



## agriculture

Department:  
Agriculture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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### MEDIA STATEMENT

05 February 2026

## THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF A NEW EXPORT MARKET FOR FRESH TABLE GRAPES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

As the agricultural sector once again lifts its head as a notable driver of economic growth in the Republic of South Africa (RSA), Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, is pleased to announce that South Africa has gained market access for the export of fresh table grapes to the Republic of Korea (ROK).

The ROK notified the RSA that they had opened the market on 23 January 2026, which means that producers can start exporting table grapes to the ROK (*an announcement will be made as and when the first consignment is ready for loading*). The negotiations for this market started over 20 years ago. With consistent negotiations between technical teams from both countries, a physical field verification visit was initiated in February 2025 in South Africa. This field verification visit led to the conclusion of the ROK's phytosanitary import requirements.

The RSA ranks among the top five global table grape exporters. The table grape industry plays a major role in the SA economy to generate substantial foreign exchange earnings, create employment opportunities, and contribute significantly to the growth of the agricultural sector. According to the South African Table Grape Industry (SATI), SA exports about 55% of table grapes to the European Union (EU) and 20% to the United Kingdom (UK). The 2025/26 South African table grape season is progressing well, with an estimated 79,4 million 4,5 kg cartons for export, marking a 0,6% increase from the 2024/25 season.

Fresh table grapes exported from the RSA to the ROK must meet all applicable phytosanitary and food safety requirements as listed in the final phytosanitary import conditions for exports. Exporters, production units and packhouses interested in this lucrative market must be registered with the Department of Agriculture (DoA) to obtain a DoA allocated production unit code (PUC) and packhouse code (PHC). Growers of registered production units must implement good agricultural practices (GAP), which must include orchard sanitation, use of integrated pest management (IPM), or adequate control measures to ensure that the ROK's identified quarantine pests of fresh table grapes are eliminated during the production period.

To safeguard this market, it is crucial that producers comply with the phytosanitary import conditions for the export of fresh table grapes.

The final table grapes phytosanitary import conditions for the export from SA to the ROK are obtainable from the DoA website:

<https://www.nda.gov.za/images/Branches/AgricProducHealthFoodSafety/PlantProductionHealth/PlantHealth/export-from-sa/specialexportprotocols-prog-dir/>

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**Issued by: The Department of Agriculture**