



GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING

5 FEBRUARY 2025 – 9.30–11 am CET

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants: Marta Bentancur (Unión de Productores y Exportadores de Frutas del Uruguay - UPEFRUY), Charif Christian Carvajal (Frutas de Chile), Albert Coetzee (Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa - CGA), Sergio del Castillo (Procitrus, Peru), Jorge de Souza (Abrafrutas, Brazil), Jacques du Preez (Hortgro, South Africa), Jana Janse van Rensburg (CGA, South Africa), Deon Joubert (CGA, South Africa), Anton Kruger (Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum - FPEF, South Africa), Linda Nielsen (Horticultural Development Council, Zimbabwe), Ellen Pay (SHAFFE), Fhumulani Ratshitanga (Fruit South Africa), Werner van Rooyen (FPEF, South Africa), Roberto Varela (Cámara de Exportadores de Citrus del Noreste Argentino - CECNEA, Argentina).

Discussion points:

Introduction	
- Opening of the meeting and presentation of all participants - Overview of the objectives and agenda of the meeting (see Annex 1)	- The objectives of the meeting are to a) provide an overview of the meetings and activities of the association over the past months; and b) discuss a number of issues related to the association's activities and management: budget, membership, contributions, presidency and vice-presidency. <i>For the agenda of the meeting, see Annex 1.</i>
Association activities and events	
Overview of the meetings and activities of the association over the past months	
EP provides an overview of the association's meetings and activities since the last general members' meeting in October 2024. - Working Group on Sustainability - <i>Meeting held on 4/5 December 2024:</i> - The Working Group agreed to organize a webinar on bio-inputs (date to be confirmed, asap). The webinar will showcase a number of success stories about the use of bio-inputs in fruit production, and discuss the current regulatory framework surrounding the production and use of bio-inputs in both countries of origin and destination (United States of America vs European Union). - Participants in the meeting highlighted efforts towards sustainability in their respective countries (Brazil, Chile, Peru, South Africa). - <i>Overview of the consultations with GlobalGAP regarding the draft Environmental Sustainability Solution (ESS):</i> - Over the course of the past months, the association has held internal consultations on the various chapters of the draft ESS, and participated in various online meetings with the GlobalGAP secretariat. - The general secretary of the association has been appointed as vice-president of GlobalGAP's ESS Working Group. - Public consultations on the draft ESS are now closed; however, consultations between GlobalGAP and SHAFFE remain ongoing. SHAFFE's final written comments on the draft standard will be submitted for review by all members (by mid-February).	

Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters (SHAFFE)



+39 3668920951



secretariat@shaffe.net

- GlobalGAP expects to finalize the draft standard by April, and start the first trials in spring. However, participants agree that this timing is unlikely to be respected, as the standard and its requirements remain poorly structured and formulated, often vague and sometimes contradictory. Various crucial points remain outstanding at the moment, such as the definition of distinct levels of compliance, the contents of growers' baseline analysis, the definition of obligatory vs optional requirements, etc.
- In its contacts with GlobalGAP, SHAFTE has been highlighting a number of problematic aspects of the draft standard – including its cost implications (costs related to analyses, reporting, and the adoption of new practices and technologies), the confidentiality of the data submitted by growers, and the lack of clarity of the requirements (e.g. definitions, measurability, ...). SHAFTE has also been urging GlobalGAP to incorporate a high degree of flexibility in the standard to allow growers to adopt solutions that are tailored to national/sector/product-specific situations. These comments have, on the whole, been well received by GlobalGAP and are largely reflected in the modifications to the standard that have made over the course of the past months. However, retailers are opposed to this flexibility and are pushing for highly prescriptive requirements.

- Working Group on Statistics

- *Meeting held on 19 December 2024:*
 - During the meeting, the SHAFTE secretariat presented the new templates that will be used to gather export and production statistics, as well as the new statistical dashboard (part of the SHAFTE website) where the data will be shared with all members (see the annex for a presentation of the revised templates). Only data on volumes will be collected and shared; SHAFTE will not collect any statistics on export or production values. The new statistical dashboard has two sections, one with production data and one with export data; all data are displayed in both table and graph format. The reporting system may also include data on production forecasts.
 - Participants stress that any duplication of efforts must be avoided, and that SHAFTE must collaborate with other associations that are already collecting similar data (e.g. the World Apple and Pear Association, the World Citrus Organization, the International Blueberry Organization). Furthermore, Chile, Peru and South Africa are already gathering statistical information regarding exports of table grapes; this information may be put together with that gathered by SHAFTE.
 - A new meeting of the Working Group will be organized asap to clarify a number of outstanding issues (e.g. country groupings, periodicity of reporting, collaboration with third parties, etc.).
- *Statistical Yearbook:*
 - The data gathered through the revised statistical reporting system will be used as input for SHAFTE's planned Statistical Yearbook, which will compile and analyse production and export statistics.
 - Participants underline the need to collaborate with other international associations to compile data for the yearbook.
 - Participants discuss the possible outsourcing of the yearbook to an external consultant. The sale of advertising space in the yearbook would allow the association to recover the consultancy/publication costs, and even gain additional income above these costs.
 - The secretariat stresses that the success of SHAFTE's statistical reporting efforts depends on members' commitment to share information and submit data in a timely manner.

- Working Group on Logistics

- Under the auspices of the Working Group on Logistics, a letter was sent to the Biden administration to urge for a rapid solution to the longshoremen's strike that closed down 36 ports on the US East and Gulf Coasts in October 2024.
- DJ informs participants that the Working Group on Logistics is currently drafting a voluntary charter of good shipping practices, to promote fairness, transparency, predictability and freedom of choice in international shipping. A first draft will be presented to all members, for comments and approval.
- EP informs participants that the Global Coalition of Fresh Produce, of which SHAFTE is a member, is organizing a panel discussion on logistics on 6 February, at the Logistics Hub at Fruit Logistica, and that DJ is participating in the panel for SHAFTE.

- Working Group on Market Access

- Information on market access requirements was provided in the association's last Newsletter (of 14 January 2025) (e.g. on packaging regulations and the approval of mancozeb in the European Union, on the EU–Mercosur free trade agreement).
- At the request of various members, the Working Group on Market Access will organize a webinar on the new European packaging rules (asap).



- Participants agree that there is no need for the secretariat to compile a regular list of SPS/TBT notifications at the World Trade Organization, as this type of information is already provided to them, for example by national authorities.

All four Working Groups will meet again in February/March, to drive the work forward and allow members to exchange experiences and views in roundtable discussions.

Southern Hemisphere Fresh Fruit Congress

The association has traditionally organized a (virtual) congress, with two different time slots on the same day, with the same programme for both runs. However, participants agree that regular, focused webinars dedicated to a specific topic would bring more added value and attract more participants *and* sponsors than an annual, broadly-scoped congress. The webinar on bio-inputs of the Working Group on Sustainability and the webinar on packaging regulations of the Working Group on Market Access are two examples of such focused webinars that respond to current market or regulatory developments.

Association management

Budget

EP presents the actual financial report for 2024, as well as the budget for 2025 (*see the meeting slides in the annex to this meeting summary*). The following points are highlighted:

- The expenses under “general secretary” are much higher in 2025 than in 2024; this is due to the fact that part of the general secretary’s salary for 2024 was paid in January 2025.
- The expenses under “Freshfel Europe – services” amounted to 28 000€ in 2024; however, the administrative services agreement with Freshfel Europe was not renewed for 2025, hence this expense is no longer included in the budget for 2025.
- The cost of registering the association as an independent not-for-profit association in Italy, with its own bank account, amounts to 2 000€ (one-off). The yearly accounting costs amount to ca. 2 500€.
- Participants express concern that the non-renewal of the agreement with Freshfel Europe may cut the association off from information regarding developments in the European Union. To this, EP replies that a) during the seven months since she was hired as general secretary – and with the services agreement applying and paid for – no information was provided by Freshfel Europe to the SHAFTE secretariat; and b) the non-renewal of the services agreement does not mean that there can be no communication or collaboration between the two associations on issues of shared interest.
- The flight and hotel costs related to the general secretary’s attendance of Fruit Logistica in February 2025 have been assumed by the Global Coalition of Fresh Produce. Meanwhile, the costs related to the attendance of Fruit Attraction in October 2024 were assumed by SHAFTE.
- The 2025 budget is based on the assumption that eight members will pay their annual contribution of 5 100€ to the association. Uruguay paid for the meeting room at Fruit Logistica and deducts this cost (1 270€) from its contribution for 2025.

New administrative setup

Participants discuss the solution that was presented and accepted by all members to keep the association afloat i.e. to not renew the administrative services agreement with Freshfel Europe for 2025 (*see also “Budget” above*), and register the association as a legal, not-for-profit entity in Italy, with its own bank account. Participants agree that the new statutes of the association should be as general as possible, with more detailed provisions regarding the functioning of the association laid down in “internal rules of procedure”, which can be modified more easily. The secretariat is currently working with a lawyer to formulate the statutes and internal rules of procedure; drafts will be presented to all members shortly, for further discussion and eventual approval.

Membership and contributions

- The following members have confirmed their participation in the association: Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.
- Argentina, which held the association’s vice-presidency, withdrew from the group effective 31 December 2024. RV informs participants that the Argentinean associations that were previously members of SHAFTE are evaluating their future participation in the group.
- Various participants stress that all members should pay their contributions on time, and provide clarity as to when any outstanding contributions for past years will be paid.



- Zimbabwe's free two-year membership expired at the end of 2024. Participants agree that a solution should be sought that allows Zimbabwe to remain a member of the association, while at the same time contributing financially to its functioning.
- The following contributions remain to be paid:
 - 2023: Chile, Uruguay
 - 2024: Australia, Chile, Uruguay
 For 2025, New Zealand and South Africa have paid their fees.
- Members agree that the association should attract "associate members" or "strategic partners" to generate additional income for the group. EP replies that this new membership category may be included in the new statutes of the association (see "new administrative setup" above). It must be decided what exact type of services and products will be provided to such associate members.

Presidency and vice-presidency

- Participants thank Marta Bentancur, outgoing president of the association, for her invaluable work for the group over the past years.
- Alejandro Pannunzio of APAMA (Asociación de Productores de Arándanos de la Mesopotamia Argentina) resigned as vice-president effective 31 December 2024, ending also Argentina's membership of the association.
- The candidates for the presidency and vice-presidency for 2025–2027 are:
 - President: Nathan Hancock, Citrus Australia (*to be confirmed*)
 - Vice-president: Jorge de Souza, Abrafrutas (Brazil)
 It is decided to organize the vote for the presidency and vice-presidency in the week after the general members' meeting, via email.

Annexes:

1. Agenda of the meeting
2. Meeting slides

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford

Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters (SHAFFE)



+39 3668920951



secretariat@shaffe.net

Annex 1. Agenda of the meeting

- Review of SHAFPE activities:
 - Working Group Statistics
 - Working Group Sustainability
 - Working Group Market Access
 - Working Group Logistics
 - Southern Hemisphere Fresh Fruit Congress
- Administration:
 - Financial report 2024
 - Budget 2025
 - Registration of SHAFPE as not-for-profit association in Italy
 - Update on membership and contributions
 - Election of the association officials: president, vice-president



Annex 2. Meeting slides

Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters (SHAFFE)



+39 3668920951



secretariat@shaffe.net



Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters

General Members' Meeting – 5 February 2025

Introduction



Marta Bentancur, UPEFRUY, SHAFFE president

all participants

Agenda



- **Review of SHAFFE activities:**

- Working Group Statistics
- Working Group Sustainability
- Working Group Market Access
- Working Group Logistics
- Southern Hemisphere Fresh Fruit Trade Congress

- **Administration:**

- Budget 2024
- Budget 2025
- Registration of SHAFFE as not-for-profit in Italy
- Update on membership
- Election of association officials: president, vice-president

A. Review of SHAFFE activities



General members' meeting	9 October 2024
Working Group Sustainability	4/5 December 2024
Working Group Statistics	19 December 2024
Internal consultations on GlobalGAP ESS	15/17/20 January 2025

- Webinar on bio-inputs

- Products of plants, animals or microbes, capable of enhancing crop productivity, quality or health
- 2021: commercial bioinputs' sales = US\$10 billion (4 percent of the global agricultural input market). Sales expected to double or even triple by 2028, especially in Latin America (driven by demands for sustainability)
- Focus: examples of successful use + regulatory framework surrounding approval and use of bioinputs in countries of origin/destination, dichotomy between EU and US
- Date: asap / sponsors (slot at end of webinar)

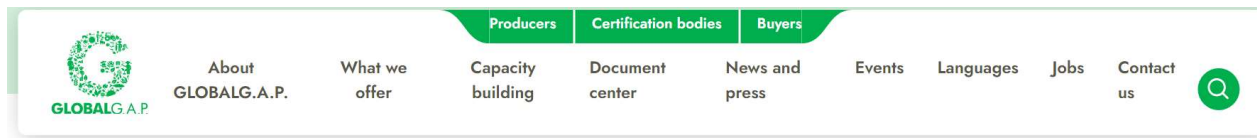
- Roundtable discussion

- Efforts towards sustainability in Brazil, Chile, Peru, South Africa



GlobalGAP - Environmental Sustainability Solution

<https://www.globalgap.org/about/standard-setting/environmental-sustainability-solution/>



STANDARD SETTING

Environmental sustainability solution

Learn more about the development process and public consultation schedule for the new environmental sustainability solution.

- ESS Working Group: vice-presidency
- Public consultation closed, ongoing consultations with SHAFTE – final written comments to be reviewed by all members
- No final draft before early April, first trials to start in spring
- Many outstanding issues (levels of compliance, baseline analysis, obligatory vs optional requirements, flexibility for national/industry solutions)
- Costs (analysis, reporting, new practices and techniques) – confidentiality – clarity (definitions, measurability, structure, templates) – flexibility to tailor to national/sector/product-specific situations (set out criteria): comments well received, opposition from retailers

- **Improved system to collect and share statistical information among members**
 - Templates for the reporting of export and production statistics:
 - More user-friendly, improved graphics
 - Citrus – table grapes – avocados – apples – pears – stone fruit – blueberries
 - Exports (weekly) and production (yearly), only volumes (no values)
 - Production forecasts
 - Next meeting of Working Group: country groups / past data?
 - Dissemination of aggregated statistics on members-only section of website: dashboard
 - Two sections: production + exports
 - Select variables (country of origin and destination, product, year)
 - Table and graph format, download full excel file
 - Collaboration with other organizations (e.g. WAPA, WBO, IKO, ...)
- **Statistical Yearbook** Timing? Outsourcing? Sponsors?

Working Group Statistics



SHAFFE Production Dashboard

Selection panel

Origin

Argentina		Australia	
Brazil		Chile	
New Zealand		Peru	
South Africa		Uruguay	

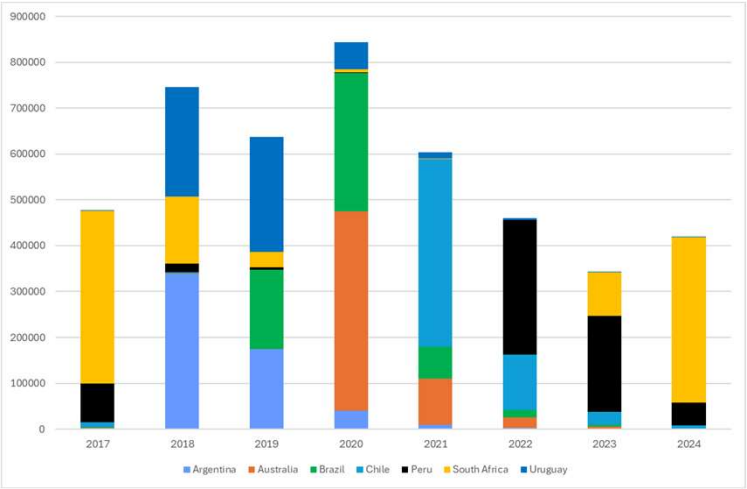
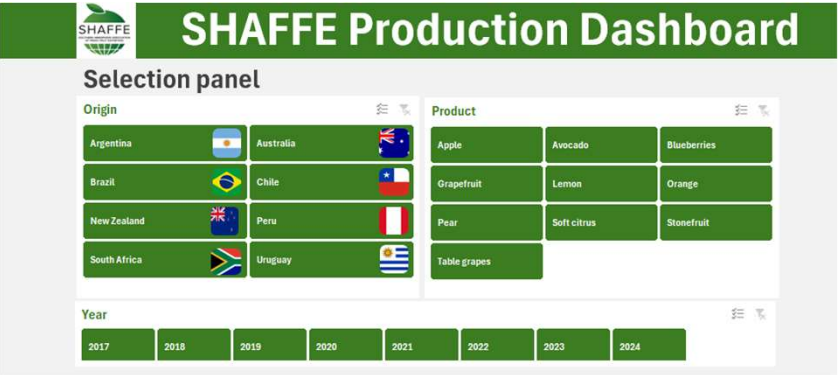
Product

Apple	Avocado	Blueberries
Grapefruit	Lemon	Orange
Pear	Soft citrus	Stonefruit
Table grapes		

Year

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Working Group Statistics



Figures

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Argentina	157.28	338.587,31	174.551,18	40.558,19	9.395,70	2.148,30	462,79	70,79
Grapefruit	6,44	45.496,19	10.576,36	2.455,12	566,38	127,12	24,96	1,20
Lemon	8,93	54.596,63	12.692,83	2.947,34	680,85	153,74	31,15	2,64
Orange	11,92	65.517,15	15.232,59	3.538,01	818,22	185,69	38,58	4,37
Soft citrus	15,50	78.621,79	18.280,31	4.246,81	983,07	224,03	47,50	6,44
Table grapes	19,80	94.347,34	21.937,57	5.097,37	1.180,88	270,03	58,20	8,93
Blueberries	24,96	1,20	26.326,29	6.118,05	1.418,26	325,24	71,04	11,92
Avocado	31,15	2,64	31.592,74	7.342,86	1.703,11	391,48	86,44	15,50
Stonefruit	38,58	4,37	37.912,49	8.812,63	2.044,93	470,98	104,93	19,80
Australia	2.148,30	462,79	70,79	434.410,62	100.993,19	23.450,95	5.417,11	1.223,01
Grapefruit	127,12	24,96	1,20	26.326,29	6.118,05	1.418,26	325,24	71,04
Lemon	153,74	31,15	2,64	31.592,74	7.342,86	1.703,11	391,48	86,44
Orange	185,69	38,58	4,37	37.912,49	8.812,63	2.044,93	470,98	104,93
Soft citrus	224,03	47,50	6,44	45.496,19	10.576,36	2.455,12	566,38	127,12
Table grapes	270,03	58,20	8,93	54.596,63	12.692,83	2.947,34	680,85	153,74
Blueberries	325,24	71,04	11,92	65.517,15	15.232,59	3.538,01	818,22	185,69
Avocado	391,48	86,44	15,50	78.621,79	18.280,31	4.246,81	983,07	224,03
Stonefruit	470,98	104,93	19,80	94.347,34	21.937,57	5.097,37	1.180,88	270,03
Brazil	1.477,21	306,72	173.004,62	301.659,38	70.119,49	16.270,72	3.747,21	834,64
Grapefruit	86,44	15,50	78.621,79	18.280,31	4.246,81	983,07	224,03	47,50
Lemon	104,93	19,80	94.347,34	21.937,57	5.097,37	1.180,88	270,03	58,20
Orange	127,12	24,96	1,20	26.326,29	6.118,05	1.418,26	325,24	71,04
Soft citrus	153,74	31,15	2,64	31.592,74	7.342,86	1.703,11	391,48	86,44
Table grapes	185,69	38,58	4,37	37.912,49	8.812,63	2.044,93	470,98	104,93
Blueberries	224,03	47,50	6,44	45.496,19	10.576,36	2.455,12	566,38	127,12
Avocado	270,03	58,20	8,93	54.596,63	12.692,83	2.947,34	680,85	153,74
Stonefruit	325,24	71,04	11,92	65.517,15	15.232,59	3.538,01	818,22	185,69
Chile	11.284,44	2.587,56	564,96	94,55	408.085,54	121.201,43	28.150,74	6.510,13
Grapefruit	680,85	153,74	31,15	2,64	31.592,74	7.342,86	1.703,11	391,48
Lemon	818,22	185,69	38,58	4,37	37.912,49	8.812,63	2.044,93	470,98
Orange	983,07	224,03	47,50	6,44	45.496,19	10.576,36	2.455,12	566,38
Soft citrus	1.180,88	270,03	58,20	8,93	54.596,63	12.692,83	2.947,34	680,85
Table grapes	1.418,26	325,24	71,04	11,92	65.517,15	15.232,59	3.538,01	818,22
Blueberries	1.703,11	391,48	86,44	15,50	78.621,79	18.280,31	4.246,81	983,07
Avocado	2.044,93	470,98	104,93	19,80	94.347,34	21.937,57	5.097,37	1.180,88

Working Group Statistics



SHAFFE Weekly exports

Selection panel

Origin



Argentina		Australia	
Brazil		Chile	
New Zealand		Peru	
South Africa		Uruguay	

Product



Apple	Avocado	Blueberries
Grapefruit	Lemon	Orange
Pear	Soft citrus	Stonefruit
Table grapes		

Destination



Canada	China	Eastern Europe	Japan
Latin America	Middle East	Northern Europe	Other
Russia	South East Asia	South Korea	Southern Europe
UK	USA		

Year



2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Working Group Statistics



SHAFFE Weekly exports

Selection panel

Origin		Product			Destination			
Argentina	Australia	Apple	Avocado	Blueberries	Canada	China	Eastern Europe	Japan
Brazil	Chile	Grapefruit	Lemon	Orange	Latin America	Middle East	Northern Europe	Other
New Zealand	Peru	Pear	Soft citrus	Stonefruit	Russia	South East Asia	South Korea	Southern Europe
South Africa	Uruguay	Table grapes			UK	USA		

Year
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024

Figures

	Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile	Chile	Peru	Peru	Peru	Peru	Peru	Peru
	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan
	Lemon	Lemon	Lemon	Orange	Orange	Orange	Lemon	Lemon	Lemon	Orange	Orange	Orange
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
1	1.07	0.27	0.27	1.07	0.27	0.27	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45
2	2.37	0.59	0.59	2.37	0.59	0.59	7.62	7.62	7.62	7.62	7.62	7.62
3	3.93	0.98	0.98	3.93	0.98	0.98	12.66	12.66	12.66	12.66	12.66	12.66
4	5.82	1.45	1.45	5.82	1.45	1.45	18.74	18.74	18.74	18.74	18.74	18.74
5	8.09	2.02	2.02	8.09	2.02	2.02	26.10	26.10	26.10	26.10	26.10	26.10
6	10.83	2.71	2.71	10.83	2.71	2.71	34.99	34.99	34.99	34.99	34.99	34.99
7	14.13	3.53	3.53	14.13	3.53	3.53	45.73	45.73	45.73	45.73	45.73	45.73
8	18.12	4.53	4.53	18.12	4.53	4.53	58.71	58.71	58.71	58.71	58.71	58.71
9	22.93	5.73	5.73	22.93	5.73	5.73	74.39	74.39	74.39	74.39	74.39	74.39
10	28.72	7.18	7.18	28.72	7.18	7.18	93.35	93.35	93.35	93.35	93.35	93.35
11	35.72	8.93	8.93	35.72	8.93	8.93	116.25	116.25	116.25	116.25	116.25	116.25
12	44.15	11.04	11.04	44.15	11.04	11.04	143.93	143.93	143.93	143.93	143.93	143.93
13	54.32	13.58	13.58	54.32	13.58	13.58	177.37	177.37	177.37	177.37	177.37	177.37
14	66.58	16.64	16.64	66.58	16.64	16.64	217.79	217.79	217.79	217.79	217.79	217.79
15	81.37	20.34	20.34	81.37	20.34	20.34	266.62	266.62	266.62	266.62	266.62	266.62
16	99.20	24.80	24.80	99.20	24.80	24.80	325.64	325.64	325.64	325.64	325.64	325.64
17	120.71	30.18	30.18	120.71	30.18	30.18	396.95	396.95	396.95	396.95	396.95	396.95
18	146.65	36.66	36.66	146.65	36.66	36.66	483.12	483.12	483.12	483.12	483.12	483.12
19	177.94	44.49	44.49	177.94	44.49	44.49	587.26	587.26	587.26	587.26	587.26	587.26
20	215.67	53.92	53.92	215.67	53.92	53.92	713.09	713.09	713.09	713.09	713.09	713.09
21	261.17	65.29	65.29	261.17	65.29	65.29	865.15	865.15	865.15	865.15	865.15	865.15

Working Group Statistics



***Success depends on members' commitment to share information
and submit data to the secretariat in a timely manner***

Working Group Logistics

asap



- **Letter to Biden administration on strikes in ports on US East and Gulf Coasts**
- **Charter of fair shipping practices**
- **Panel discussion on logistics at Fruit Logistica**

Working Group Market Access

asap

- **Updates in Newsletter**

EU packaging regulations / EU approval of mancozeb / Mercosur

- **Webinar on EU packaging regulations**
- **Overview of SPS/TBT notifications?**

Working Group Market Access

Overview of SPS/TBT notifications to WTO?



WTO SPS/TBT Notifications						
October - November 2024						
Country	Symbol and title	Date	Product(s) covered	Objective	Summary	Full text link
United Kingdom	G/SPS/N/GBR/72	25/10/2024	Blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, currants, gooseberries, rose hips, mulberries, elderberries	Food safety	MRLs for cyflufenamid	Link
Canada	G/SPS/N/CAN/1573	04/10/2024	Oranges	Food safety	MRL for spiromesifen in or on oranges (0.15 ppm)	Link
Australia	G/SPS/N/AUS/605	02/10/2024	Melons	Food safety	Whole melons will need a mandatory food safety management certificate	Link
Japan	G/SPS/N/JPN/1314	08/11/2024	Citrus fruits, pome fruits, stone fruits, berries, tropical fruits	Food safety	MRLs for sulfoxaflor	Link
Japan	G/SPS/N/JPN/1309	08/11/2024	Strawberries, melons, watermelons	Food safety	MRLs for dazomet, metam and methyl isothiocyanate	Link
Japan	G/SPS/N/JPN/1311	08/11/2024	Strawberries, melons, watermelons, bananas, other fruits	Food safety	MRLs for fosthiazate	Link
Japan	G/SPS/N/JPN/1308	08/11/2024	Melons, watermelons, pome fruits, stone fruits, strawberries, grapes, avocados, mangoes, other fruits	Food safety	MRLs for acrinathrin	Link
Japan	G/SPS/N/JPN/1310	08/11/2024	Melons, watermelons, apples, cherries, strawberries, grapes	Food safety	MRLs for flutianil	Link
Japan	G/SPS/N/JPN/1313	08/11/2024	Melons, watermelons, citrus fruits, pome fruits, stone fruits, berries, tropical fruits	Food safety	MRLs for spirotetramat	Link
Japan	G/SPS/N/JPN/1312	08/11/2024	Citrus fruits, pome fruits, stone fruits, strawberries, grapes, other fruits	Food safety	MRLs for inpyrfluxam	Link



Newsletter

Contributions
welcome!



Association update

Working Group on Sustainability

SHAFPE's Working Group on Sustainability met on 4 (Africa and South America) and 5 (Australia and New Zealand) December 2024. On the agenda were the following items: the planned webinar on bio-inputs; our ongoing discussions with GlobalGAP on the Environmental Sustainability Solution (see further in this Newsletter); and a roundtable discussion on current sustainability-related developments and initiatives in the various SHAFPE countries.

Bio-inputs are becoming increasingly important as growers look for alternatives to chemical inputs. In 2023, commercial bioinputs' sales stood at US\$60 billion; it is expected that sales will double or even triple by 2028, driven especially by strong growth in Latin America. Our webinar on bio-inputs, planned for February, therefore comes at a timely moment.

Abrafrutas, our member association in Brazil, presented an overview of sustainability management in the Brazilian fresh fruit industry. In 2023, Abrafrutas launched its own sustainability certification, "Frutas do Brasil", which recognizes producers who comply with international standards of good agricultural practices and sustainability (for more information, see <https://frutasdobrasil.org.br/pt/seguranca-e-sustentabilidade>).



Frutas de Chile, our member association in Chile, announced the upcoming release of its *Reporte de Sostenibilidad or Sustainability Report*. This report aggregates information about sustainability efforts in the Chilean fresh fruit industry and lays down a number of commitments of the industry to fill sustainability "gaps" in the medium and long term. AGAP, the Association of Agricultural Producers Guilds of Peru and one of our members in Peru, presented an overview of its initiatives to promote responsible business conduct in the Peruvian agricultural sector. Of particular note is AGAP's involvement in the CERIALC project (Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean; see <https://chec-lund.org/temas/>).

Working Group on Statistics

On 19 December, SHAFPE members gathered for a meeting of the Working Group on Statistics, where participants discussed the association's revised system for the reporting and sharing of statistical data. Until now, this system has been limited to exports of citrus fruits. The aim of the revision that was done over the past months is to improve and expand SHAFPE's statistical system to cover not just citrus fruits but also other products, and include not just export data but also data on production. We will be using new, more user-friendly templates with updated graphics to gather statistical data, while users will be able to consult the data on our new statistical dashboard, on the SHAFPE website. The new system will be launched in early 2025.

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters. This Newsletter is a work in progress, and we welcome any suggestions from readers that can help us improve this publication. You are all warmly invited to send any information that you want to share through this Newsletter to the SHAFPE secretariat at secretariat@shaffe.net.

Keep the data!

All SHAFPE members are warmly invited to our next general assembly meeting, which will take place in the sidelines of Fruit Logistics 2025, in Berlin. More details will follow soon.



www.shaffe.net - secretariat@shaffe.net - +350 3663910931



Update on packaging rules in the European Union

*EU packaging regulation becomes law: crackdown on fruit and vegetable plastic packaging from 2030; but exact implementation remains unclear
France's ban on plastic packaging for fruit and vegetables annulled*

On December 16, 2024, the Council of the European Union approved the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, which sets out common rules to prevent and manage packaging waste in the EU Member States. The approval by the Council concludes the legislative process that started two years ago with the legislative proposal submitted by the European Commission in November 2022, and consolidates the provisional political agreement reached between the representatives of the European Parliament and the Presidency of the Council in March 2024. From 1 January 2030, several types of single-use plastic packaging will be banned, including for pre-packaged fresh fruits and vegetables weighing less than 1.5 kilogram (e.g. nets, bags, trays, containers), food and beverages consumed in bars and restaurants, and single-serving items (e.g. condiments, sauces, coffee creamer, and sugar). The regulation also foresees that sticky labels for fruits and vegetables must be compostable in industrially controlled conditions in bio-waste treatment facilities; member states may also require that these labels are compatible with home composting standards. In addition, the text bans using so-called "forever chemicals" – namely, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), above certain thresholds in food-contact packaging to avoid harmful health effects. At the same time, the regulation introduces the option for member states to grant exemptions in respect of the ban on single-use plastic packaging for pre-packed fresh fruit and vegetables weighing less than 1.5 kilogram, if there is a demonstrated need to avoid water loss, turgidity loss, microbiological hazards or physical shocks, oxidation, or if there is no other possibility to avoid commingling of organic fruits and vegetables with non-organic fruits and vegetables.

The Regulation will now be published in the EU's Official Journal; its rules will apply eighteen months after its entry into force. However, the Commission must still work out various delegated and implementing acts to specify the criteria, requirements and methodologies to be observed for compliance with the new requirements (for example, those related to recycling criteria, harmonized labelling, re-usability targets, the calculation of the percentage of recycled content, etc.). By early 2027, the Commission must publish guidelines to explain Annex V – which sets out the restrictions on the use of packaging formats – in more detail, including examples of banned packaging formats, and any exemptions from the restrictions, and provide a non-exhaustive list of fruits and vegetables that will continue to be allowed to be sold in single-use plastic packaging of less than 1.5 kilogram. The full text of the packaging regulation can be found at <https://data.europa.eu/elsa/docs/PS-27-2024-1217/en/gd/>.

Meanwhile, France's highest administrative court has annulled a government decree from June 2023 that banned plastic packaging for fruit and vegetables. In its ruling, the Conseil d'Etat stated that the French government published the decree without fully adhering to procedural requirements and acted prematurely, as it had been asked to delay the decree by the European Commission to allow EU-wide packaging regulations to be introduced uniformly, applying common standards across all 27 member states. The French government may issue a new implementing decree, as the European regulations that were adopted in December allow member states may maintain national provisions restricting the placing on the market of packaging in the formats and for uses listed in Annex V until 1 January 2026. However, the French government will have to notify the European Commission in advance and respect any deadlines imposed by EU law before adopting a new decree.

Source: Eunice, Garrigues, Council of the European Union, FreshPlace, The Local Europe.

EU Court overturns Commission's decision on mancozeb renewal based on flawed evidence

The European Court of Justice has overturned part of the European Commission's non-renewal of mancozeb, citing reliance on outdated scientific data. On 4 October 2024, the Court ruled that the Commission relied on outdated scientific evidence when deciding not to renew the approval of mancozeb, a widely used fungicide. The court found that the Commission's reliance on an old opinion from the European Chemicals Agency's was unjustified, partially overturning the General Court's previous judgment.

Mancozeb, a fungicide commonly used to protect crops such as potatoes and tomatoes from fungal diseases, has faced increasing scrutiny due to concerns over its potential toxicity. In 2020, the European Commission issued a regulation refusing to renew the substance's approval, largely based on concerns about its classification as toxic to reproduction. However, two companies that



Southern Hemisphere Fresh Fruit Congress

- **Virtual**
- **Two time slots / same programme for both runs**
- **Timing**
- **Sponsors**

B. Administration

- **Financial report 2024**
- **Budget 2025**
- **New administrative setup**
- **Update on membership**
- **Election of association officials: president, vice-president**

Administration:

Financial report 2024

Budget 2025

	2024	2025
INCOME		
Contributions	25,500	39,530
Pending contributions Y-1	15,300	14,950
Income from congress/webinars	0	5,000
Income from yearbook	0	5,000
Total income	40,800	64,480
EXPENDITURE		
Establishment as not-for-profit ass.	0	2,000
General secretary (GS)	9,706	54,222
Accounting costs GS (taxes + social sec.)	793	650
Accounting and reporting	0	2,500
Office material for GS	851	500
Freshfel - services	28,000	0
Travel	845	1,000
Meetings (rental meeting rooms)	0	350
IT support (e.g. website)	0	2,500
Design, layout (e.g. Statistical Yearbook)	480	3,000
Affiliation Global Coalition of Fresh Produce	2,500	2,500
Affiliation GlobalGAP	0	0
Invoices Albawik	971	0
Unforeseen expenses	0	750
Total expenditure	44,146	67,972
RESULT	-3,346	-3,492
<i>Initial fund balance (1 Jan)</i>	<i>11,153</i>	<i>7,808</i>
<i>Final fund balance (31 Dec)</i>	<i>7,808</i>	<i>4,316</i>



Administration – new administrative setup

- Administrative services agreement with Freshfel Europe not renewed for 2025
- SHAFFE to be established as not-for-profit organization of social utility in Italy (2 000€)
- Bank account + bookkeeping (2 500€/Y)
- Statutes

Administration – update on membership

- Australia – Brazil – Chile – New Zealand – Peru – South Africa – Uruguay – Zimbabwe
- Argentina? Zimbabwe?
- Outstanding contributions:

2023: Chile

2024: Australia / Chile / Uruguay

2025: invoices sent out in January 2025 / New Zealand and SA have paid

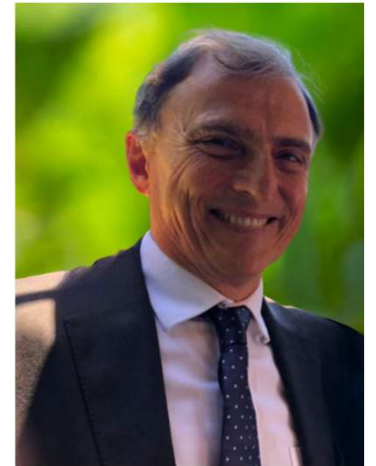
- New members? Associate members?

Administration – election of officials



2023/2024

Marta Bentancur (UPEFRUY, UY)
Alejandro Pannunzio (APAMA, AR)



2025/2026

Nathan Hancock (Citrus Australia, AU)
Jorge de Souza (Abrafrutas, BR)





Global Coalition of Fresh Produce

Panel Discussion on Logistics

Thursday 6 February, 3-4 pm - Logistics Hub

Together with port authorities, shipping lines and forwarders, Coalition members (including SHAFFE) will be discussing the key issues affecting global supply chains for fruits and vegetables today - such as transit difficulties on global shipping routes, port blockages, and suboptimal shipping service conditions imposed upon fresh produce exporters. Together, the panelists will explore strategies that players in the supply chain can adopt to counter these challenges, and ensure the efficiency and sustainability of global value chains for fresh produce. Come and join us for what will undoubtedly be a very insightful and stimulating discussion!

**Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.**

Henry Ford

Please contact the secretariat at any time
to voice your views and suggestions
regarding any of our projects or events.