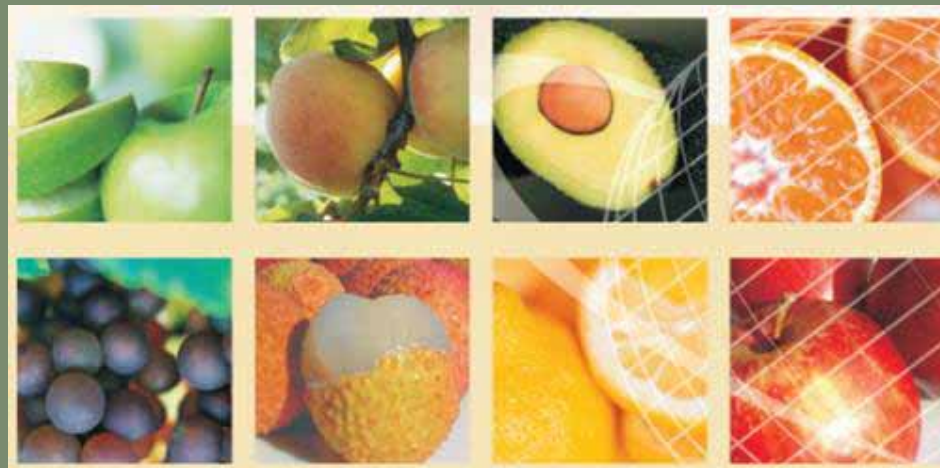


ADVANCING & COMPLYING WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- PRESENT STATUS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ROLE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE FRESH FRUIT INDUSTRY

Hanlie Wessels

Asst. Dir. Perishable Products & Flowers
DIRECTORATE FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY ASSURANCE



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Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INTRODUCTION

- South Africa- major exporter of fresh fruit and vegetables to a variety of international markets
- Various international quality standards exist
 - Statutory & private
- Complying presents` unique challenges to producers competent authorities mandated to
- All these standards require the same basic quality assurance
- The role of the South African Department of Agriculture (Directorate Food Safety & Quality Assurance):



South Africa as major exporter: 1900-1994





South Africa as major exporter: 1994-present



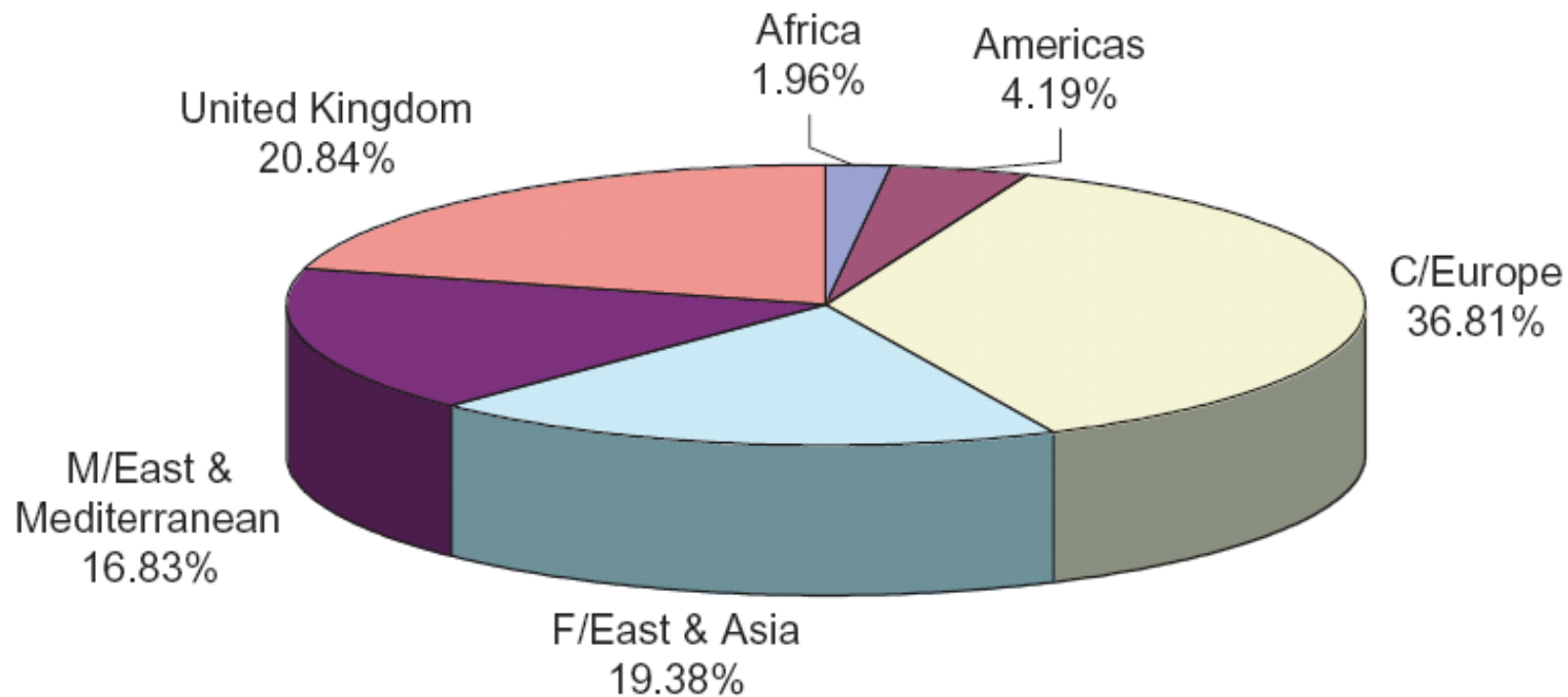


South Africa as major exporter: Citrus data 2006

Country	Production Volumes*	Yield/hectare (kg/Ha)	Area harvested (Ha)
Brazil	20202135.00	-	-
China	16019500.00	13452.38	84000.00
United States of America	10436251.00	24191.67	1200.00
Mexico	6735231.00	3934.24	10067.00
Spain	5360100.00	15000.00	1000.00
India	4750000.00	13756.91	8215.00
Iran, Islamic Rep of	3825000.00	17372.30	4115.00
Italy	3397842.00	19977.43	1462.00
Nigeria	3250000.00	4514.36	731000.00
Egypt	2797600.00	15350.28	177.00
Kenya	135000.00	6431.02	20992.00
Tanzania, United Rep of	39993.00	5464.27	7319.00
South Africa	7081.10	18344.56	386.00
Malawi	2429.00	7360.61	330.00
Ethiopia	1195.00	5800.97	206.00
Mauritius	475.00	4166.67	114.00
Zimbabwe	399.00	6879.31	58.00
Swaziland	300.00	5000.00	60.00



South Africa as major exporter: 1994-present



ALL FRESH FRUIT : PAST 5 SEASONS - MAJOR DESTINATIONS



Various International Quality Standards Exist – Statutory & Private



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Various International Quality Standards Exist – Statutory & Private

➤ Statutory:

- EC Regulations
- UNECE
- Codex Alimentarius
- OECD

➤ Private:

- Retailer specific quality standards i.e.
 - Tesco, Sainsbury, Ahold, Albert Hein, Marks and Spencer (M & S), Carrefour, Migros

Food safety and quality standards

- TESCO: Natures Choice
- CMI: BRC
- SQF
- Globalgap





Complying With These Standards Presents Unique Challenges





Complying With These Standards Presents Unique Challenges

- Different inspection specs between standards
- Variation in standards from year to year
 - Statutory (e.g., marking requirements)
 - Consumer (e.g., organic products, carbon miles)
- Standards training behind market innovation
- More than one inspection - Local Inspection Point
- Dual inspections (international)
- Additional inspection fees
- Product range exported vs. available standards
- Reflection of the market – no of producers/ exporters
- Change in destination markets
- Volatile export market



Complying With These Standards Presents Unique Challenges

- Delays
 - Packaging
 - Cold storage
 - International Transport
 - Quarantine & Inspections
 - Delivery to Agents, Wholesalers, Retailers & Consumers
- Variations in standards



- In a highly competitive volatile industry flexibility and speed are required.
- Example, table grape harvesting in South Africa required a prompt change in CODEX and UNECE standards to accommodate a second crop (late harvest) – unique to South Africa – that involved joint acceptance of a waiver to allow for a new minimum bunch weight. South Africa’s active participation and rapporeur status permitted this amendment to the international standard and ensured that no TBT was created.



Standards Require the Same Basic Quality Assurance





Standards Require the Same Basic Quality Assurance

- Appearance
 - Color
 - Bruising
- Internal quality Nutritional Content & TSS / Brix
- Traceability and marking requirements
- Sampling
- Internal quality
- Shelf-life
- Safety and cleanliness
- Traceability



South African Department of Agriculture (Directorate Food Safety & Quality Assurance) Harmonization of Standards



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South African Department of Agriculture (Directorate Food Safety & Quality Assurance) harmonization of standards

How does South African quality assurance system ensure conformity?

- Export Policies, Act's (APS Act of 1990) regulations and standards are being harmonized
- Active participation in international standard setting bodies
- Officially recognized inspection body Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) ISO 9001/200
- Capacity of enough inspection points and inspectors
- Regular training and benchmarking of standards



South African Department of Agriculture (Directorate Food Safety & Quality Assurance) harmonization of standards

How does South African quality assurance system ensure conformity?

- Regular training of government officials, PPECB inspectors
- Research through Agricultural Research Council and growers associations industries and bodies such as Citrus Growers Association, Deciduous Fruit Producers Trust and Subtropical growers Association
- Compliance to EC 1148





Summarizing Statement

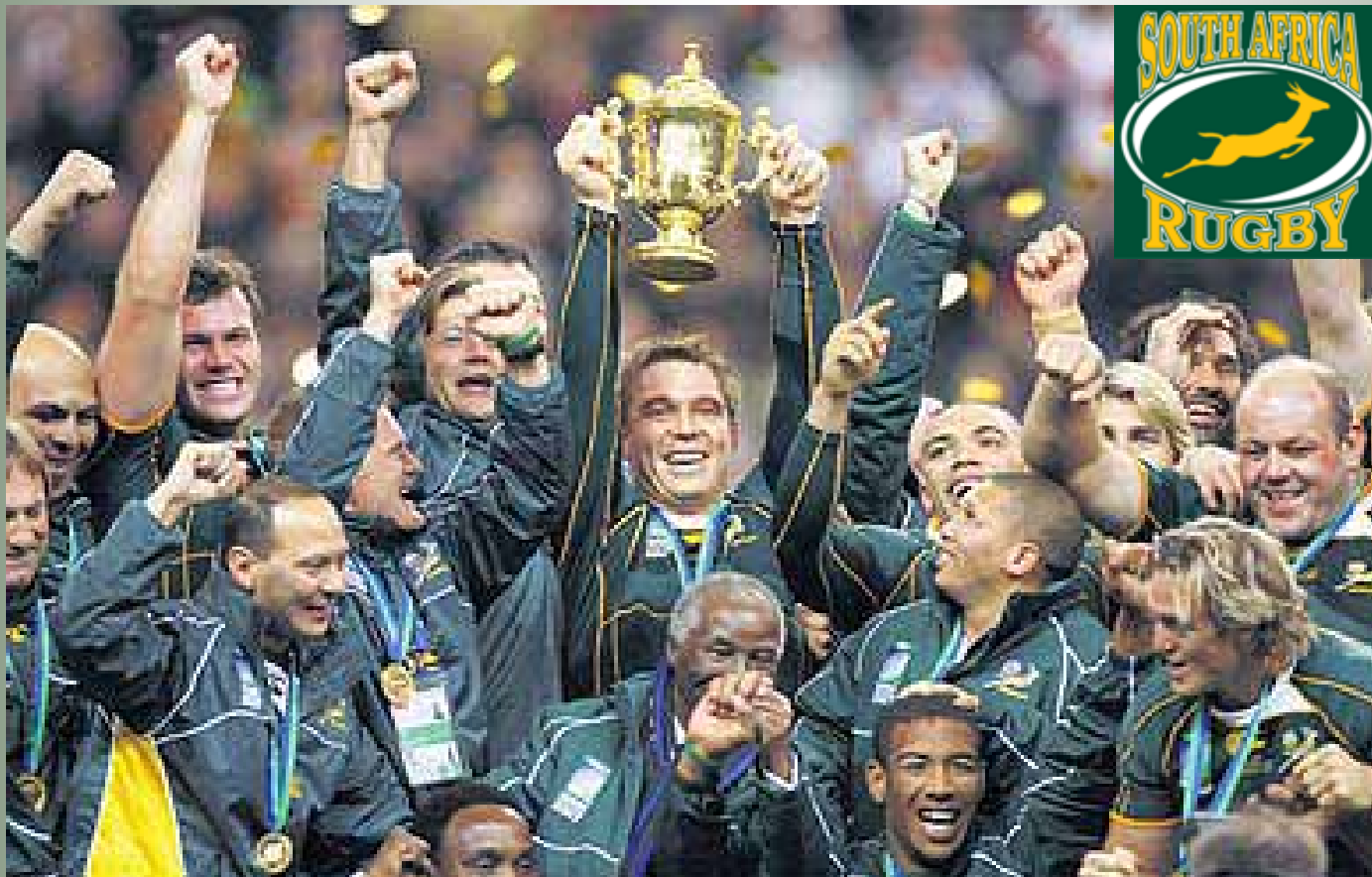
- South Africa has found solutions to export within an environment of multiple export standards
- The central strategy lies in harmonizing to the highest common denominator
- Global harmonization of standards with:
 - Greater flexibility towards innovation and customer demands
 - Uniform application of international standards
 - Conformity inspections
 - Appropriate training on the application of these standardswill greatly improve and simplify international trade & avoid TBT's
- It is critical for CODEX, UNECE and OECD to reduce turn around time on adoption of new or amended standards



South African produce, as exported to our international trading partners, complies with all set international standards largely due to a culture of excellence of excellence and harmonizing export standards as promulgated by the Department of Agriculture



THANK YOU



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