

WORLD 1st FOR FPT DURBAN

As the first export terminal in the world to be awarded the 360 Quality Code, FPT Durban, a Capespan subsidiary, will commit all supply chain parties to handle cargo in a way that will promote customer satisfaction. The 360 Quality Code is a new set of standards for specialised reefer shipping companies, cold stores and their service providers to ensure the quality of handling reefer cargo.

Said FPT Durban general manager Neville de Klerk, "The accreditation instills fruit handling responsibility by ensuring a good temperature regime, plus less cargo handling." He explained that this global standard would reduce product damage, as well as ensuring both accountability and a quality end-result. "What's more, with the 360 Quality accreditation, it's easy to provide exporters and producers with continual product status feedback. And, should quality issues arise, the gaps can be closed promptly. This indeed further enhances South African fresh produce export standards."

To obtain the 360 Quality Code means not only excellent product handling, but also equipment has to be first-class. De Klerk said, "By using terminals that maintain the 360



Quality Code standards, shipping lines can guarantee products arriving at their destination in mint condition."

Dr Dawie Ferreira, CEO Capespan Logistics, said, "Having travelled extensively to export terminals around the world, few of them can compare to the Durban port. The latter definitely deserves the 360 Quality accreditation."

Launched in June 2005, the 360 Quality Code applies to all perishable and frozen cargoes carried under deck in specialised reefer vessels. The objective is to become the industry standard. With its 20 members, the 360 Quality Association appoints internationally recognised accreditation organisations to conduct the certification. In South Africa, this is handled by the PPECB.

FARMERS INTRODUCE NEW PINEAPPLE VARIETIES

Ghana:

About 450 pineapple farmers from a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) at the weekend ended a three-day seminar on Rapid Multiplication Technique production and marketing of varieties of pineapples. The varieties include smooth cayenne and sugar loaf, which were meant for the local and foreign markets.

The programme was organised by the Abibiman Sankofa Cultural Movement (ASCUM) for its members mostly banana, citrus and pineapple growers, drawn from Akim Oda in the Birim Central Municipality and Suhum Kraboa Coaltar District. In a closing address, Mr. Freeman Madji, Executive Director of ASCUM, said the aspiration of the small scale farmer in the area is to intensify pineapple production, especially the cultivation of the new varieties now popular among the local communities.

Mr. Madji said the Movement was ready to assist farmers with logistics and even loans for expansion of their farms to enable them to move from small-scale to large-scale farming. The Director urged the participants who were taught how to impact ideas and skills acquired to others for increased pineapple production for the local market as well as for export.



He thanked the facilitators from the Municipal Agriculture Office and said, among all the non-traditional crops, pineapple was one of the major crops with a high export value and accounted for about seven per cent of the total national export. Mr. Madji therefore, appealed to the youth of the area to register with ASCUM in their numbers to start the cultivation of pineapple, instead of going after white colour jobs in the cities.