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### Brief update on the Chinese economy.

**Fig. 1. US Dollar/Yuan RMB Exchange Rate, September 2023.**

Source: Trading Economics, 2023.



The US Dollar/Yuan RMB exchange has been on an upward trajectory, rising the past months

from **6.70** a dollar in **January 2023** to **7.33** a dollar on **September 7<sup>th</sup>** the same year. This depreciation of the Chinese Yuan has a twofold outcome, its stimulating exports and inflating the cost of imported goods.

**Fig. 2. China's Inflation Rate, 2019-2023.**

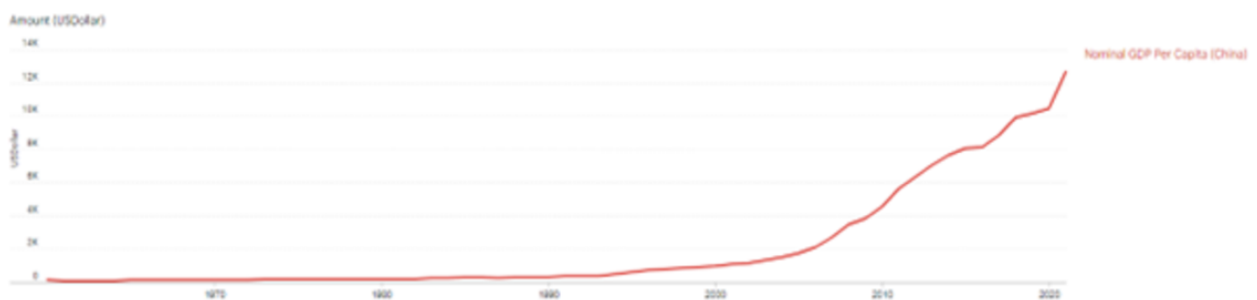
Source: Trading Economics, 2023.



Inflation figures in **July 2023** were **-0.30%** and **0.00%** in **June** the same year, this is lower than the long-term average of **1.88%** (Trading Economics, 2023). Which contributes towards price stability in the Chinese economy.

**Fig. 3. China's GDP Per Capita, 1960-2021.**

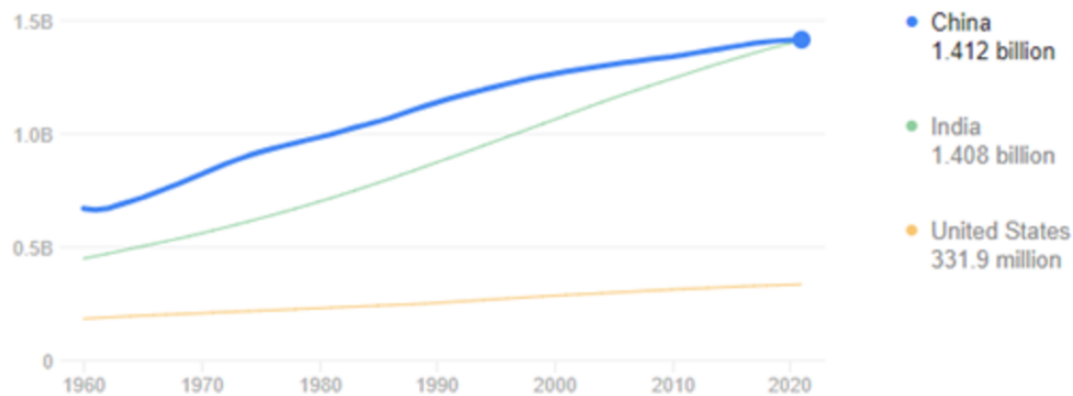
Source: World Bank, 2023.



China's GDP per capita has been rising steadily, climbing by **225%** in the past **10 years**. Meaning that households have become much wealthier over the past decade.

**Fig. 4. Chinese Population Growth, 1960-2021.**

Source: World Bank, 2023.



China has the largest population in the world at **1.412 billion** people (**2021**) following closely behind is India with **1.408 billion** (**2021**).

**Fig. 5. China's Unemployment Rate, 2014-2023.**

Source: Trading Economics, 2023.



China's urban unemployment rate was **5.3%** in **July 2023** up from **5.2%** in **June** the same year. While the unemployment rate for individuals aged **15-24** increased to **21.3%** in **June 2023** reaching a record high (Trading Economics, 2023). The unemployment rate for those aged **25-59** were unchanged at **4.1%** in **June 2023**, which is regarded as low levels of unemployment.

### Concluding Remarks.

China's economic trajectory paints a promising picture. Notably, the nation's economy is surging ahead at a robust pace, a clear indicator of its growing prosperity. Concurrently, the average household income is on an upward trajectory, signifying improved purchasing power among its citizens, while maintaining the position as the world's most populous country.

Moreover, the economic landscape in China exhibits several key factors that foreshadow well for the future. Firstly, the remarkably low inflation rate, averaging at a mere **1.88%**, ensures that consumers' buying power remains relatively stable. Secondly, the country boasts a commendably low unemployment rate, standing at **5.3%**. This signifies a stable job market,

instilling confidence among consumers and encouraging increased spending.

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## Orchard mapping project with AARSC.

Researchers from the University of New England's Applied Agricultural Remote Sensing Centre (AARSC), in partnership with the South African Pecan Nut Producers Association NPC (SAPPA), are embarking on a project to map the location and extent of commercial pecan orchards (> 1 hectare) across South Africa. Currently, precise information about the distribution and size of these orchards is lacking.

The objectives of this mapping initiative are multi-faceted:

1. **Industry Understanding:** By accurately mapping the pecan orchards, SAPPA aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the extent of pecan production in South Africa. This data will provide valuable insights into the current state of the industry and its potential for growth.
2. **Baseline Data:** The spatial data generated through this project will serve as essential baseline information. It will aid in future planning related to labour, infrastructure, biosecurity, and disaster response. Additionally, it will support traceability, supply chain management, and market access efforts.
3. **Value-Added Analysis:** The baseline map will enable advanced analyses in the future, such as automated yield forecasting and monitoring of tree health, thereby enhancing orchard management practices.
4. **Data Privacy:** Importantly, the mapping initiative prioritizes data privacy. No personal, commercial, or property information will be collected or included in the map. It solely focuses on the location and extent of pecan orchards.

The mapping process builds upon AARSC's established methodology, previously employed in creating the Australian Tree Crop Map (link: <https://arcg.is/9n95e>) and, more recently, the baseline map of macadamia orchards in South Africa (link: <https://arcg.is/1L1X900>). The success of these previous endeavours highlights the reliability of the approach.

Data sources for mapping include remote sensing data (from satellites and aerial imagery), industry data, on-site observations, and active engagement with industry stakeholders. Collaboration with local experts and mentors is encouraged to ensure the map's accuracy, especially for mapping new plantings that cannot be captured through satellite imagery alone.

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## Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) - The way forward.

SAPPA recently participated in the National Steering Committee meeting focused on PSHB, a commitment held since its establishment in 2019. Convened by the Department of Land Reform

and Rural Development (DALRRD), the committee's objective is to devise effective control strategies for PSHB in agriculture. Given the extensive impact of this pest on various sectors, including national parks, city parks, and natural forests, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) has also joined the committee.

During the two-day meeting on August 3rd and 4th, we provided valuable insights on the current gazetted PSHB control measures. Our efforts were successful in expressing concerns about the existing legislation. The current legal framework is now undergoing a thorough review and revision to address the issues raised by SAPPa on behalf of our growers and other related bodies. The meeting underscored the formidable challenge we face in containing this small beetle, with infested wood being the primary vector for its spread. Implementing best practices, such as removing branches where reproduction occurs, is crucial.

For a comprehensive article on this matter, please visit the SAPPa website, under the Technical - > Research -> Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer section. SAPPa remains committed to continued engagement with affected growers, researchers, and governmental bodies in the ongoing management of this issue. If you suspect the presence of this pest on your farm, please do not hesitate to contact Hardus du Toit or Ivan Schubach for further investigation.

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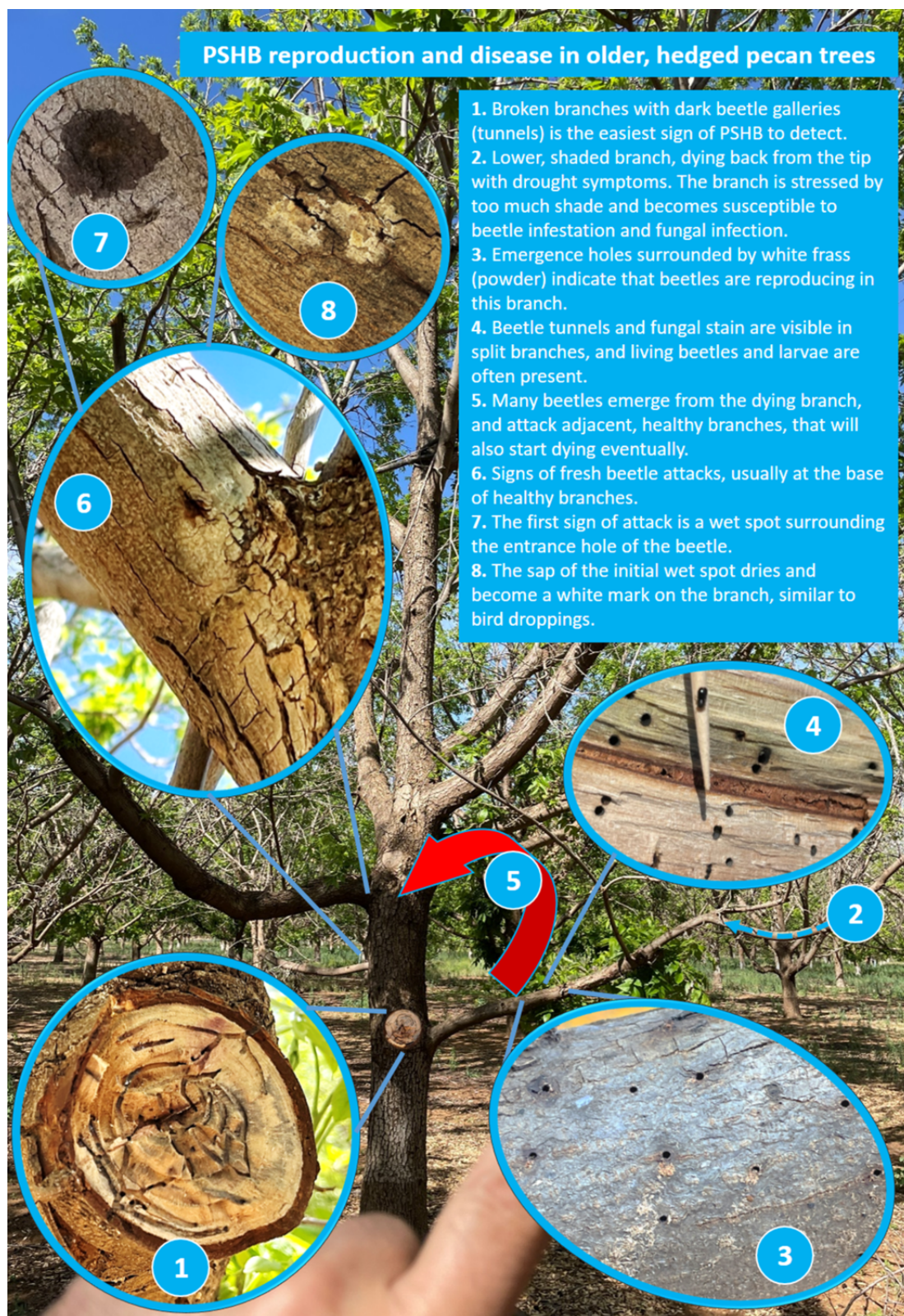
Ivan Schubach: [ivans@sappa.za.org](mailto:ivans@sappa.za.org)



#### **Solarization of PSHB infested wood**

Wood infested with PSHB from pecan and other trees (like oak or London plane), should NOT be moved to other areas to prevent the beetle from spreading. Infested wood should be solarized on site to kill all beetles, larvae and eggs in the wood, as follows:

1. Cut infested branches as close to the main stem as possible.
2. Cut the infested parts of the branch (usually 3 cm or thicker) in 1 meter lengths. The thinner, uninfested parts branches can be chipped or discarded.
3. Stack the cut branches neatly, with as little space between them as possible.
4. Piles should be in full sun and not be more than 1 meter high. Smaller piles are more effective than larger piles.
5. Cover each pile tightly with black builders plastic, making sure no holes are pierced in the plastic.
6. Put enough soil on the sides to seal properly, and leave in the sun for 6 months. All beetles and larvae will die in high temperatures under the plastic.
7. Wood can then be used as firewood or chipped or disposed of.



Source: Dr. Wilhelm de Beer

## Annual General Meeting registration.

SAPPA's Annual General Meeting will take place this year on the 20th and 21st of October. The venue is the beautiful Galagos Estate in Donkerhoek, Gauteng. Hear about the projects SAPPA

is currently involved in, meet the SAPPA staff, and network with other pecan producers!

Registration form link: <https://www.sappa.za.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SAPPA-AGM-2023-Registrasie.pdf>

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## SAPPA Greetings / SAPPA Groete

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