



Suiderland Farms

South Africa

Food Waste Inventory – January 2019 to December 2019



About Suiderland

Suiderland Plase forms part of Suiderland Development Corporation – an esteemed group with diversified industry interests – and is a frontrunner in the citrus and table grape industry. Our interests are in securing the wellbeing of our people as well as our environment by means of sustainable, profitable and accountable practices. Creating economic and social value through continually implementing transformation, we not only go beyond satisfying our clients on every level, we also serve the communities which sustain us by being a thriving business.

Our passion for citrus farming has led our company to achieve a strong market share in the South African citrus exporting industry. Suiderland Plase Group currently exports around 2.5 million cartons of citrus. Our soft citrus exports account for about 7% of all soft citrus exports from South Africa.

We are also recognised as one of the leading growers of seedless grapes in South Africa and currently export about 1.8 million cartons, weighing 4.5 kg each, of grape varieties.

Suiderland Plase is a joint venture partner in Horizon Fruit, together with New Vision Fruit and Fruit & Veg City International. Horizon Fruit is a logistics company that was founded to create a logistical chain that could provide the best services associated with exporting fruit as required by the partner companies and their customers.

We are a business that is committed to produce 0% food waste in our packhouses.



What we are doing to tackle food waste

In the Suiderland Plase group we have zero food waste in our packhouses. This has been achieved through a variety of different offset areas. Our main measure is our mindset. We strive to deliver the best quality crops through intensive production practices, ensuring great-tasting fruit with a very long shelf-life. Due to this focus on quality, we do not have a problem with food waste.

All our fruit gets sorted before it enters the packing process. After sorting, fruit that does not have the right colour, gets de-greened. We minimise the time fruit is de-greened by ensuring we pick the fruit at it's optimal maturity. By doing that, not only do we ensure that waste through de-greening is non-existent, we once again ensure the best quality. After this process, the packing starts.

The fruit that enters the packhouse, all gets consumed by a human, in two forms. We pack class 1, 2 and local fruit if it is of suitable quality. If any fruit has wind marks, we make sure that it gets redistributed to our charity leg. These fruits generally go to orphanages, correctional services, feeding programmes and more. In 2020, we also put a strong emphasis on getting this fruit to our local communities to boost the immune system and fight the tough economic circumstances created by Covid-19. In 2020, together with three other packhouses, we distributed 300 tonnes of fruit to 43,000 people. Finally, any fruit that remains, gets sent to make juice, also for human consumption.



Total citrus handled

15,968
tonnes

Waste as a % of citrus handled

0%



Overall food waste

0 tonnes

Food waste data commentary

- Data was acquired at our only two packhouses which cover all of our operations, one in Clanwilliam and one in Swellendam, both in the Western Cape. Data was captured from January 2019 to December 2019, our financial year which also coincides with our production year.
- Citrus covers 85% of our crops, the remaining 15% is grapes. We chose reporting on citrus for the first year, as it accounts for most of our production.
- We measured our total citrus production of 15,968 tonnes, of which 0 tonnes (0%) was wasted.
- We have achieved zero food waste as a result of our exceptional quality, and a variety of value added options (e.g. secondary markets and redistribution to charities) for fruit that would otherwise have gone to waste.
- Although we have zero waste in our packhouses, we are still working to reduce food surplus where possible.
- This was our first year of measuring our food waste and in the future we plan to expand our reporting scope to include our grapes too. All our citrus production is covered already.
- There is likely to be slightly more waste on farm, although it hasn't been reported on this year. Therefore, for next year, we have committed to extend the scope of our food waste reporting to include our on-farm operations.