

PEPPER FRESH

BIOBOER

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

# FRESHNEWS

JULY 2021

[www.pepperfresh.org](http://www.pepperfresh.org)

## WELCOME TO THE THIRD EDITION OF FRESH NEWS!

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### CEO MESSAGE

Since the last newsletter in May 2020, which was written in full lockdown, the world has come a long way in learning to deal with the scourge of "Covid-19". Financial markets and real economies in the developed world have powered ahead whilst the economies of developing countries are still very much stop/start. International shipping costs and commodity prices have sky-rocketed which unfortunately is feeding through into several Ag inputs like Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium. In our case we have been ably supported by key suppliers and managed to limit price increases to reasonable levels.

Our flagship products like Calsap, Tsama mix, Fresh-P and AfrikelpPlus are unique and our customers continue to see added value by incorporating them into their plant nutrition programs. 2021 will see these products used in over 40000Ha of small scale and commercial crops in the region.

We have continued with our ethos of new product development and are excited to launch a new biological range developed in collaboration with Dr Tara Walmsley (PHD Microbiology). Read on for further details.

As a company we are blessed with a team who have the important attributes, namely integrity, intelligence & hardworking, and I wish to thank them for being on this journey of discovery with me.

Finally, I wish to thank all our loyal customers, raw material suppliers, logistics & IT partners, financiers, and agents for their continued support.

Peter Tate, CEO



**If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."**

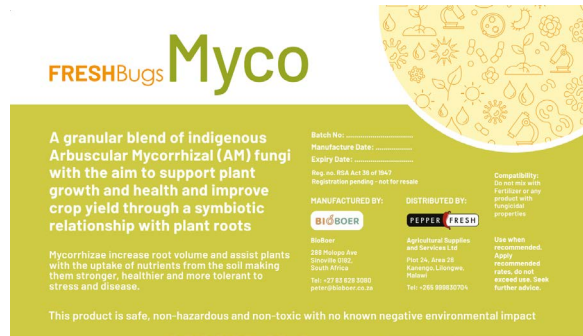
**- Nelson Mandela**

## Pepperfresh and BioBoer add 'FreshBugs' Biological products to their range

The move towards regenerative agriculture on a global scale has opened new doors for Pepperfresh and BioBoer. Since the companies were started the focus has always been on reducing the excessive use of harsh fertilizers to improve soil biological processes and to improve farmers profitability.

Dr Tara Walmsley (PhD Microbiology) current Head of Department at Vaal University of Technology and PI of the Agricultural and Environmental Biotechnology group, was appointed on a consulting basis to assist us with the development of the biological range.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



**FRESHBugs Myco**

A granular blend of indigenous Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (AM) fungi with the aim to support plant growth and health and improve crop yield through a symbiotic relationship with plant roots

Batch No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Manufacture Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. no. RSA Act 36 of 1957  
Registration pending - not for resale

MANUFACTURED BY: **BIOBOER**

228 Hololo Ave  
Soweto (BE),  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 21 628 3020  
pete@bioboer.co.za

DISTRIBUTED BY: **PEPPER FRESH**

Agricultural Supplies  
and Services Ltd  
Plot 24, Area 28  
Kathang, Clonburg,  
Mafiki  
Tel: +263 99835751

Compatibility:  
not for use with  
Fertiliser or any  
product with  
fungicidal  
properties.

Use when  
recommended.  
Apply  
recommended  
rates, do not  
exceed one liter  
further advice.

Mycorrhizae increase root volume and assist plants with the uptake of nutrients from the soil making them stronger, healthier and more tolerant to stress and disease.

This product is safe, non-hazardous and non-toxic with no known negative environmental impact



**FRESHBugs Quorum**  
Collectively co-ordinating soil health

A blend of 32 species of growth promoting microorganisms, with the aim to support plant growth and health and improve crop yield

Batch No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Manufacture Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. no. RSA Act 36 of 1957  
Registration pending

DISTRIBUTED BY: **BIOBOER**

228 Hololo Ave  
Soweto (BE), South Africa  
Tel: +27 21 628 3020  
pete@bioboer.co.za

Reg. no. RSA Act 36 of 1957  
Use when recommended.  
Apply recommended rates,  
do not exceed one liter.  
Seek further advice.

Compatibility:  
Follow all labels carefully.  
This product contains living  
microorganisms and is not  
compatible with herbicides,  
pesticides and concentrated  
agrochemicals. Follow all  
mixing and application  
instructions carefully.

CFUs/ml >10<sup>8</sup>  
SG 1.1

The spray from this product may act as an irritant

**SHAKE WELL BEFORE USE**

Users are encouraged to immediately flush with water and seek further advice. Wear appropriate protective clothing.



Andrew Beckerling and Peter Goede, discussing the BNZ in a pecan nut orchard.

## NEW IDEAS

High value tree crops like Macadamia and Pecan nuts needs new focus on a "Bio Nutrient Zone" (**BNZ**).

During our latest field trips to various parts of the country where high value tree crops are cultivated, it became evident that nutrient management lacked focus as to **where** soil applied nutrients should be placed. It was also clear that due to the excessive use of herbicides to remove weeds and the removal of litter during nut collection, the soil surface condition was often poor, and focus needs to be placed on alternative weed control strategies with mulch management being the key.

[SEE DIAGRAM BELOW](#)



### BIO NUTRIENT ZONE

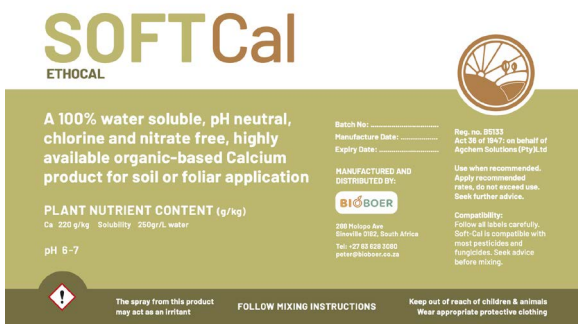
(BNZ) The zone of soil where we concentrate the bio-inputs

The **BNZ** then is a band that is narrow (0.5-1m wide) for small trees and gets wider as the trees get older. Probably 1.5-2m wide for mature trees. So, this implies that the total area that will be treated, is 2m and 4m wide respectively. Typically, Pecan nuts rows are 10m wide and Macadamia 7m. So effectively between 20% and 45% of the soil area is treated for Pecans and Macs, on an annual basis. This obviously reduces the cost of fertilizer, biological and soil ameliorant inputs

It does not mean one simply ignores the rest of the area. These outside areas should also be sampled on a precision basis every three to four years and treated according. However, we are proposing that the soil norms be different for these areas to avoid build up and excess cost of fertilizer and other products.

[TO LEARN MORE CONTACT ONE OF OUR AGRONOMISTS](#)

Along with the biological range we have introduced a number of exciting new nutritional products.



**SOFTCal**  
ETHOCAL

A 100% water soluble, pH neutral, chlorine and nitrate free, highly available organic-based Calcium product for soil or foliar application

PLANT NUTRIENT CONTENT (g/kg)  
Ca 220 g/kg Solubility 250g/L water  
pH 6-7

Batch No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Manufacture Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. no. B5133  
Act 28 of 1997, on behalf of AgriChem Solutions (Pty), Ltd

Use when recommended. Apply recommended rates, do not exceed use. Seek further advice.

Compatibility:  
Follow all labels carefully. Soft Cal is compatible with most pesticides and fungicides. Seek advice before mixing.

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Derebe 0102, South Africa  
Tel: +27 83 528 3000  
peter@bioboer.co.za

The spray from this product may act as an irritant. FOLLOW MIXING INSTRUCTIONS. Keep out of reach of children & animals. Wear appropriate protective clothing.

## SOFT CAL

Soft Cal is a Calcium Acetate based product with a high level of soluble Calcium and is currently being trialed in Blueberry fertigation programs as a source of soluble calcium without nitrates.



Blueberry field day - Forrester Estate Zimbabwe

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS



BioBoer & Pepperfresh have partnered with AECL to solely distribute a Humic acid enhanced coating product in the region. Agreements have already been made with a number of independent blenders, for e.g. Multigreen, who will be coating and selling our range of coated Nitrogen and Phosphate blends.



Pepperfresh have partnered with Israeli Chemicals limited (ICL) in the marketing, research and distribution of its Polysulphate range ([www.polysulphate.com](http://www.polysulphate.com)) into Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. This will involve extensive Field trials with an emphasis on using the product in the tobacco sector as a natural source of Low Chlorine Potash as well as Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur.



We are excited to announce a strategic tie up with Sinox Agri to market and distribute our range of specialties in Natal in the coming season. Please contact Chris Hall on [chris@sinoxagri.co.za](mailto:chris@sinoxagri.co.za) or cell: +27 (0)82 467 2752

### PRILLED LIME RANGE

BioBoer have partnered with a local manufacturer in the production and distribution of a new range of Micronised granular lime products.

Watch this space as we roll out these products in the marketplace.

## EXISTING PRODUCTS POWER AHEAD

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The soil data collected in cropping areas in Southern Africa and the general trends that we have seen over the last few years indicates an excess of soil phosphate (> 50 mg/kg). The growers often still indicate a response to applied phosphate in this scenario, especially when the crop is germinating or when the perennial crops are coming out of a cold or dry phase. Applying large amounts of granulated phosphate products does not make sense in these situations and could also cause problems with the soil biology.

Fresh-P has been designed to be used in these situations and is complemented with a range of trace elements. It can be applied as a foliar or as a band placed product at planting.

# FRESH-P<sup>®</sup>



Pumpkin (pampoen) crop was grown without standard fertilisers, using Fresh-P, FreshBugs Quorum, Calsap and compost as the core of the program.



**Field trials of Fresh-P continue in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.** Numerous growers from both countries indicated that they would use the product again due to visual responses on both Burley and flu cured tobacco.

Typical results from Fresh-P, AIR-CURED tobacco grown with Fresh-P on a small scale farm in Mozambique.

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# AfriKelp<sup>®</sup> Plus

Nature in balance



AfriKelp plus has a new improved formula. The addition of Magnesium and Sulphur plus Iron, Boron, Copper, Zinc and Molybdenum make this product extremely suitable for early applications on wheat and other crops.

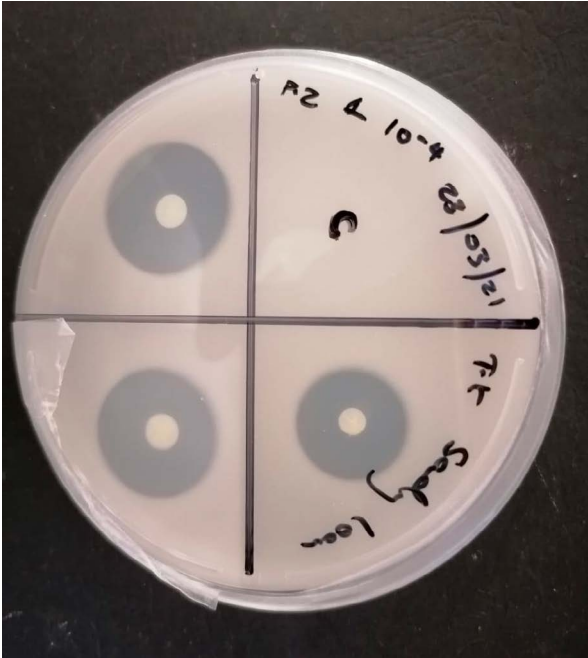
**Improved AfriKelpPlus**

*(Available in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi)*

[CLICK FOR PRODUCT INFO](#)

## LATEST RESEARCH + NEWS

**Dr Tara Walmsley is working with her post graduate students on new microbes that could improve nutrient release and soil processes.**



The halo around the white circles shows how microbes have mobilised phosphate that is in the medium.

**Our research work at Kutsaga continues.** This year the focus was on new coated blends and results are expected in June. The tentative visual results show that coated products could help in reducing basal applications and improve yield.



Principal TRB researcher, Dadirai Chinamo, Peter and Andrew at Kutsaga.

### **Calsap on Ground nuts - Pyxus trial, Malawi.**

Trials comparing the use of various calcium products including our premium Calsap product were started last year. The first set of results clearly showed Calsap to be the superior product. The following is a quote from the trial report in the summary of results. "CalSap 5L gave significant highest pod yield, kernel yield, and shell out percentage. Gypsum is having the lowest pod yield, lowest kernel yield and lowest shell out percentage." The trial will run for three years.



**Trials of Afrikelp Plus on Tobacco seedlings were done on Forrester Estates, Zimbabwe, with excellent visual improvements in root mass.**





Tanya Naude - PA and Administration

## New team member! Welcome Tanya

Tanya is the newest addition to BioBoer team, and we are excited to have her on board!

*“ Having an avid passion for our natural heritage and the rich fauna and flora of our Country, I was motivated to complete my Tertiary education, achieving a National Diploma in Veterinary Technology. Along the way I dabbled in other interests and fields, equipping myself with a wide variety of practical experience in facets such as farm administration, retail management, feed distribution, events coordination, and then spent the last 12 years working in the poultry industry.*

*I feel privileged and excited to be part of a company which strives to improve agricultural practices for the benefit of our society and look forward to gaining new skills and knowledge in this field, contributing to personal growth and that of the company.”*



[CLICK HERE TO MEET OUR TEAM](#)

### Team adventures:



**LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEXT FRESH NEWS IN OCTOBER 2021**  
Exclusive agency for ICL • BioBoer is expanding • Two new products • Launching BlaC range

## GET IN TOUCH

[www.pepperfresh.org](http://www.pepperfresh.org)



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