



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **SA fresh fruit industry condemns actions of rogue exporters linked to drug smuggling**

The *Daily Maverick* and other publications report that earlier this month, cocaine and methamphetamine were discovered in consignments of apples, pears and oranges exported from South Africa to India.

Two fruit importers have been arrested, implicating import/export companies in Dubai and India. The export company in South Africa, based in Gauteng, is not a member of the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum (FPEF).

The FPEF is a 20-year old industry association with 95% representation of the country's total fresh fruit export volume. However, the strict membership criteria of the FPEF do declare a certain caliber of exporter ineligible. Therefore, the organisation is unable to account for the actions of all fresh fruit exporters.

Though the smuggling of narcotics using fresh produce is nothing new, the FPEF strongly condemns the actions of the rogue exporters linked to this crime. Especially, given the potential reputational damage to this economic powerhouse.

South Africa is the largest exporter of fresh fruit in the southern hemisphere and has built its world-renowned reputation on reliability and the production of world-class fresh fruit that is exported to over 100 destinations around the world.

The FPEF assures the international trading community that through its continued vigilance, the vast majority of South African fresh fruit exporters remain qualified and trustworthy.

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