



SASTA FIELD VISIT

DUBE TRADEPORT

The 2018 SASTA field day took place on Wednesday 14 March with a visit to Dube Agrizone and the Dube Cargo Terminal both situated adjacent to King Shaka International Airport.

The Dube Agrizone comprises of 16 hectares of greenhouses. It is the largest glass-covered, climate-controlled facility in Africa. Dube Agrizone's main focus is the production of vegetables and other horticultural products.

SASTA visitors were taken on a tour of the cucumber growing area which spans over four hectares within the glasshouse facility. The impressive hydroponic operation uses a sophisticated computer system to regulate nutrient solutions, ventilation, temperature and irrigation.

The Agrizone also boasts a modern micro-propagation laboratory. This 5000 m² facility comprises a tissue culture laboratory, hardening facility and a dispatch area. The purpose of the tissue culture operation is to supply disease-free, true-to-type young plants through tissue culture under sterile conditions. Dube AgriLab currently has the capacity to produce more than 3 million plantlets a year. Currently, the laboratory works with sugarcane, ornamental plants, sub-tropical fruit and plants for the forestry industry.

SASTA visitors were fortunate to gain access to security-restricted areas of the Dube Cargo Terminal, a state-of-the-art facility and one of the most secure cargo operations in Africa. The terminal makes use of computer-based automatic handling equipment, which tracks all cargo digitally. The advanced technology used and the speed and efficiency of operations were indeed impressive.

After the visit to Dube Agrizone and the Dube Cargo Terminal, the visitors were invited to the nearby premises of Rossi Southern Africa. Rossi is a leading supplier to the sugar industry of gear reducers, gear motors, electric motors and complete drive packs. After a tour of the manufacturing and assembling operations, Rossi treated SASTA visitors to a sumptuous lunch, which brought a fitting close to the SASTA field day.

