



Stakeholder Notice

For Immediate Release

31 August 2023

THE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET INQUIRY EMBARKS ON WORKSHOPS WITH EMERGING FARMERS

The Fresh Produce Market Inquiry (FPMI) seeks to notify stakeholders that, from September 2023 until the first week of October 2023, it will embark on a series of workshops with small and emerging farmers.

The FPMI will conduct these workshops in four provinces, namely Limpopo (in the Vhembe district from 5-6 September 2023 and in the Mopani/Tzaneen district from 12-13 September 2023), the Eastern Cape (in the Keiskammahoek region from 18-20 September 2023), Kwazulu-Natal (in the Tugela region from 27-28 September) and the Western Cape (in the Vredendal-Clanwilliam region between 2-6 October 2023).

These workshops provide a platform where the FPMI will engage small and emerging fresh produce farmers on their experiences. The FPMI will explore whether farmers face challenges in relation to market access, discrimination in the procurement of inputs (price discrimination), unfair treatment in the sale of their produce (buyer power), access to finance and access to water.

The views and information gathered during these workshops will form part of the FPMI's considerations whether there are any features in the fresh produce value chain which may impede, restrict or distort competition.

"We encourage any small or emerging farmer to participate in the workshops and to share their experiences of operating in the fresh produce sector. This will assist the FPMI in understanding farmers' experiences and challenges in the fresh produce value chain", said the Chairperson of the FPMI, Mr. Hardin Ratshisusu.

Any interested small or emerging farmer can contact the FPMI's Technical Director, Mr. Ruan Maré at RuanM@compcom.co.za, freshproduceinq@compcom.co.za or 012 010 5499 for more information.

Following the workshops, the FPMI will conduct public hearings in October 2023. The details will be made available on the FPMI's website in due course.

Background to the FPMI

The FPMI commenced on 31 March 2023, following the publication of its final terms of reference on 14 February 2023. The purpose of the FPMI is to examine whether any features in the fresh produce value chain impede, restrict, or distort competition in the market.

The FPMI is focussed on particular issues at each layer of the value chain, including the sale of fresh produce by the farmer to the customer (the retailer, processor, or export market).

The Commission has identified three themes that cover the entire fresh produce value chain. The themes are as follows:

- Efficiency of the value chain, with an emphasis on the dynamics around fresh produce market facilities;
- Market dynamics of key inputs and its impact on producers; and
- Barriers to entry, expansion, and participation.

The FPMI operates under a statutory completion period of 18 months and aims to publish its final report in October 2024.

[ENDS]

Issued by:

Ruan Maré

On behalf of the Fresh Produce Market Inquiry

Tel: 012 010 5499

Email: RuanM@compcom.co.za

Find us on the following social media platforms:

Twitter: @CompComSA

Instagram: Competition Commission SA

Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube: The Competition Commission South Africa