Minister's Foreword:

Since its inception 93 years ago, the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) has endeavoured to support Government's objective of promoting the export of South African perishable products. As a regulator ensuring compliance of perishable produce exports, the PPECB enhances world-wide confidence in South African produce thus facilitating access to, and growing, international markets.

Furthermore, the PPECB is committed to supporting Government in achieving its national priorities of creating employment within the sector and stimulating economic growth. During the 2018 State of the Nation Address, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa reiterated government's commitment to economic growth that translates into job creation.

As the agricultural sector in South Africa has great potential to fast-track the creation of additional jobs, it has become increasingly important that all entities within the sector create capacity, especially among our smallholder farmers and unemployed youth.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to note that the PPECB trained 238 smallholder farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and matters relating to food safety, a 40% increase on their target. Furthermore, 57 smallholder farmers were certified for export in the financial year, the highest number to date. The PPECB's Agricultural Export Technologist Programme (AETP), aimed at up-skilling unemployed postgraduates, also saw 39 students graduate in the financial year.

As a National Public entity responsible for regulating the export of perishable produce, it is of utmost importance that an organisation such as the PPECB remains relevant and abreast of digital advancements. I thus acknowledge the PPECB's strategic focus on digital transformation and the digital projects they have identified as focus areas for the upcoming year.

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

MS. AT DIDIZA, MP

Minister of Agriculture,
Land Reform and Rural Development