

## SA unlikely to encounter tomato supply shortages

Tomato Producers Organisation (TPO) said on Tuesday, 13 July 2010, that it was unlikely that South Africa will encounter tomato supply shortages due to frost that ruined crops on some tomato farms.

By [Andries Mahlangu](#) 14 Jul 2010



Image courtesy of [FreeDigitalPhotos.net](#)

Credit: Pixomar

*TPO CEO Phillip van Zyl told I-Net Bridge that the total damage estimate to tomato producers is between 5% and 10%.*

*"We are not anticipating any major disruptions to normal supply of tomatoes in the country because the total damage to crops so far is between 5% and 10% in lost production, and the damage was limited in certain areas in the country," Van Zyl said.*

*The tomato production is mainly concentrated in the lowveld areas of Mpumalanga and Limpopo. The harvest season is from June to December.*

*The affected areas include the western parts of Limpopo, Northern Cape's Gariep River, Western Cape and Eastern Cape.*

*Van Zyl added that the last time this 1.5 billion rand worth industry experienced colder-than-average winter conditions was in 1993.*

*The industry's workforce is between 20,000 and 30,000.*

*Meanwhile, the Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa said the association has so far received one report of damage among its 1,400 members.*

*But industry affairs manager Paul Hardman said the damage was less than 1% as a proportion of the entire citrus crop.*