

PART A: OUR MANDATE

Legislative and policy mandates

The PPECB is mainly governed by the Perishable Products Export Control Act (Act 9 of 1983) (PPEC Act) and the Agricultural Product Standards Act (Act 119 of 1990) (APS Act). In terms of this legislation, the PPECB is responsible for overseeing the export of perishable produce, which is achieved through the inspection of listed agricultural products and management of the cold chain. The PPECB is further mandated in terms of the APS Act to conduct food safety audits on all Food Business Operators (FBOs) exporting perishable produce of plant origin.

In 2016, the PPECB was also mandated by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to handle all operational activities relating to the risk management system (RMS) for citrus exports to the European Union (EU). This mandate was initially limited to the 2017 citrus season but continued until 2019 and was further extended to 2020.

The PPEC Act is currently still under review and has not been finalised. The PPEC Bill has been approved by the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) and final certification has been received from the Office of the Chief State Law Advisor. The next step will be for the Bill to be introduced to Parliament together with the PPECB Levies Bill for further consideration.

The Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), which is informed by the National Growth Path (NGP) and the National Development Plan (NDP), places great emphasis on smallholder farmer development and rural employment, among other things.

As subject matter experts for the inspection of listed agricultural products, the management of the cold chain and food safety certification targeted at the export market, the PPECB is committed to support Government in achieving these outcomes.

The PPECB has formulated policies that will promote and facilitate achievement of these outcomes and has further introduced programmes aimed at directing organisational resources accordingly.

