

## ports otlight

igh on the SA  
2015. Lengthy  
negotiations  
nd the US on US  
h Africa resulted  
o exclude SA  
om the beneficial  
African Growth  
goa).  
kson approved an  
hold South Africa  
king of US poultry  
While South Africa  
potential 10-year  
n proposed an  
that the country  
next 30 days. He  
onal amendment  
Africa's inclusion  
ears, saying that it  
try that benefited  
tinued to maintain  
US poultry.  
oughts on the  
outh Africa and  
EO of Astral  
otiations were  
rica had tabled  
or US poultry  
nted 120 000t/year.  
ive," Schutte said.  
e, the poultry  
l South Africa reached  
uld see the US  
e-in chicken portions  
anti-dumping  
19 June, pg 13).  
this quota as it was  
ful renewal of Agoa,"  
to the agreement.  
to the country  
nge the SA poultry  
ARS imposed  
between 3,86% and  
in chicken portions  
ted from, a number  
ny, the Netherlands  
red an application  
ciation (SAPA) to  
Administration  
frica (ITAC) for action  
ped imports of frozen  
these countries.  
ovell, CEO of  
orld treated  
at".  
e parts and dump  
eloping countries.  
eveloping countries  
10 April, pg 20).

## CITRUS

### Citrus exports to the EU still under threat from CBS

Incidences of Citrus Black Spot (CBS) that curbed exports in 2015 showed the true grit of the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) and local citrus growers, who made hard decisions in a seemingly never-ending battle with European authorities.

In July 2015, the European Union (EU) informed South Africa's Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) of three shipments of South African organic lemons with CBS (14 August, pg 14).

A decision was immediately taken to stop these exports and organic growers were commended

for their bravery by Deon Joubert, CGA special envoy of market access and EU matters.

Joubert said these decisions had not been easy but had been taken to remove any risk to the industry as a whole.

"The South African citrus industry has gone to great lengths and enormous cost to ensure compliance with the EU's requirements. These include new testing regimes, as well as a comprehensive CBS risk management programme," he said.

According to Justin Chadwick, CGA CEO, the CBS debate regarding the true risk of the disease being

transmitted to citrus production areas in the southern parts of Europe has been ongoing since 1992.

South African citrus experts visited Europe to inspect the methods used on the continent to identify CBS, and to understand how they were applied.

The team of experts, led by DAFF and including representation from the Agricultural Research Council and Citrus Research International, aimed at understanding why interceptions happened, with a view to assisting South Africa's ongoing processes of mitigating risk (11 September, pg 21).

## MACADAMIAS

### Macadamia exports affected by crackdown on Chinese grey market

The macadamia industry experienced a number of highs and lows in 2015, concluding the year on a cautiously optimistic note.

South Africa became the largest exporter of the nut and the industry continued to grow. Sugarcane farmers were increasingly putting in macadamia orchards where sugarcane plantations had been previously, and there was a waiting list for macadamia trees, according to PJ Venter, CEO

of Mayo Macs, which annually processes 700t of nuts from KwaZulu-Natal growers (17 July, pg 23).

SA macadamia exports were jeopardised when Chinese traders and middlemen were found guilty of avoiding import duties and breaking China's country of origin regulations (7 August, pg 20). This was done by concealing the true value of nuts imported into China, or using ports of entry in regions

such as Vietnam and Hong Kong, where duties were lower.

Lindi van Rooyen, marketing and public relations officer at Valley Macadamias, said that South Africa exported around 60% of locally produced macadamias to China in 2014.

Jill Whyte, CEO of Green Farms Nut Company, which exported 20% of its produce to China, said that the crisis was not about China, but how producers and processors should approach their marketing.

## BEES

### American foulbrood bee populations,

Government's response in tackling the American foulbrood (AFB) disease crisis in 2015 was slow at best. Nearly 40% of the Western Cape bee population had been wiped out, while some of the province's beekeepers estimated that 40% to 60% of all bees in the province had been infected (31 July, pg 16).

### THE WESTERN CAPE'S SCALE BEE PRODUCERS WERE HIT THE HARDEST

What was worse, it was uncertain whether the disease had spread to other parts of the country.

The KwaZulu-Natal Bee Farmers' Association (KZN BFA) sent a letter to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry

and Fish voicing about the AFB to t (30 Januar Stakeh the com beekeep came tog to launch guide on manage (6 Februar DAFF sa planning to determ extent to

had spre South Af In May reported Western 80% of th 200 beek were stru with AFB pg 18). Th affected

## CORRUPTION

### Limpopo agricultur water over self-enr

MEC for agriculture in Limpopo, Joy Matshoge, came under fire for what the Democratic Alliance (DA) termed "self-enrichment" after she applied for and received 51 Nguni cattle worth about R1 million from the provincial government (4 December, pg 16). The farm, Dutoitskraal, on which the cattle grazed, was

also leas Matshog the Depa Rural De and Lan The DA that dev projects benefit th disadvan the polit DA Limp Jacques S Farmer's "MEC brazenly she appl she beca