



HIGH DEMAND FOR SOUTH AFRICAN FRUIT DRIVES REEFER MARKET

Matthew Conroy, Trade Manager of Maersk Line Southern Africa - a member of Maersk Group - says that even though 2016 saw the South African reefer market contract by about 3% - largely due to lower crop yields of citrus caused by the severe drought experienced across the region - refrigerated container trade still makes up about 19% of total South African container exports.

He explains that the reefer trade sector connects South Africa's shopping trolley - the agriculture sector - to the rest of the world. "South Africa's moderate climate make it the ideal location for fruit farming, which makes up over 90% of total reefer exports.

"The large majority of produce that gets exported via reefer containers from South Africa is fruit, consisting mainly of citrus and deciduous varieties. Citrus fruits such as lemons and oranges make up the bulk of this trade, accounting for about 58%, while deciduous fruits such as apples, pears and grapes make up around 35%. Citrus crops are sourced from throughout the country, while deciduous crops - particularly grapes - are found predominantly in the Western Cape."

Maersk Line Southern Africa has over 80 years of experience in shipping fresh produce. "Transport-

ing perishable goods halfway around the world can be challenging but our profound understanding of reefer transportation, combined with the best service and new technologies, gives our customers peace of mind," Conroy adds.

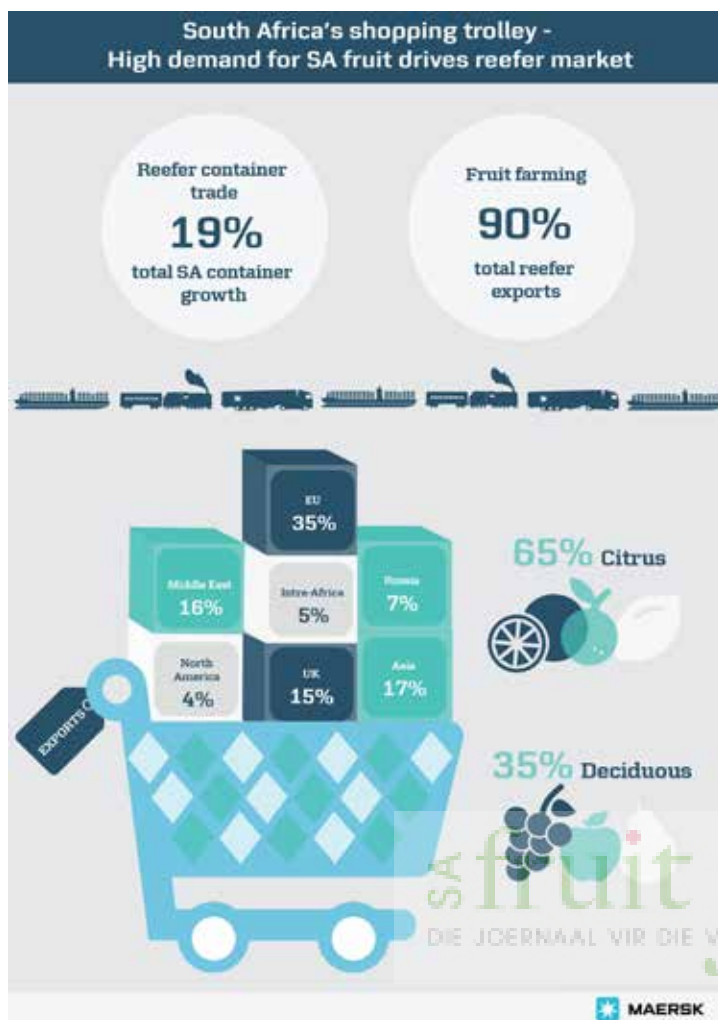
In contrast to the thriving reefer export trade, Conroy says that reefer imports for South Africa are very low. "Total reefer imports that South Africa receives are in single digits. Operationally, because of the imbalance, we actually bring thousands of empty reefer containers into South Africa just to service our strong reefer export market."

Conroy says that in terms of demand, the European continent receives close to 60% of South Africa's reefer exports, a market which has been very consistent over time. "Our biggest importer region would be the EU, which receives around 35%, while the UK and Russia receive roughly 15% and 7% respectively. Other import regions include Asia (17%), the Middle East (16%), Intra-Africa (5%) and North America (4%). The market has experienced no major shifts in

The reefer trade (refrigerated cargo solutions) sector contributes positively to the South African economy by creating employment and stimulating economic growth.



Matthew Conroy, Trade Manager of Maersk Line Southern Africa.



demand with this split having been largely the same over the past five years."

While South Africa is still experiencing extremely dry conditions in certain regions, Conroy concludes that moderate growth can be expected in 2017. "South African fruit is in high demand globally, so the market decline is more a reflection of the reduced crop output associated with the drought. As fruit farms are spread across the country and the drought has impacted each of these regions differently, the full impact of the drought on 2017 produce remains unknown. While this impact is very much dependent on water supply, our initial estimate is that there will be mid-single digit growth."

A.P. Moller - Maersk is an integrated transport & logistics company with multiple brands and is a global leader in container shipping and ports. Including a stand-alone Energy division, the company employs roughly 88.000 employees across operations in 130 countries.

Maersk Line is the world's largest container shipping company, known for reliable, flexible and eco-efficient services. We provide ocean transportation in all parts of the world. We serve our customers through 306 offices in 114 countries. We employ 7 600 seafarers and 21 600 land-based employees and operate 639 container vessels. We market our services through the Maersk Line, Safmarine, SeaLand (Intra-Americas), MCC Transport (Intra-Asia) and Seago Line (Intra-Europe) brands.

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New appointments at ARC Infruitec-Nietvoorbij



Dr Rinus Knoetze (left) was appointed as nematologist in the Plant Protection Division from 1 March 2017. Dr Knoetze has experience in the detection and identification of plant-parasitic nematodes by means of morphological and molecular methods. He is author and co-author of several scientific publications, and as senior researcher, he will be project

leader for two new nematology projects for the fruit and wine industry as well as collaborator on projects in other divisions. Rinus will be responsible for identification of nematodes for the diagnostic service at the institute.

Gert Malan (right) was appointed as a Junior Researcher in the Soil and Water Science Division as of 1 March 2017. Gert will work with Dr Philip Myburgh and Dr Carolyn Howell on vineyard irrigation, specifically on the use of winery wastewater as a resource for irrigation of vineyards in different environments as well as assessing the drought tolerance of selected grapevine scion cultivars.

Gert completed his M.Sc. Agric. (Soil Science) degree at Stellenbosch University in December 2016. His thesis focused on investigating the suitability of land type information for hydrological modelling in the mountain regions of Hessequa (Riversdal), South Africa.

