

PEPPER FRESH

BIOBOER

Improving efficiency of African agriculture with data driven decisions and intelligent products

FRESHNEWS

www.pepperfresh.org

A message from our CEO, Peter Tate

"We have all been affected in one way or another by the term "Covid - 19". It has caused untold pain, especially amongst the most vulnerable of society, and has disrupted many businesses' ability to function. The new normal will be vastly different once the pandemic comes to pass.

*Pepperfresh as a team has been as active as possible during this time, with online technologies like **AGIQ** (our iPad-based mapping technology) and Zoom allowing us to continue to communicate with each other, our customers and suppliers. **All our products are on the priority list** in the countries we operate, and our supply chains are intact, albeit a little slower.*

Finally, I wish everyone fortitude and wisdom during this difficult time.

"When the winds of change blow some people build walls and others build windmills"

- Chinese proverb

We aim to build windmills."



Welcome to the team, Charné!

Charné Malan has recently come on board to help with our registration and trial processes. We are grateful to have her join our journey and look forward to all she will bring to the table! Below is a little snippet she shared about herself:

*"I grew up in a small town surrounded by the amazing scenery of the Maluti Mountains and grassland fields. From a young age, I had a great fascination with plant life and would always find ways to improve my mother's garden. This fascination led to me pursuing a degree in Botany at **North-West University**. During my studies I became obsessed with stress physiology and how plants would react and perform under several different environmental conditions. After nine years at university, I completed my **PhD degree in Botany** and turned this fascination into my passion. There is always something new to learn and in the coming years I hope to make a meaningful contribution to the company."*

[Click here to meet our team](#)

Our new products: **FRESH-P & AfriKelp Plus**



FRESH-P trial Mutoko, Zimbabwe: left field has been treated

[Click here for
FRESH-P product info](#)

[Read here: FRESH-P on
Field Tobacco](#)

FRESH-P®

*Liquid phosphate with kelp-based root stimulants
and key trace elements*

Phosphate availability while the tobacco plant is still young and newly transplanted is critical for good tobacco production. In Zimbabwe, the soils under tobacco production often have adequate to high levels of soil phosphate but have other problems like low soil pH, i.e. high soil acidity, low organic matter and associated poor biological activity. These factors directly reduce phosphate availability.

Pepperfresh has been doing research for the last two years on a balanced product called **FRESH-P** that complements the use of **Calsap** in the field.

FRESH-P is a combination of organic acids, kelp extracts and essential chelated trace elements, combined with a **freely available phosphate** source.

With the drought in the early part of the last season, a number of growers tested the new **FRESH-P** formulation. The results were very encouraging! Full trial report available on request.

AfriKelp® Plus

Afrikelp Plus is a biological root stimulant which contains Excklonia Maxima seaweed extract and EDTA trace elements. It has been used successfully in the seedbed programs of a number of large tobacco merchants, thereby giving the seedlings their best chance in the field.

It's formulation has recently been improved for use as a foliar on 5000Ha of wheat in Zambia this winter. Watch this space as we grow the market with our **Zambian distributor – ATS Agrochemicals.**



AfriKelp: Burley seedlings on left have been treated

[Click here for
AfriKelp Plus product info](#)



A visit to North Carolina, USA

In December 2019, **Peter Tate**, visited North Carolina State, the largest producer of flue cured tobacco in the USA.

Whilst in Raleigh, NC, **Universal's Hunter Mason** accompanied him on a visit to a large scale contract grower and also introduced Peter to the head of **NCSU (North Carolina State University)** tobacco extension services, **Dr Matthew Vann**. An insightful discussion on tobacco nutrition was had and the use of liquid tobacco starters in the planting water was interrogated with a view to Pepperfresh trial initiatives in this area.

Exciting strategic tie up in Zambia

We are excited to announce a strategic tie up between **David Hamman of Agropedo, Thinus Enslin of AgriPrecise** and ourselves in Zambia. **Andrew Beckerling** and **David** will now work as a team in providing the best service possible to our existing customers, such as **Silverlands**. This will no doubt help grow this important side of our business and in time it is envisaged that David will assist us in all the African countries we operate.

Mozambique Tobacco Road Trip

A very important ethos within Pepperfresh is the need to formulate our nutrient management recommendations and products around a process of data collection, analysis, development and interpretation – then testing. This is true for both our commercial customers and our small scale farmers in Africa.

In relation to this process, Pepperfresh visited research sites and demo plots of **Mozambique Leaf Tobacco (MLT)**, where new strategies proposed by Pepperfresh for improving profitability and sustainability were evaluated.

The **Universal agronomy team** is thanked for this wonderful experience.



BioBoer has a fresh look!

We are excited to reveal the newly refreshed branding of our South African partner company, BioBoer. Keep an eye out for it!

BIOBOER

BIOBOER



PAST & UPCOMING EVENTS

The PepperFresh team held their annual strategy session in January 2020, in the seaside town of Hermanus (see pics below).

Peter Tate and Peter Goede attended the **Argus Africa Fertilizer Conference** in Cape Town in February, and came away enriched with the new contacts and products they were exposed to.

Feedback from Pepperfresh and BioBoer customers who are using **AGIQ** has indicated a need to hold information and crop benchmarking sessions.

The first day of this nature is to be held in **Mkushi, Zambia, in August** this year. Due to Covid-19 restrictions on travel, the day might be held online.

In addition, our team hopes to be represented at a Farmers' Marketing Day in Vivo, in August, and an information day on Macadamias in Levubu in the spring.

SOME TEAM ADVENTURES:



GET IN TOUCH

 www.pepperfresh.org



PETER TATE

 peter@me.com

 +27 84 566 1558

ANDREW BECKERLING

 andrewbeckerling@gmail.com

 +27 82 820 7349



PETER GOEDE

 peter@bioboer.co.za

 +27 83 628 3080