

## South Africa's wine industry turning the corner – Vinpro

South Africa's wine industry is riding a "new wave of optimism" after enduring tough times since 2009, according to Rico Basson, CEO of Vinpro. Basson was speaking at the recent Kaap Agri In2Agri seminar in Paarl.

Basson said that 2019 would be a very interesting year for the South African wine industry, and he predicted that the average cellar price of wine would increase 19%. "Where we had a price floor of R4,40 per litre, we are now at a level of between R6 and R6,50. This means a 30% adjustment in price."

### 'THE AVERAGE WINE PRICE WILL INCREASE 19%'

He urged farmers not to be too concerned about the forecast of a large global harvest for 2018.

"There is no reason to worry. The projection is in line with the average; we are going back to equilibrium." He added that the weak rand was also in South Africa's favour as global prices were declining, and locally an upward adjustment was also evident at retail selling price level.

Despite the optimism in the industry, Basson said he expected that the area planted to vines in South Africa would keep shrinking over the next five years. He attributed this to vine age, profitability of alternative crops, and policy uncertainty.

"[It is expected that] we will produce 180 million litres less wine to sell. We will not be able to make up this deficit in the next five years, creating a short supply and an upward price [movement]."

Jeandré van der Walt

## Citrus growers cautioned to prevent pest outbreaks

Citrus growers are being urged to act swiftly to suppress false codling moth (FCM) populations rather than focus on fruit protection after an outbreak has occurred.

Dr Sean Moore, an entomologist at Citrus Research International (CRI), said it was strongly recommended that growers initiated FCM control measures early in the 2018/2019 season.

"The best approach to FCM control is population suppression, not just fruit protection, which is most effective when pest levels are at their lowest, thus preventing them from increasing. We now have a golden opportunity to effectively suppress FCM populations while they are at a very low level."

Moore recommended several practices to suppress FCM populations. "Immediately after harvesting in an orchard is completed, all fruit remaining in the orchard [hanging and on the orchard ground] must be removed and destroyed. This would remove the bridge for

FCM to [be transferred] from one season to the next. Trees should be thoroughly pruned to maximise the opportunity for optimal spray coverage and penetration during the course of the following season. A granulovirus spray applied after the spring FCM flight peak can significantly improve FCM control, [instead of] only initiating such sprays after the November/December flight peak."

Meanwhile, the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) cautioned farmers to strictly adhere to maximum residue level (MRL) requirements for export markets. During the past year, CGA received at least three reports of consignments of fruit being rejected in Taiwan when residue levels of plant protection products were detected. In all these cases the levels were very low, but were detected with highly sensitive equipment, or as a result of cross-contamination, CGA said.

CGA urged growers to exercise care when using chemical sprays, as there were high costs associated with product rejections in Taiwan, and continued access to this market needed to be ensured. In addition, South Korea was moving to a positive MRL list system that would be coming into effect on 1 January 2019. While the number of MRLs implicated for citrus exports to South Korea were few, the impact was significant, particularly from a citrus black spot management perspective. Growers were therefore urged to be cautious if they had used or intended using any of the following active ingredients on fruit being prepared for export to South Korea: dithiocarbamates (Dithane/Mancozeb), Benomyl/Carbendazim, Fosetyl-AI (Aliette), Dichlorprop (Corasil) and Etoxazole (Smite). – Lindi Botha

**BELOW:** Outbreaks of false codling moth infestations in citrus orchards can be prevented by taking the necessary precautions, according to Dr Sean Moore, an entomologist at Citrus Research International.  
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