

MINISTER'S FOREWORD



DURING THE 2016 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS, PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA REITERATED HIS NINE-POINT PLAN AS A RESPONSE TO SLUGGISH ECONOMIC GROWTH.

It is important to note that the revitalisation of agriculture is high on the agenda and regarded as an important vehicle to stimulate growth. The President further stressed the role of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in supporting Government to achieve its objectives.

As an SOE accountable to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) plays a pivotal role in contributing to the objectives set out in the recently approved Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP), and it is comforting to note that the entity's objectives are well aligned with that of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The PPECB is a regulator that ensures compliance of perishable produce exports, thus enhancing worldwide confidence in South African produce and facilitating access to international markets. I am delighted to learn that the PPECB has managed to maintain its ISO 9001 accreditation, lending further credibility to its systems and processes. We are also proud of the PPECB's introduction of an electronic certification process in order to improve efficiencies within the export value chain.

Apart from its core functions, the PPECB has further managed to upskill a number of smallholder farmers in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) as part of its transformation and development programme. In addition to this, we also note the important role that the PPECB fulfils in exposing students to the agricultural sector through its Agri-Export Technologist Programme (AETP), thus contributing to the transformation of the sector.

In closing, I wish the PPECB Board, Chief Executive Officer and employees well for the year ahead.

SENZENI ZOKWANA

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries