



VOLUME #36

SONOP NEWSLETTER

OCT. & NOV. 2022

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT SONOP

On the 14th of November Sonop packed the first grapes of the season. All the signs were there to start packing earlier this year, but nature can't be hurried and packing started, as most years, in week 46. The grape team has done an excellent job with the preparation of the grapes for our export customers. Even though all the production orchards from Makalane is not part of the harvestable crop, the estimate for the season is almost the same as last season. This is due to the fact that Sonop 3 is now in full production and we are all hoping for a great season.



The grape team's focus this season, is to provide the customers with great quality grapes. The berry sizes are good and the colouring of the red varieties are looking promising. All the attention in the packhouse is to pack the perfect punnet of grapes that will satisfy Sonop's end customer needs. This is part of our strategy to build the Sonop quality brand in the United Kingdom, Europe as well as Middle East with a few more new customers that we will supply this season in partnership with Naturesmart.

We are proud of the grape team for their hard work in preparing the great harvest hanging in the orchards and we are wishing them all the best for the final chapter in this year's season. It is a privilege to see the product of all your hard labour during the year being packed into a Sonop carton.



Thank you to Naturesmart for their marketing expertise and giving Sonop the opportunity to expand to new markets. All the best for this busy season, arranging transport and vessels to send Sonop grapes to the export customers.

With the grapes season that started in week 46, the Packhouse is also ending the packing of the Kieta tomatoes in week 46/47. The pepper packing from Oranje Vallei will continue as well as the delicious watermelons from Ramansdrift. Gem squash and pumpkin harvesting has started in week 47 and the packhouse team has their hands full with sorting and packing all the different vegetables for the Sonop customers. In the last 8 months over 14 million kg of vegetables were tipped at the Sonop packhouse.

Thank you Chris, Lua and the packhouse teams — We are proud of you. Great work !!

The round tomato pack team will have a few weeks of rest before Stampriet will start harvesting their tomatoes.

All the best wishes to each and every Sonop team member, we want to thank you all for the hard work the past 11 months and just a reminder to keep up the excellent work for the rest of the year.



CANCER AWARENESS

Somewhere in our lifetime every one of us have been or will be affected by Cancer ourselves, a family member or someone we know. This is the reason why Sonop admin wanted to support the Cancer Association of Namibia and spread the awareness.



With October being breast cancer awareness and November being prostate cancer awareness months, we invited nurse Qwendeline from Noordoewer Clinic to educate all about Cancer. On 10th October she informed the employees about the three most common types of cancer which is breast, cervical and prostate cancer.

All women should do a self-examination on their breasts each month. If there is any lumps or discharge except for when you are pregnant, you should immediately seek medical advice. For cervical cancer women should do a pap smear at least once a year.

Men older than 45 should do a blood test once a year to test for prostate cancer.

Pap smears and blood tests can be done every Monday at the Noordoewer clinic. Every three months a clinic team from Keetmanshoop visits to assist the Noordoewer clinic.

If you, or anyone you know get diagnosed with cancer, you can contact to the clinic, who will forward the details to **CANSA Namibia** to assist with chemo and radiation as well as accommodation in Windhoek.

CANSA Namibia is non-profit organization that assist people with cancer and therefor all donations are welcomed. That is why Sonop admin is selling wrist bands for N\$25 and pink ribbons for N\$1. All the funds that's been raised through the wrist bands and ribbons will be donated to **CANSA Namibia** to enable them to help people who can't afford cancer treatment.



NOVEMBER: In support of this initiative the gentlemen from Sonop's management and admin, decided to grow a moustache for "Movember". The men already having beards, shaved to regrow a moustache. Some already look good but a few of the men will need December as well to grow a good-looking moustache.



Another project in Noordoewer to support cancer awareness was the Bank Windhoek's Apple project. It was a privilege for Sonop to participate in this project as well. Bank Windhoek sells delicious fresh apples and apple juice yearly and the funds is donated to **CANSA Namibia**. It is wonderful to buy the delicious fresh product enabling Sonop to donate a healthy snack to less privileged children or to the boarding school (hostel) children. It was nice to get involved in this specific project which is annually and every time this project gets bigger and bigger. This apple project is arranged and organized throughout Namibia, to motivate and help people to become aware of cancer and for more people, businesses, and organizations to get involved.



Sonop is very proud to be part of this project and will continue to support it in the future.

Remember that all the funds raised from the wrist bands, ribbons and apples are being donated to **CANSA Namibia** to support people and their families that are fighting cancer.

Get to Know AGATHA MBANGU

Name & Surname: Agatha Mbangu

Favourite colour: Maroon **Favourite food:** Pap en Vleis

When did you start working at Sonop? August 2020

Position at Sonop? Packhouse QC

Your Favourite Sonop produce? Grapes & Butternut

Who is your role model in the Sonop team? Ms. Niekie vd Merwe

Your wish for Sonop Farms: To provide more work for the future generation and community

What motivate you to work harder? To improve the quality of the products we pack.



BIRTHDAYS

ELANA VD MERWE	02 DEC
CALLIE CALITZ	05 DEC
RUZAAN De JONGH	06 DEC
MARYKA MEIER	07 DEC
DENNIS KOCH	13 DEC
LIEKA OOSTHUIZEN	25 DEC



WELCOM TO THE SONOP FAMILY

In the beginning of November Sonop welcomed Andries and Marcelle Rossouw from Traval. They joined the Ramansdrift Team and we are excited for them to be part of the Sonop family.

We hope that you will be happy with us here along the banks of the Orangeriver for years to come.



FARM AUDITS

A special word of thanks to all those involved with the SIZA audit. Sonop Farming once again received our Siza status of Gold and it takes huge and sometimes "most" irritating time to ensure that all is in place, but once again when we work together as a team, we can achieve anything.

Our final audit for the year is the Global Gap audit scheduled to take place on the 15th of December 2022. Good luck to the team. Especially now at the end of the year and grape packing season upon us, please remember all the safety pre-cautions, general maintenance and ensure that all the areas on the farm are clean, tidy, and presentable as always.

RAMANSDRIFT WATERMELON

After much anticipation and excitement Ramansdrift started harvesting their first watermelons on Monday the 7th of November 2022.

Ramansdrift planted 6.5ha watermelons on the 4th of August 2022 and another 6ha on the 15th of August 2022. Watermelons are frost sensitive and both male and female flowers are produced on the same plant.

The watermelons are an extra-large hybrid watermelon with early maturity. It is ideal for early season and has a deep red flesh and excellent sweet taste. The plants are vigorous with healthy leaf cover protecting the fruit against the sun. The rind has a dark green color with light green stripes and the fruit is oval/round with an average weight of 11-15kg.



15 & 16 September 2022 8ha of seedless watermelons were planted. These seedless watermelons are specialty varieties that combine exceptional flavor, sweetness and eating quality with the absence of mature, brown seeds. It is necessary to interplant female and male watermelon plants for pollination with the seedless varieties.

Watermelons are a good source of potassium and is 91% water, making it great for hydration.



TRAINING

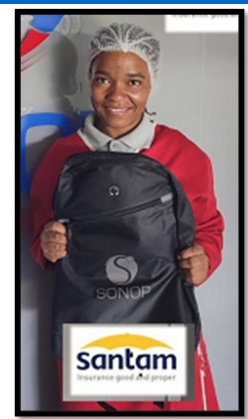


Our Packhouse Cleaning Team getting training from SA Polichem's Mr. Gavin Less

CONGRATULATIONS EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



REMIGIUS AILEKA NAKALE
Ramansdrift
Tomato Team



MARIA MAGDELENA COLLEY
Packhouse
Tomato Team

**Congratulations and thank you for your hard work.
We are very proud of you.**

