

**LINDI BENIC**

Function: Chairperson of the National Technical Working Group and Member of the Sector Committee Fruit & Vegetables, Trade/Market Access Affairs, HORTGRO, South Africa

Session: GLOBALG.A.P in SA

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Profile

Full name: Lindi Mirjana Benic

Current position/ organisation: Manager: Trade / Market Access Affairs, Deciduous Fruit Producers' Trust (DFPT) and South African Table Grape industry (SATI)

Brief statement on relevant experience

Relevant experience spans +27 years in horticultural industry with strong scientific background (MSc - Plant Pathology) – including 16 years in related research (1983 – 99). Her portfolio requires an astute knowledge of the implications of international developments pertaining to international trade, standards, protocols and trade barriers influencing sustained industry market access, with particular focus on the EU. This involves extensive networking, participation in local and international forums and delegations to establish changing market access requirements, to ensure export compliance to international standards (regulatory & trade-related). She acts as interface between producers, exporters, government departments and international markets on all Trade / Market Access issues, informing industry regarding changing requirements. Market Access focus areas and expertise include SPS, TBT, WTO Agreement issues, particularly sanitary & phytosanitary issues related to maintaining and accessing new markets, including food safety, maximum residue limits (MRL), traceability, phytosanitary, biosecurity and other related issues. Lindi has played a major role facilitating EUREPGAP implementation within the SA deciduous fruit industry since the inception of EUREPGAP. She was nominated as the Southern Hemisphere (SHAFPE), supplier member expert on the EUREPGAP TSC in September 2002 and was re-elected from 2003 and again from 2007. She was actively involved in the EUREPGAP 2004 and 2007 revision process under EUREPGAP TSC and also participated in other sub-groups and the MRL workgroup. Lindi's continued participation as supplier member expert (representing Southern Hemisphere), within the GLOBALGAP Fruit & Vegetable Sector Committee and the GLOBALG.A.P Crop Protection Working Group (CPWG) ensure's continuity and focus on critical issues particularly relevant to suppliers, but also in the broader GLOBALG.A.P context.

Mini Manifesto - Contribution to the Steering Committee

Her background, experience, continued interactions and related expertise in the fields of quality assurance, SPS matters, including Food Safety, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), crop protection matters related to MRL; Minor Use and IPM; phytosanitary and biosecurity expertise and Traceability issues assist towards striving to create a level playing field for global suppliers of fresh produce. Her

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extensive expertise, inexhaustible energy, direct involvement in creating awareness in this field ensures a practical and realistic approach to sustain exports.

Key focus areas that are driven: Supporting the ongoing efforts towards achieving a realistic approach to global harmonisation relating to GAP, traceability, MRL, Minor Use (unprovided use), audit certification, worker welfare and environmental issues, with a strong emphasis on cost efficiency and reducing constraints related to cost of compliance to suppliers to ensure overall sustainability.

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