



Fruit SA makes inroads into China

THE VICE CHAIRPERSON of Fruit South Africa (Fruit SA), Mr. Willem Bestbier, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Beijing with his counterpart, Vice Chairperson of the Chinese Quarantine and Inspection Association (CIQA), Mr Wang Xin, aimed at strengthening collaboration to ensure market access for fruit between South Africa and the Peoples Republic of China.

China remains a country with the biggest market, given its population of about 1,38 billion. The total imports of fruits into China during 2015 was 3,8 million tons valued at US\$ 5 billion dollars. South Africa has only been able to export about 110 000 tons of fruit during the same period. Given that South Africa currently export about 2,7 million tons of fruits globally, the value

of its current export to China is very small. Fruit SA has been working hard in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to gain more access for other fruits types.

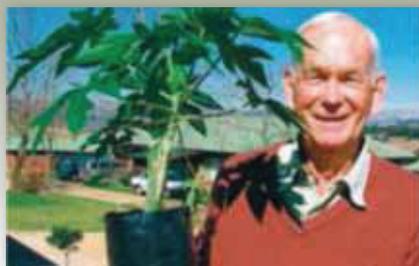
The objective of the agreement between Fruit SA and CIQA is to address the challenges that are experienced currently in expanding and broadening market access, which takes longer time than desired. The agreement will ensure that the two organisations support their governments' work by providing the required technical information and guidance to speed-up the negotiations process.

To date, South Africa can only export apples, citrus and table grapes to China and the process is painstakingly slow. The two governments are currently negotiating market access for pears,

which will be followed by avocados and then other types of fruits.

The two parties will use the agreement to provide the support required during market access negotiations between the countries by sharing information in the following areas: pest risk analysis, quarantine and inspections regulations, technology exchanges related to fruit production and market developments.

With the implementation of this agreement and the acceleration of market access, the fruit industry aims to increase its exports to China to about 350 000 tons in the next five years, which will be a boom for the agriculture economy and also for job creation, as more orchards will be established to support this key market. ♦



Professor Emeritus Peter Allan

OBITUARY: PETER ALLAN

26 MAY 1930 – 27 OCTOBER 2016

It is with deep sadness that we inform of the passing of Professor Emeritus Peter Allan on 27 October 2016 in Pietermaritzburg.

PPETER ALLAN WAS born in Pietermaritzburg in 1930. He matriculated at Maritzburg College (first class), and in 1948 was part of the second intake of students to the newly established Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg. Majoring in Horticulture, he graduated with the class of 1951 with a distinction in Horticulture. He was immediately appointed in 1952 as a Lecturer in Horticulture under H.O.D. Professor J.C. le Roux. From 1960-1969 he was Senior Lecturer. From 1970 through to official retirement in 1990, he occupied the chair of Horticultural Science, although in 1988 he stepped down from the headship of the department, which was taken over by Prof. B. Nigel Wolstenholme. Since 1990, Prof. Allan was Emeritus Professor, and Honorary Research Associate

for much of the time until recently. He took a particular interest in the Horticulture section at Ukulinga Research Farm.

Professor Allan was an active researcher in several applied fields of Horticultural Science, including vegetative propagation, ecophysiology, floriculture, cultivar selection and evaluation (including his HoneyGold papaya selection), and climate modification. He and his students worked on a wide range of fruits, including papaw, macadamia nut and low-chill deciduous fruits. He published some 80 refereed and numerous other industry-oriented papers, many after retirement in 1990. His 249th and final paper was submitted in June, 2016. He supervised four PhD and 12 MSc Agric students, and taught, over the years, five horticulture courses, plus contributing to other

undergraduate courses.

Peter Allan spent five overseas sabbaticals. He attended nearly 30 overseas scientific congresses and numerous local congresses, always presenting one or more papers. He became internationally known for his dedicated research in applied horticultural science. Among his awards were Fellow of the S.A. Society for Crop Production, Honorary Member and later Honorary Life President of the Southern African Society for Horticultural Sciences, and Honorary membership of the S.A. Macadamia Growers' Association.

Married to Elizabeth (Polly), who died in 2010, they had five children. His wide knowledge, experience and wisdom will be sorely missed. ♦

Obituary by Professor Emeritus B. Nigel Wolstenholme