do so while the additional
  cartons come at a cost lower than the expected
  change in the equilibrium price due to an
  increase in volumes supplied.
- Under this baseline, total gross production value is projected to reach R22.5bn by 2034.

#### Farm level Fin(ancial)Sim(ulation) analysis



Component	Description
Whole farm financial simulation budgeting model	Farm size, vine age distribution, cultivar selection and performance.
Production & establishment cost	Cost drivers in establishment of new vineyards and production cost, which is incorporated by considering a production cost curve that aligns with yields.
Total yield & distribution by market segment	Tonnes per hectare per vineyard and the share of produce into each market segment (Export   Local   Processing).
Establishment plan and replacement age	Incorporating planned expansion of area and the planned replacement age for different vineyards.
Profitability per hectare	Considers the elements applicable in a whole farm budget to project a set of profitability indicators per hectare under a certain set of assumptions on variables such as exchange rate, price inflation and the prototype farm setup of area, cultivars and cost.
Variable income probability indicator	Considers historic variability in yield, pack-out %, local and export prices per carton and the relationship between these variables to establish the probability of a better or worse financial performance than the baseline.
Model results	Results presented as a probability distribution of what may happen to farm-level profitability over the projection period, with worst and best case scenarios included.
Alternative scenarios	The tool can be used to model alternative scenarios, such as additional establishment or changing the replacement age. The effect of these changes can then be compared to the baseline to inform decision-making.

#### Industry: Base year assumptions & outcome



	2024	2025
Bearing Area	85%	85%
Non-Bearing Area	15%	15%
2024 2025	2024	2025

<u> </u>				
Yield	Tonne/ha	Tonne/ha	Cartons/ha eq.	Cartons/ha eq.
Exports	16,92	17,88	3 760	3 974
Local	0,96	1,01	214	224
Processing	1,35	1,41	299	313
Total	19,23	20,30	4 273	4 511
Revenue	R/tonne	R/tonne	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Exports	38 040	38 801	171	175
Local	24 295	25 145	109	113
Processing	5 070	5 449	23	25
Average	35 045	35 808	158	161

: Constructed from the indices provided by Frudata, linked and rebased using Agrihub, SARS, and SATI data.

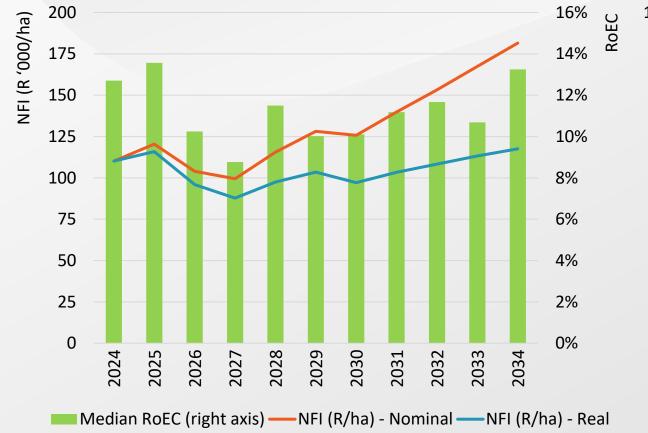
2024	2025	2024	2025
R/ha	R/ha	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
673 850	726 880	158	161
117 763	127 681	28	28
53 644	58 162	13	13
502 443	541 037	118	120
332 849	358 903	78	80
211 360	232 431	49	52
20 572	20 342	5	5
54 064	56 213	13	12
38 755	41 539	9	9
8 098	8 378	2	2
16 883	17 541	4	4
42 549	44 208	10	10
110 162	120 384	26	27
23 369	25 143	5	6
86 793	95 240	20	21
12,8%	13,1%	12,8%	13,1%
	R/ha 673 850 117 763 53 644 502 443 332 849 211 360 20 572 54 064 38 755 8 098 16 883 42 549 110 162 23 369 86 793	R/ha       R/ha         673 850       726 880         117 763       127 681         53 644       58 162         502 443       541 037         332 849       358 903         211 360       232 431         20 572       20 342         54 064       56 213         38 755       41 539         8 098       8 378         16 883       17 541         42 549       44 208         110 162       120 384         23 369       25 143         86 793       95 240	R/ha       R/ha       R/eq. carton         673 850       726 880       158         117 763       127 681       28         53 644       58 162       13         502 443       541 037       118         332 849       358 903       78         211 360       232 431       49         20 572       20 342       5         54 064       56 213       13         38 755       41 539       9         8 098       8 378       2         16 883       17 541       4         42 549       44 208       10         110 162       120 384       26         23 369       25 143       5         86 793       95 240       20

#### Industry: Return on establishment capital

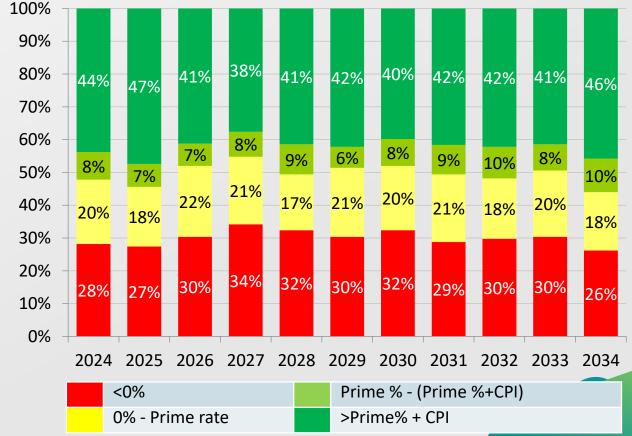


RoEC	Grouping	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
	<b>Bottom third</b>	-8%	-8%	-12%	-10%	-11%	-9%	-10%	-9%	-10%	-8%	-9%
Median	Middle third	13%	14%	10%	9%	12%	10%	10%	11%	12%	11%	13%
	Top third	33%	32%	30%	29%	31%	30%	31%	30%	32%	32%	33%
Mean	Total	13%	13%	10%	9%	11%	11%	10%	11%	12%	12%	13%

Baseline returns: NFI per hectare and the return on establishment capital



<u>Risk profile</u>: Probability of a Return on Establishment Capital within a certain band (RoEC = NFI ÷ Establishment Capital)



#### NTA: Base year assumptions & outcome



			2024	2025
	Bearing Area		85%	85%
No	on-Bearing Ar	15%	15%	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Yield	Tonne/ha	Tonne/ha	Cartons/ha eq.	Cartons/ha eq.
Exports	12,15	12,84	2 700	2 854
Local	1,24	1,29	275	288
Processing	0,99	1,04	220	231
Total	14,38	15,18	3 195	3 372
Revenue	R/tonne	R/tonne	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Exports	46 964	47 904	211	216

**2024**: Constructed from the indices provided by Frudata, linked and rebased using Agrihub, SARS, and SATI data.

25 145

5 449

43 055

109

23

190

113

25

194

24 295

5 070

42 124

Local

**Processing** 

**Average** 

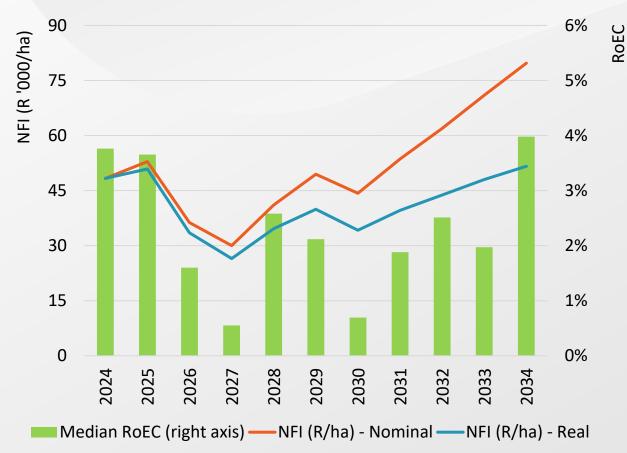
2024	2025	2024	2025
R/ha	R/ha	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
605 709	653 376	190	194
96 653	104 793	30	31
108 780	117 941	34	35
400 276	430 642	125	128
292 960	316 457	92	94
197 109	216 759	62	64
18 203	17 999	6	5
35 029	36 318	11	11
34 522	37 002	11	11
8 098	8 378	3	2
16 883	17 541	5	5
42 103	43 745	13	13
48 330	52 900	15	16
23 107	24 894	7	7
25 223	28 006	8	8
3,8%	3,9%	3,8%	3,9%
	R/ha 605 709 96 653 108 780 400 276 292 960 197 109 18 203 35 029 34 522 8 098 16 883 42 103 48 330 23 107 25 223	R/ha       R/ha         605 709       653 376         96 653       104 793         108 780       117 941         400 276       430 642         292 960       316 457         197 109       216 759         18 203       17 999         35 029       36 318         34 522       37 002         8 098       8 378         16 883       17 541         42 103       43 745         48 330       52 900         23 107       24 894         25 223       28 006	R/ha       R/ha       R/eq. carton         605 709       653 376       190         96 653       104 793       30         108 780       117 941       34         400 276       430 642       125         292 960       316 457       92         197 109       216 759       62         18 203       17 999       6         35 029       36 318       11         34 522       37 002       11         8 098       8 378       3         16 883       17 541       5         42 103       43 745       13         48 330       52 900       15         23 107       24 894       7         25 223       28 006       8

#### NTA: Return on establishment capital

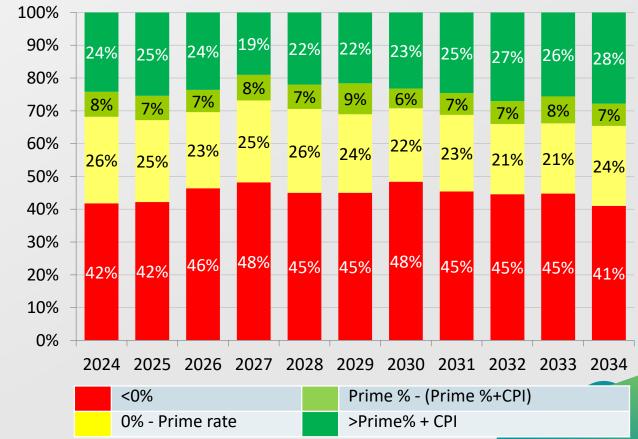


RoEC	Grouping	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
	<b>Bottom third</b>	-15%	-14%	-16%	-17%	-16%	-14%	-16%	-16%	-16%	-14%	-13%
Median	Middle third	4%	4%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	4%
	Top third	21%	22%	19%	17%	19%	18%	21%	21%	21%	22%	22%
Mean	Total	4%	4%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%

#### **Baseline returns**: NFI per hectare and the return on establishment capital



#### <u>Risk profile</u>: Probability of a Return on Establishment Capital within a certain band (RoEC = NFI ÷ Establishment Capital)



#### Orange River: Base year assumptions & outcome



		2024	2025	
	Bearing Area	85%	85%	
No	on-Bearing Are	15%	15%	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Yield	Tonne/ha	Tonne/ha	Cartons/ha eq.	Cartons/ha eq.
Exports	18,28	19,32	4 062	4 293
Local	1,04	1,09	231	242
Processing	1,45	1,52	323	338
Total	20,77	21,93	4 616	4 873
Revenue	R/tonne	R/tonne	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Exports	40 384	41 192	182	185
Local	24 295	25 145	109	113
Processing	5 070	5 449	23	25

**2024**: Constructed from the indices provided by Frudata, linked and rebased using Agrihub, SARS, and SATI data.

37 915

167

171

37 108

**Average** 

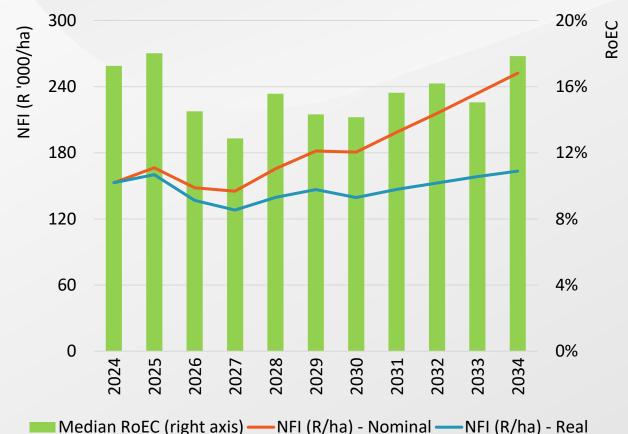
_				
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Financial performance	R/ha	R/ha	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Gross income	770 752	831 378	167	171
Packaging cost	128 271	139 074	28	29
Marketing cost	84 841	91 986	18	19
Net income before production cost	557 640	600 319	121	123
Direct Allocable Cost	345 286	371 948	75	76
Labour	211 064	232 105	46	48
Fertiliser	24 171	23 901	5	5
Fuel, Repairs & Electricity	62 638	65 502	14	13
Chemicals	39 315	42 067	9	9
Diverse/Other	8 098	8 374	2	2
Non-Direct Allocable Cost	16 883	17 592	4	4
Depreciation Cost	42 540	44 326	9	9
Net Farm Income	152 931	166 452	33	34
Interest on working capital	25 613	27 566	6	6
Return on capital	127 319	138 886	28	29
Return on establishment capital	17,2%	17,4%	17,2%	17,4%

#### Orange River: Return on establishment capital

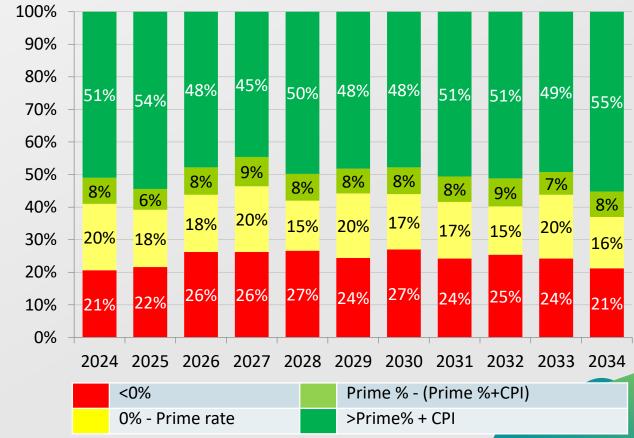


RoEC	Grouping	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
	<b>Bottom third</b>	-4%	-4%	-8%	-7%	-7%	-5%	-7%	-5%	-6%	-4%	-5%
Median	Middle third	17%	18%	15%	13%	16%	14%	14%	16%	16%	15%	18%
	Top third	38%	38%	35%	34%	36%	36%	36%	35%	37%	38%	39%
Mean	Total	17%	18%	15%	13%	15%	16%	15%	16%	16%	17%	18%

**Baseline returns**: NFI per hectare and the return on establishment capital



<u>Risk profile</u>: Probability of a Return on Establishment Capital within a certain band (RoEC = NFI ÷ Establishment Capital)



#### Olifants River: Base year assumptions & outcome



			2024	2025
	Bearing Area		85%	85%
No	on-Bearing Ar	15%	15%	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Yield	Tonne/ha	Tonne/ha	Cartons/ha eq.	Cartons/ha eq.
Exports	14,92	15,77	3 315	3 504
Local	1,22	1,28	271	284
Processing	1,31	1,37	291	305
Total	17,45	18,41	3 877	4 092
Revenue	R/tonne	R/tonne	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Exports	37 447	38 196	169	172

**2024**: Constructed from the indices provided by Frudata, linked and rebased using Agrihub, SARS, and SATI data.

25 145

5 449

34 853

109

23

153

113

25

157

24 295

5 070

34 098

Local

**Processing** 

**Average** 

	2024	2025	2024	2025
Financial performance	R/ha	R/ha	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Gross income	594 910	641 809	153	157
Packaging cost	102 968	117 989	27	29
Marketing cost	35 215	41 928	9	10
Net income before production cost	456 727	481 892	118	118
Direct Allocable Cost	323 207	348 298	83	85
Labour	206 248	226 809	53	55
Fertiliser	19 332	19 116	5	5
Fuel, Repairs & Electricity	51 858	53 691	13	13
Chemicals	37 671	40 308	10	10
Diverse/Other	8 098	8 374	2	2
Non-Direct Allocable Cost	16 883	17 592	4	4
<b>Depreciation Cost</b>	43 074	44 883	11	11
Net Farm Income	73 563	71 119	19	17
Interest on working capital	28 674	31 388	7	8
Return on capital	44 889	39 731	12	10
Return on establishment capital	9,0%	7,3%	9,0%	7,3%

#### Olifants River: Return on establishment capital

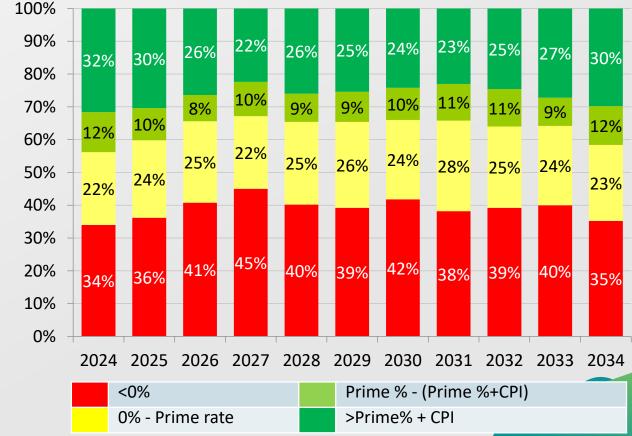


RoEC	Grouping	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Median	<b>Bottom third</b>	-10%	-11%	-15%	-14%	-14%	-12%	-13%	-12%	-13%	-11%	-11%
	Middle third	8%	7%	4%	2%	5%	4%	3%	4%	5%	5%	7%
	Top third	25%	21%	20%	18%	20%	21%	20%	19%	21%	23%	22%
Mean	Total	7%	6%	3%	2%	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	6%

#### **Baseline returns**: NFI per hectare and the return on establishment capital

#### 125 10% NFI (R '000/ha) 100 8% 75 6% 50 4% 25 2% 0% 2030 2034 2025 2026 2028 2029 2032 2033 2024 2027 2031 Median RoEC (right axis) — NFI (R/ha) - Nominal — NFI (R/ha) - Real

#### <u>Risk profile</u>: Probability of a Return on Establishment Capital within a certain band (RoEC = NFI ÷ Establishment Capital)



#### Berg River: Base year assumptions & outcome



	2024	2025
Bearing Area	85%	85%
Non-Bearing Area	15%	15%

	2024	2025	2024	2025
Yield	Tonne/ha	Tonne/ha	Cartons/ha eq.	Cartons/ha eq.
Exports	18,07	19,10	4 015	4 243
Local	1,03	1,08	228	239
Processing	1,44	1,51	319	334
Total	20,53	21,68	4 563	4 817
Revenue	R/tonne	R/tonne	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Exports	33 611	34 283	151	154
Local	24 295	25 145	109	113
Processing	5 070	5 449	23	25
Average	31 147	31 828	140	143

: Constructed from the indices provided by Frudata, linked and rebased using Agrihub, SARS, and SATI data.

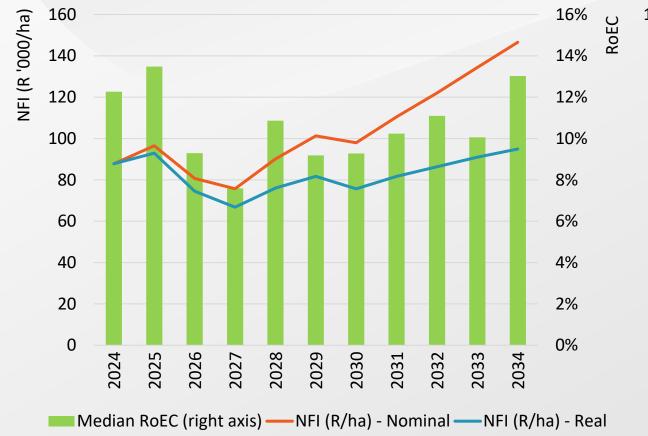
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Financial performance	R/ha	R/ha	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Gross income	639 514	689 896	140	143
Packaging cost	123 363	133 752	27	28
Marketing cost	27 321	29 622	6	6
Net income before production cost	488 830	526 522	107	109
Direct Allocable Cost	341 428	367 896	75	76
Labour	217 231	238 887	48	50
Fertiliser	20 617	20 387	5	4
Fuel, Repairs & Electricity	55 306	57 261	12	12
Chemicals	40 176	42 988	9	9
Diverse/Other	8 098	8 374	2	2
Non-Direct Allocable Cost	16 883	17 592	4	4
<b>Depreciation Cost</b>	42 733	44 527	9	9
Net Farm Income	87 786	96 506	19	20
Interest on working capital	22 873	24 600	5	5
Return on capital	64 913	71 906	14	15
Return on establishment capital	12,3%	12,6%	12,3%	12,6%

#### Berg River: Return on establishment capital

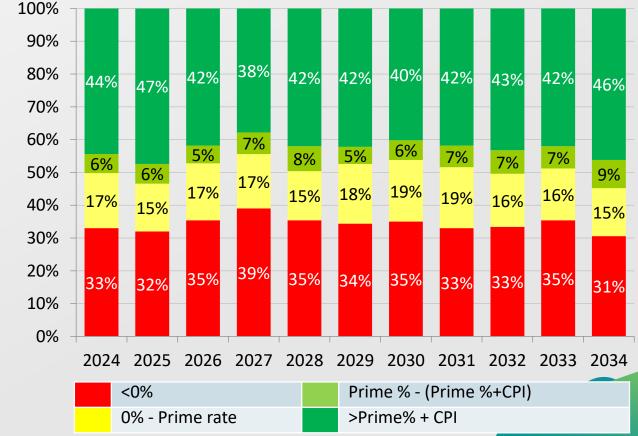


RoEC	Grouping	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Median	<b>Bottom third</b>	-13%	-13%	-17%	-16%	-17%	-14%	-16%	-14%	-15%	-13%	-14%
	Middle third	12%	13%	9%	8%	11%	9%	9%	10%	11%	10%	13%
	Top third	37%	37%	33%	32%	34%	34%	35%	33%	35%	36%	37%
Mean	Total	12%	13%	9%	8%	10%	11%	10%	11%	11%	12%	13%

**Baseline returns**: NFI per hectare and the return on establishment capital



Risk profile: Probability of a Return on Establishment Capital within a certain band (RoEC = NFI ÷ Establishment Capital)



#### Hex River: Base year assumptions & outcome



	2024	2025
Bearing Area	85%	85%
Non-Bearing Area	15%	15%

Yield	Tonne/ha	Tonne/ha	Cartons/ha eq.	Cartons/ha eq.
Exports	16,87	17,83	3 749	3 962
Local	0,96	1,00	213	223
Processing	1,34	1,41	298	312
Total	19,17	20,24	4 260	4 497
Revenue	R/tonne	R/tonne	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Exports	37 382	38 130	168	172
Local	24 295	25 145	109	113
Processing	5 070	5 449	23	25
Average	34 466	35 217	155	158

: Constructed from the indices provided by Frudata, linked and rebased using Agrihub, SARS, and SATI data.

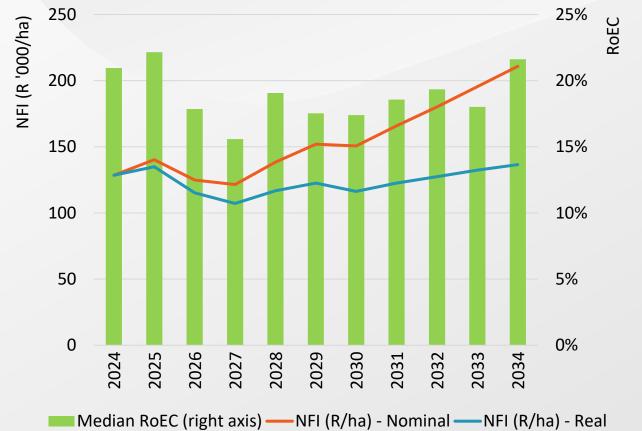
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Financial performance	R/ha	R/ha	R/eq. carton	R/eq. carton
Gross income	660 664	712 663	155	158
Packaging cost	114 762	124 428	27	28
Marketing cost	28 875	31 307	7	7
Net income before production cost	517 026	556 929	121	124
<b>Direct Allocable Cost</b>	329 017	354 938	77	79
Labour	212 652	233 851	50	52
Fertiliser	18 146	17 943	4	4
Fuel, Repairs & Electricity	51 432	53 296	12	12
Chemicals	38 690	41 469	9	9
Diverse/Other	8 098	8 378	2	2
Non-Direct Allocable Cost	16 883	17 541	4	4
<b>Depreciation Cost</b>	42 589	44 250	10	10
Net Farm Income	128 536	140 198	30	31
Interest on working capital	22 060	23 732	5	5
Return on capital	106 476	116 466	25	26
Return on establishment capital	20,8%	21,2%	20,8%	21,2%

#### Hex River: Return on establishment capital

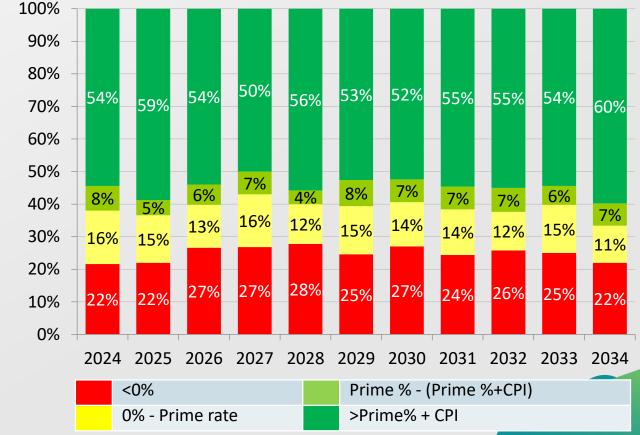


RoEC	Grouping	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Median	<b>Bottom third</b>	-6%	-6%	-11%	-10%	-10%	-7%	-9%	-8%	-9%	-6%	-7%
	Middle third	21%	22%	18%	16%	19%	18%	17%	19%	19%	18%	22%
	Top third	49%	48%	44%	42%	45%	44%	45%	43%	45%	46%	47%
Mean	Total	21%	22%	18%	16%	18%	19%	18%	19%	20%	20%	22%

Baseline returns: NFI per hectare and the return on establishment capital



Risk profile: Probability of a Return on Establishment Capital within a certain band (RoEC = NFI ÷ Establishment Capital)





#### Key messages: Table grape industry



The farm-level profitability outlook is generated under the assumption that yields improve by 8% while the cost related to generating this yield improvement only rise by 4%, e.g., improve from 4 000 to 4 320 cartons while using inputs more effectively (in constant terms the index for cost of production increase from 100 to 104.



Weaker Dollar projected over the outlook period as the US economy is affected by the recent trade war, but with the Rand marginally weakening against the Euro – potentially an opportunity for exports (freight quoted in Dollars and product prices agreed in Euro).



Despite an improvement in returns over the last couple of years, the risk of negative returns (or not covering foreign capital obligations) remains substantial as a result of volatility around the baseline generated by yield and price variation.



Labour cost remains a big component of on-farm cost and minimum wage increases remains a risk — it is probably the single biggest determinants of profitability (and appetite for replacement and expansion) in the cost category, and managing labour use per export carton is a key metric in financial sustainability.



#### Thank you!

#### Disclaimer

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