

AUGUST 2025

NEWSLETTER



Cultivating a Purpose

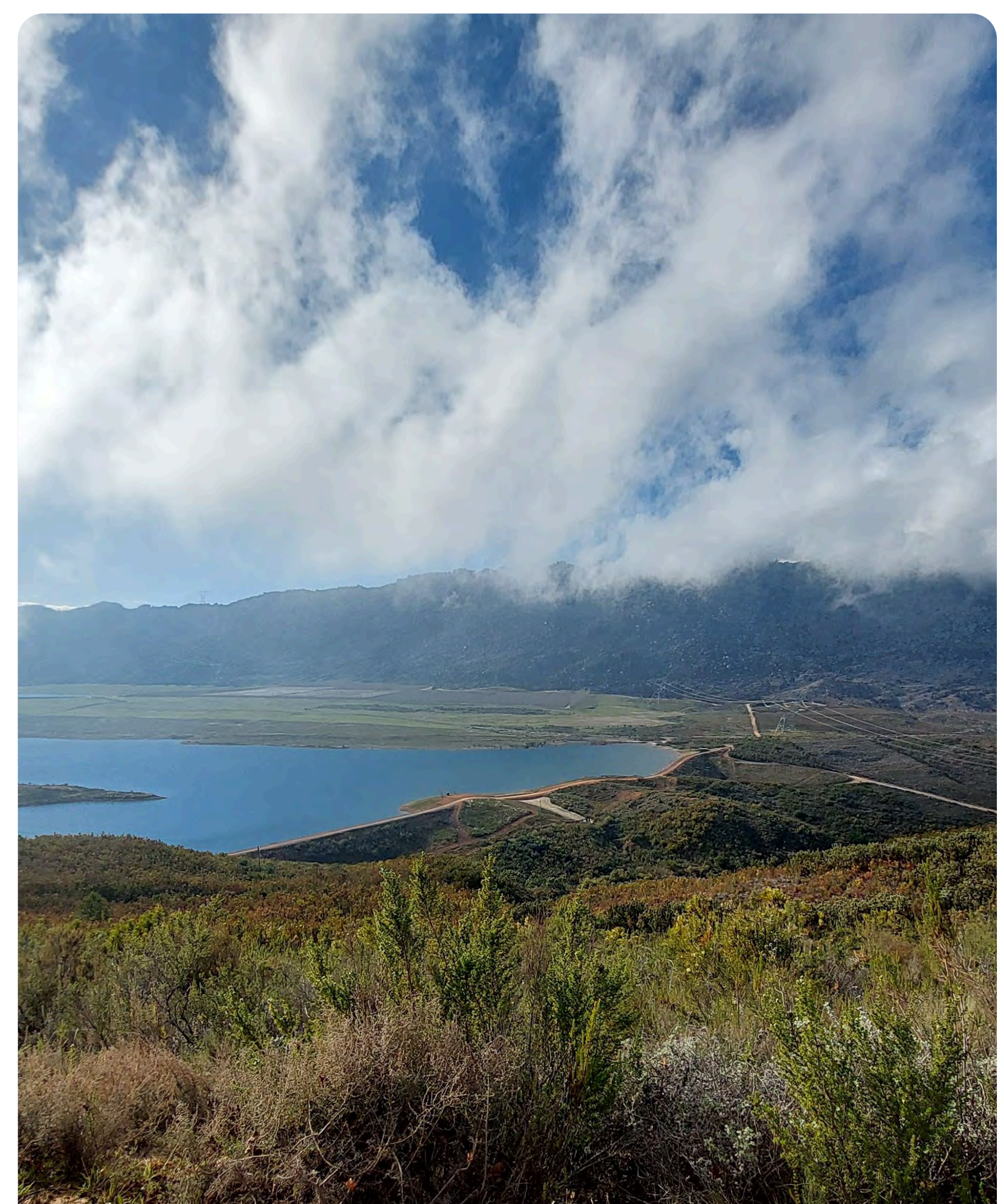
# Season by Season

# A mid-year Moment

## WHERE WE ARE, WHERE WE'RE GROWING

As we pass the halfway mark of 2025, it's a moment to reflect, and to look ahead. From launching new innovations like Kissabel®, our striking new apple variety, to preparing our orchards for the season ahead, this year has been defined by progress, purpose, and potential.

While our orchards settle into winter's rhythm, our teams are already laying the groundwork for a productive spring and a strong second half of the year.



*In the Orchards*

## **WINTER WORK FOR A SPRING AWAKENING**

While winter may seem like a quiet season, it's a time of vital activity in our packhouses. Our apple and pear harvests are being packed for both local and international markets.

At the same time, our orchards are in a crucial phase of rest. All our fruit trees are in dormancy, conserving energy, regenerating, and building the strength needed for the season ahead. By September and October, blossoms will begin to appear on our fruit trees, signalling the arrival of spring.

Across the farm, our teams are pruning, planning, and preparing, because at Dutoit, every season is a stepping stone to the next.



# Seasonal Outlook

## ORCHARD TO MARKET

Winter may signal rest for many, but in our orchards, it's a season of purpose, laying the groundwork for strong yields and exceptional fruit quality in the months ahead. This year's colder conditions, particularly in traditionally warmer regions, have been ideal for encouraging strong bud development and uniform flowering across both pome and stone fruit.

Although the apple and pear harvest wrapped up in May, packing is still underway. Our teams are hard at work ensuring each piece of fruit meets the highest standards before heading to local and international markets. At every step, our focus remains on serving our clients with care, consistency, and premium quality produce.

**Looking ahead, our stone fruit season is just around the corner:**

- Cherries (season begins early November)
- Nectarines (arriving from mid to late November)
- Plums (set to follow in early December)

New cherry blocks coming into production are set to increase volumes, while strategic early thinning will help optimise fruit size.

In the Koue Bokkeveld, we've also introduced frost protection systems in high-risk areas to safeguard crops and boost resilience.

Whether in the orchard or the packhouse, our mission remains the same: to deliver fruit that's bursting with flavour, vibrant in colour, and long-lasting on shelf. From careful pruning that maximises sunlight, to expert fruit selection and a rigorously managed cold chain, every step is designed to preserve quality from farm to fork.

As South Africa's largest cherry producer and one of the country's top fruit growers, Dutoit remains committed to excellence at every stage. Season after season, our fruit speaks for itself.





# Packing with Precision and Passion

## HOW WE BRING QUALITY TO THE MARKET

Behind every piece of Dutoit fruit is a seamless system of quality control, technology, and scale.

With packing facilities across Ceres, Paarl, the Langkloof, and beyond, Dutoit handles over 250,000 tons of fruit and vegetables annually.

### Smart Storage

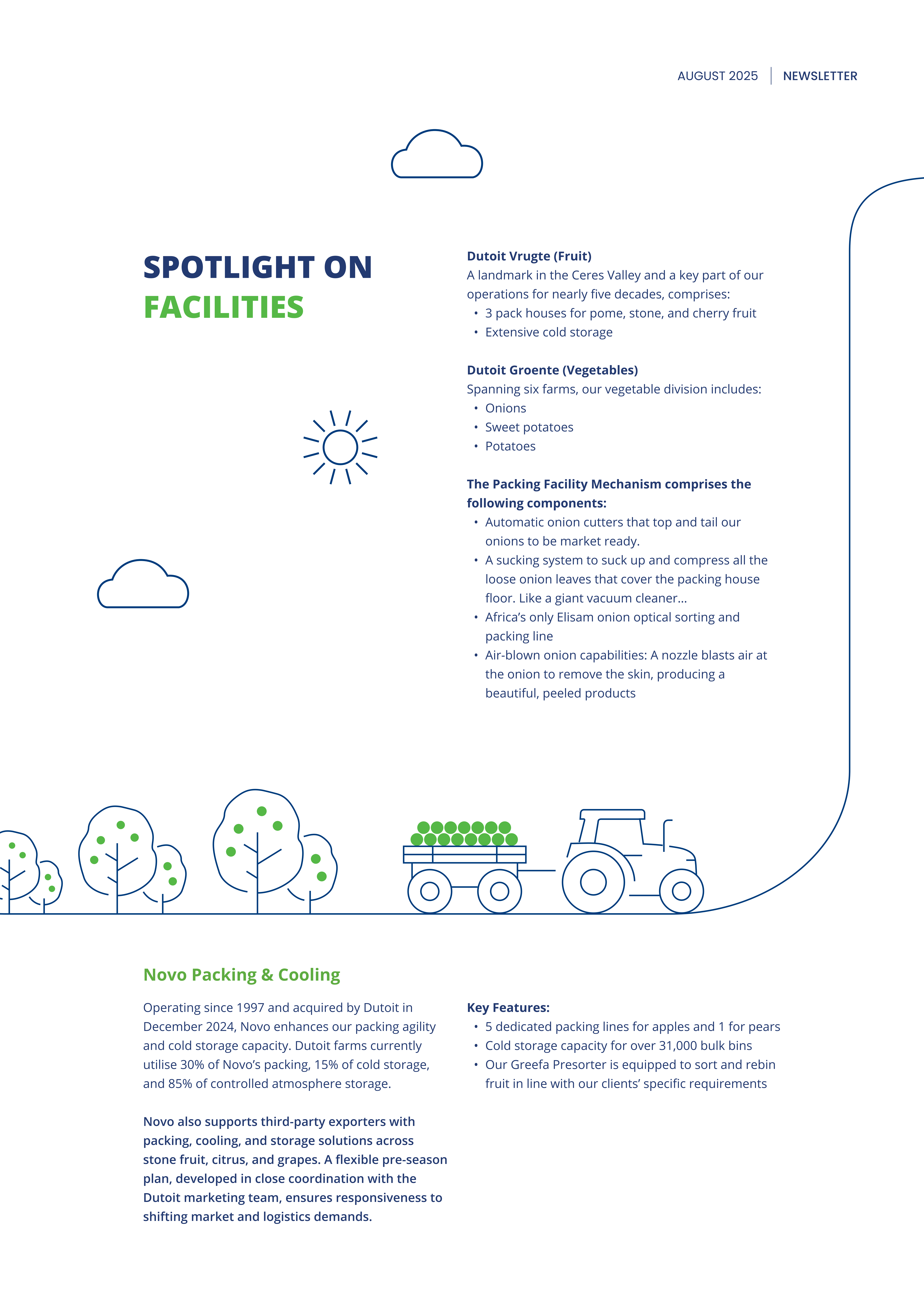
Apples can be stored for up to 9 months in controlled conditions (between -0.5°C and 1.5°C) with tailored oxygen and temperature profiles for each variety.

### High-speed sorting

Our packing lines use cameras that capture up to 80 images per fruit, evaluating size, colour, and integrity in seconds.

### Infrared Tech

Being explored to detect internal defects without damaging fruit.



# SPOTLIGHT ON FACILITIES

## Dutoit Vrugte (Fruit)

A landmark in the Ceres Valley and a key part of our operations for nearly five decades, comprises:

- 3 pack houses for pome, stone, and cherry fruit
- Extensive cold storage

## Dutoit Groente (Vegetables)

Spanning six farms, our vegetable division includes:

- Onions
- Sweet potatoes
- Potatoes

## The Packing Facility Mechanism comprises the following components:

- Automatic onion cutters that top and tail our onions to be market ready.
- A sucking system to suck up and compress all the loose onion leaves that cover the packing house floor. Like a giant vacuum cleaner...
- Africa’s only Elisam onion optical sorting and packing line
- Air-blown onion capabilities: A nozzle blasts air at the onion to remove the skin, producing a beautiful, peeled products

## Novo Packing & Cooling

Operating since 1997 and acquired by Dutoit in December 2024, Novo enhances our packing agility and cold storage capacity. Dutoit farms currently utilise 30% of Novo’s packing, 15% of cold storage, and 85% of controlled atmosphere storage.

Novo also supports third-party exporters with packing, cooling, and storage solutions across stone fruit, citrus, and grapes. A flexible pre-season plan, developed in close coordination with the Dutoit marketing team, ensures responsiveness to shifting market and logistics demands.

## Key Features:

- 5 dedicated packing lines for apples and 1 for pears
- Cold storage capacity for over 31,000 bulk bins
- Our Greefa Presorter is equipped to sort and rebin fruit in line with our clients’ specific requirements



# *Rooted in Purpose* **GROWING WITH YOU**

From empowering young learners through Juicy Gems to preparing for a world-class harvest, our journey this year has been one of growth, innovation, and meaningful impact.

Every step we take is guided by our purpose:  
**Cultivating wellness one harvest at a time.**

Whether we're nurturing the land, supporting our people, or delivering quality produce, we're committed to growing responsibly and operating with care, efficiency, and integrity season after season.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Your continued support enables us to grow stronger and create lasting value for our communities, our partners, and the environment. Here's to a fruitful second half of 2025, where every harvest holds the promise of progress.

*Warm regards,*

