

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

Perishable produce exports are facing increasing competition as new entrants access international markets, while the drive towards safe and premium-grade fresh produce continues. In this context, as the organisation responsible for overseeing the export of perishable produce, the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) plays a pivotal role in creating global confidence in South African produce.

During his 2020 State of the Nation Address, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa re-emphasised the potential of agriculture and the sector's importance to our economy. The PPECB therefore remains a vital partner to Government and industry in its commitment to grow agricultural exports. In addition, Government remains focused on assisting smallholder farmers to access international markets.

I am therefore pleased to note the PPECB's efforts to train 249 smallholder farmers, of which 55 were certified as export ready during the period under review. Additionally, in support of Government's objective of creating more jobs and supporting the youth, the PPECB's Agricultural Export Technologist Programme (AETP) has successfully trained 50 students, who are now equipped with highly marketable new skills.



Thoko Didiza



I have also noted the PPECB's progress on strategic projects in support of their digital transformation journey. On completion, these projects will not only provide more efficient service delivery but will also enhance the relevance of the PPECB in years to come.

In closing, I want to thank the retiring PPECB Board members for their dedication over the past three years. I wish the new PPECB Board, the Executive Team and all employees well for the year ahead.

Ms AT Didiza, MP

Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)

