



Fact Sheets of South African Citrus Biosecurity Threats

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Biosecurity is at the core of Citrus Research International (CRI)'s mission to maximise the long-term global competitiveness of the southern African citrus growers. A mission statement for CRI-Biosecurity was formulated as "Protecting the southern African citrus industry through timely identification of biosecurity threats, the development of preparedness, awareness, early detection, rapid response and impact mitigation plans, and ensuring effective application of the associated actions". The strategic objectives aimed at ensuring CRI-Biosecurity's mission are summarised under four pillars: preparedness, operations, awareness, (incl. networking and stakeholder engagement), and the Citrus Improvement Scheme.

Currently, the citrus industry is free from many citrus pests and diseases that have either been devastating, caused significant market access constraints, or increased production costs associated with their management in other citrus producing countries. The global increase in the movement of people and products, coupled with limited capacity for border control, means that the citrus industry of South Africa faces many potential threats of exotic pests and diseases. To address these threats, CRI-Biosecurity identified the top 10 pests and diseases that pose the greatest biosecurity threat to the citrus industry and compiled fact sheets containing an overview on these pests and diseases. The fact sheets are available on the CRI website (<https://www.citrusres.com/public-downloads/>).

Additionally, articles will be published in the SA Fruit Journal to raise awareness within the citrus and broader fruit industries. By staying vigilant and implementing effective biosecurity measures, the southern African citrus industry can be protected from these threats and ensure continued global competitiveness.



Feiteblaaie van Suid-Afrikaanse Sitrus Biosekuriteitsbedreigings

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Biosekuriteit is die kern van Citrus Research International (CRI) se missie om die langtermyn globale mededingendheid van die Suider-Afrikaanse sitrusprodusente te maksimeer. 'n Missieverklaring vir CRI-Biosekuriteit is geformuleer as "Beskerming van die Suider-Afrikaanse sitrusbedryf deur tydige identifisering van biosekuriteitsbedreigings, die ontwikkeling van paraatheid, bewustheid, vroeë opsporing, vinnige reaksie en impakversagtingsplanne, en die versekering van effektiewe toepassing van die gepaardgaande aksies". Die strategiese doelwitte wat daarop gemik is om CRI-Biosekuriteit se missie te verseker, word onder vier pilare opgesom: paraatheid, bedrywighede, bewustheid, (insluitend netwerkvorming en betrokkenheid van belanghebbendes), en die Sitrusverbeteringskema.

Tans is die sitrusbedryf vry van baie sitrusplae en -siektes wat óf vernietigend was, beduidende marktoegangsbeperkings veroorsaak het, óf produksiekoste verbonde aan die bestuur daarvan in ander sitrusproduserende lande verhoog het. Die wêreldwye toename in die beweging van mense en produkte, tesame met beperkte kapasiteit vir grensbeheer, beteken dat die sitrusbedryf van Suid-Afrika baie potensiële bedreigings van eksotiese plae en siektes in die gesig staar. Om hierdie bedreigings aan te spreek, het CRI-Biosekuriteit die top 10 plae en siektes geïdentifiseer wat die grootste biosekuriteitsbedreiging vir die sitrusbedryf inhou, en feiteblaaie saamgestel wat 'n oorsig oor hierdie plae en siektes bevat. Die feiteblaaie is beskikbaar op die CRI-webwerf (<https://www.citrusres.com/public-downloads/>).

Addisioneel sal artikels in die SA Vruchtejoernaal gepubliseer word om bewustheid binne die sitrus- en breër vrugtebedrywe te verhoog. Deur waaksaam te bly en doeltreffende biosekuriteitsmaatreëls te implementeer, kan die Suider-Afrikaanse sitrusbedryf teen hierdie bedreigings beskerm word, en voortgesette wêreldwye mededingendheid verseker.