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REDSUN RAISIN REPORT #11 -2021 December SOUTH AFRICAN RAISIN CROP

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT

Season's Greetings

Triple Technology Treatment at Redsun

The Crop of 2022

Redsun Farmers Marketing Evenings

Grape vine leaf project

COVID 19

Season's Greetings

This is our last Redsun Raisin Report for 2021. Redsun factory is closed for the annual summer break, and to give our staff a well-deserved rest. We re-open on 4 January 2022 ready for the new crop ahead of us.

To our customers, we would like to thank you for your support during the year. We look forward to another year of fruitful business together as we introduce our new pecan cracking factory into our product range effective from June 2022.

To our customers, we wish you a very happy holiday period. Covid 19 remains a serious problem in all parts of the world, so we hope that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy.

Triple Technology Treatment at Redsun

Redsun has now completed and commissioned our new look raisin washing facility. Our objective is to deliver a quality, food safe raisin, produced in a sustainable environment.

Food safety has reached a new level at Redsun with the installation of the following equipment on the raisin washing line;

1. Double sided laser scanner designed to detect any foreign object on a visual inspection;
2. CIT scanner designed to detect any foreign object on a raisin DNA exclusive basis. (if an object is not of a "raisin DNA" make up, it is rejected), and
3. X-Ray scanner designed to look through the raisin for any foreign object embedded inside the berry

Furthermore, the capacity of our washing line is operated at 4,5 mt per hour, to ensure that these technological treatments are given to best opportunity to function at optimal efficiency, well within their operational capacity.

We are continuing to work on our “sustainable environment” which includes

1. Composting of all organic waste material from the factory, example sticks and stalks from the raisins,
2. Recycling 60% of the raisin washing water we use in the factory, and
3. Using solar power to run our factory during daylight hours.

The Crop of 2022

South Africa is looking forward to a record crop for 2022 comprising 88,000mt.

Historic crop size for South African raisins					
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (est)
Metric tons	71,071	74,830	85,080	73,135	88,000

Everything is looking positive. However, there is consistent rainfall all over South Africa. “La Niña” is the term used to describe the weather pattern for the 2022. That is not good news for the raisin farmers.



Thompson medium grapes



Currants developing well

Therefore, although we are all excited about the crop size, rain that is falling across the Country will be adversely affecting the raisins as it gets towards the middle of January and the sugar starts to develop in the fruit.

The cooler temperature (22°C – 30°C) caused by the rain is affecting the development of the grapes. This is positive. That means there is more flavour developing as the plant is not under stress caused by excessive heat. This could result in the crop being 10 days to two weeks later. The fruit will be of excellent quality.

Unfortunately, it is not all good news. The moist air does facilitate easier mildew development between the berries and on the leaves. That means farmers will need to spray more frequently. Redsun is continually in contact with farmers and chemical sales organisations to ensure that only authorised sprays are used and that the required withholding periods are

maintained. Redsun will increase the number of tests done on the grapes and incoming raisins to ensure they are clear of chemical residue.

The rain is not affecting all of the regions where Redsun buys raisins. Namibia has had no rain. Redsun buys about 1000mt of farmers stock raisins from Namibia. Our Namibian farmers are already in the process of making raisins for us.



Golden jumbos being dried in Namibia

Redsun Farmers Marketing Evenings

Redsun and most of the other 6 raisin packers have now held their farmer's marketing evenings. We use these events to engage with farmers, informing them of the market conditions and giving farmers an indication of what the prices are they can expect for the various types of raisins they may choose to make from their grapes.

We find the farmers very optimistic about the coming year. They are hoping to make up some of the losses they encountered on their wine grapes by expanding the crop towards drying grapes.



A Redsun farmer's evening at Keimoes Nov 21

Redsun held four of these events. To date (15 Dec when we closed for the summer break) we have received estimates from farmers giving Redsun the raisins they would like to make and deliver to Redsun. The total so far is 8,924mt. The largest items on the list are

Type of Farmer's stock Raisin	Quantity mt	% of total crop estimate
Thompson medium	3,378	38%
Golden medium	2,026	23%
Flame medium	983,5	11%
Currants	623,5	7%
Total	7,011	79%

Redsun has a target of 15,000mt of farmer's stock raisins to buy for the 2022 season.

Grape vine leaf project

Redsun has now closed the grape vine leaf harvesting project for 2021 because the leaves have now become too big and hard for the use in making dolmades. The 2021 crop was 136mt of leaves which we sold to our customer in Greece. That is 47,6 million leaves. Redsun employed 344 people for the project that lasted from 18th October to 16th December 2021. The person that harvested the most leaves in one day was Dorien at 38 kilograms of leaves in one day. That is 13,300 leaves.

COVID 19

South Africa is now in the 4th wave of COVID-19. On 23rd December 2021, in the whole South Africa, there were 21,156 new cases of COVID. Of these cases, 9,202 cases were hospitalised with 603 cases on ventilators. There were unfortunately 75 COVID related deaths. In Northern Cape Province where 80% of South Africa's raisins are produced, there were 404 new COVID cases with 2 deaths during the same period.

Redsun has had a clear record for the past 4 months, however, 7 days ago, we had one staff member who was diagnosed with COVID 19. He went into isolation at home, feeling very fit after two days of flu like symptoms. He was diagnosed by means of a routine temperature screening of all people at the Redsun entrance gate.

73% of Redsun personnel have been vaccinated compared to a National coverage of 43% vaccinated. As we start our new year 2022, Redsun will be 83% vaccinated among our 183 personnel.

Please feel free to contact any one of us at Redsun if you have any questions regarding this report.

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