

PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORT OF SUBTROPICAL FRUITS TO SPECIAL MARKETS



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Aim:

To update on export requirements, report on progress and challenges experienced in the past season

and

To provide platform for engagements to ensure compliances and avoid market closure/suspension.



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Background

Current approved protocols/workplans/directives for export of Subtropical (Litchi, Avocado and Mango) fruits to special markets are as follows:

- ❖ **USA** –Market access was approved in **2015** for export of **Litchi** from SA. USA approved irradiation as a risk mitigation measure for pest of concern. Currently irradiation is done in the USA as the HEPRO facility is not yet recertified. Main pests of concern are litchi moth, false codling moth (FCM), mediterranean fruit fly, natal fruit fly, fix wax scale, pink wax scale and karoo thorn mealybug. Details on irradiation dose are in signed addendum to OWP (2015).
- ❖ **China**- Market access was approved in **2023** for export of **Avocado** from SA. China approved fumigation as a risk mitigation treatment for pests of concern. The treatment parameters are: 32 g/m³ Methyl bromide for no less than 2 hours at 21.1°C or above at ordinary pressure, and no less than 26 g/m³ after 0.5 h of the start or 16 g/m³ after 2h of the start during treatment. Main pests of concern are : mediterranean fruit fly, natal fruit fly and FCM.
- ❖ **Japan**- Market access was approved in **2023** for export of **Avocado** from SA. Japan approved in-transit cold treatment as a risk mitigation measure for pest of concern. The approved treatment is 2°C or below for 19 days. Main pests of concern are: mediterranean fruit fly and natal fruit fly.
- ❖ **EU**- Market access was approved for export of **Mango** from SA as per EU as per the directive: Implementing Regulation **(EU) 2019/2072**. EU approved systems approach as a risk mitigation measure for pests of concern. Main pest of concern is fruit flies (Non-European tephritidae).



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Background continue..

❖ Special markets:

- ❖ International markets that requires special requirements concerning pest risk mitigation options and logistics involved in managing the programme as stipulated in a bilaterally agreed protocols/directives to ensure compliances.

Hence, before the start of each export season, the DoA convene the workshop with all the relevant parties involved.

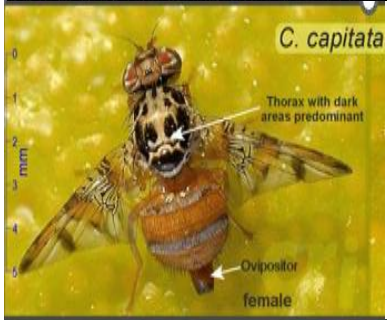


Photo by Peter R. Stephen, CRI



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Criteria for Export Participation & Registration



❖ Litchi Export to the USA

- USA requires compliance to import requirements provided in 2011, OWP (2014), addendum to OWP, SOP for packhouse and orchard best practices approved in 2015:
- Litchi fruit must be commercially produced and be part of a commercial consignment as defined, section 319.56-2.g. This is indicated in 2011 requirements(f.) referring to 7 CFR Part 319
- Import permit is required from USA
- Prior to departure from SA, each consignment must be inspected and found free from pupae of litchi moth as confirmed by accompanied PC.
- Other target pest that will be irradiated in USA at prescribed doses include: litchi moth, FCM, fruit flies and mealybugs as per addendum to OWP.
- Each consignment is subject to inspection at the US ports of entry



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Criteria continue

- Litchi should comply with the USDA treatment manual part 7 CFR listed on the OWP
- DOA should facilitate a training session for registered program to describe program requirements, parameters and logistics in preparation of each export season.
- Only Litchi fruit produced in registered orchards may be sourced for USA export programme .
- The list of registered facilities to be provided to the USA, 30 days before beginning of shipment.
- Annual registration is mandatory according to OWP .
- For traceability, only PUCs and PHCs allocated by DOA: Directorate Food Safety & Quality Assurance (DFSQA) will be allowed.



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Criteria continue..

❖ Avocado Export to China

- Orchards, packhouses, and fumigation treatment facilities should be registered by DoA.
- DoA shall provide a list every year/season for approval before export starts.
- IPM measures for fruit flies and FCM to be conducted in production areas, including the use of chemical & biological control, mating disruption or any other control measure.
- Orchards to apply GAP- such as sanitation, fallen fruit etc.
- During packing, Avocados to undergo high-pressure washing, brushing, sorting, grading to ensure that the fruit is free of live insects, abnormal fruit (overripe, without peduncle, etc.), branches, leaves and soil.
- The stalk must be no longer than 3mm.
- Packed Avocados for China to be stored separately.

❖ Avocado Export to Japan

- Compliance to approved workplan and Orchard best practices
- Annual registration is mandatory. Currently done at Agriops
- Only PUCs/ PHCs allocated by DoA: DFSQA
- Only fresh Hass Avocado fruit produced in registered PUC / orchards may be sourced for Japan export programme.
- Drawings and photographs of packhouses must be submitted to DoA to be sent to Japan during registration. See annex 1 in the protocol at the DoA website.

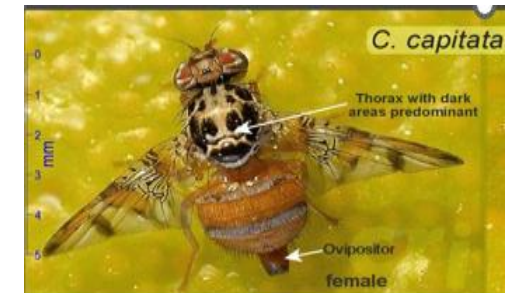


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Criteria continue..



❖ Mango Export to EU

- Both PUCs and PHCs must be registered with DoA via Agriops
- Compulsory manual verification by DoA (Inspection Services)
- Orchards must be free from fruitflies (non-European *Tephritidae*)
- The Orchards must have been subjected to an effective systems approach or an effective post-harvest treatment



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Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges

❖ Litchi to USA

- Only few where other parties did not attend the preseason workshop

❖ Avocado to China

- No major challenges experienced

❖ Avocado to Japan

- Only one container was exported in 2024 season.
- Cold treatment regime not conducive for SA exports hence no export took place after the one container trial in 2024 season

Recommendations

❖ Litchi to USA

- Encourage to attend is a compulsory for USA

❖ Avocado to China

- Parties should keep up the good work they are doing

❖ Avocado to Japan

- Japan to approve systems approach, although they say they work on one commodity at a time. Currently working on citrus, to be followed by table grapes.

NB: Goodnews, no report of non-compliances were received from the trading partners



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Dates for Registration of Subtropical fruit at Agriops in 2026

❖ Litchi to USA

- Registration will open
- Closing dates for registration at Agriops
- DPH will receive the registration list from Agriops
- DPH to circulate the draft list to DoA Inspection Services (DIS) for verification
- DIS to send the verification results to DPH
- DPH to finalize and send database to USA

❖ Mango to EU

- Registration will open
- Closing date for registration at Agriops

❖ Litchi to USA

- 20 July 2026
- 20 August 2026
- 24 August 2026
- 28 August 2026
- 18 September 2026
- 30 September 2026



❖ Mango to EU

- 01 September 2026
- 30 September 2026



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Dates for Registration in 2026 continue

❖ Avocado to China

July:	Annual Coordinating Meeting for avocados
September:	Registration of PUCs and PHCs on AgriOps
October:	Verification of registered PUCs and PHCs by DoA: DIS
November:	Communication of lists of registered PUCs and PHCs to trading partners as required
February:	First exports of the new season

NB: Exact dates will be communicated at the later stage

❖ Avocado to Japan

- To be confirmed at the later stage.



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Tariff Payments per PUC/PHC/IP

NB: 2026-2027 season tariff payment is R160.00

Banking details are as follows:

Bank: **Standard Bank**

Branch: **Arcadia**

Branch No: **010274189**

Account No: **05-10-01**

Account Name: **DoA Plant health**

Reference: **PUC/PHC/IP name/Market name**

NB: Please ensure that the above reference are indicated with the market/country you are applying for. This is important for traceability and for audit purpose as well.



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OUTSTANDING MATTERS ON CURRENT APPROVED MARKETS



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G.J. Begemann

❖ Litchi to USA

- Agreement to be reached on the effective use of cold treatment as a mitigation measures for Litchi moth and FCM
- Signing of the addendum for irradiation in SA. Currently, SA is still exchanging technical information with USA to approve irradiation facility in SA.

❖ Avocado to Japan

- Systems approach to be allowed instead of mandatory cold treatment. Currently SA is exchanging data for approval by Japan.

❖ Avocado to China

- Proposal from Subtrop to request GACC to also consider systems approach as an alternative to fumigation.



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Link for Registration and Access of Approved Protocols/Workplans/ Directives/databases

Registration-
<https://agriops.ert.co.za/>

Protocols/directives/workplan/databases
information:

➤ DoA website: www.nda.gov.za, Core business, Agricultural Production Health & Food Safety, Natural Resources & Disaster Management, Plant Production & Health, Plant Health, Exporting from SA, Special export protocols/programmes / directives / producer database for special export markets

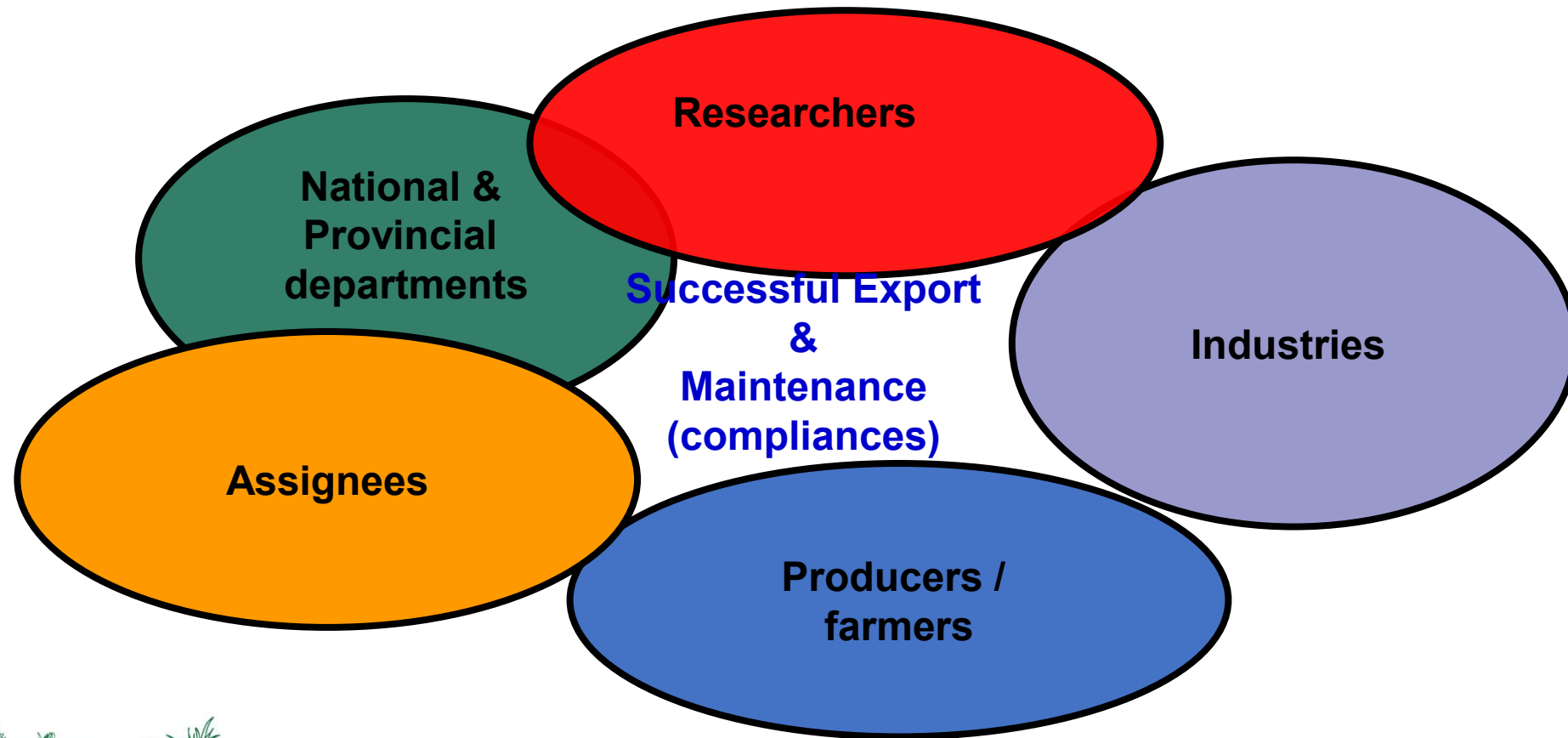


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Conclusion



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