



Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Genetics

12 January 2023

RE : HOSTING OF WORLD AVOCADO CONGRESS 2027 IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Derek

The Hans Merensky Chair in Avocado Research at the University of Pretoria would like to pledge its support to The South African Avocado Growers' Association in submitting a bid to host the World Avocado Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.

Strong international relationships are an integral part of the success and continued growth of the global avocado industry. The World Avocado Congress is key in this regard. We feel that South Africa is ideally positioned to host a successful World Avocado Congress in 2027.

This is not only an opportunity to develop partnerships internationally but within our own continent as well. It will also allow South Africans to display the expertise and innovation that exists in our country.

With the expertise within SAAGA and South Africa's excellent track record of hosting international events, we are confident that South Africa is ready to host the World Avocado Congress in 2027, both in terms of available facilities and the wide variety of tourist attractions that are available to visiting delegates.

We readily support your bid and wish you success. We look forward to receiving confirmation of this event in Cape Town in 2027.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noëlan van den Berg'.

Prof Noëlan van den Berg
Chair and full professor
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Hans Merensky
Chair in Avocado Research

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