





Supporting citrus growers to be globally competitive

Our Mission

The Citrus Growers’ Association will maximise the long-term sustainability of its members

Strategic Objectives

- Administer, fund and resource the CGA Group
- Gain, retain and optimise market access
- Fund, control and implement research and development
- Develop industry intelligence
- Provide product and quality assurance
- Engage with government and other stakeholders
- Assist growers long term sustainability
- Drive industry transformation
- Facilitate efficient logistics

Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa

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Chairman's Review

Cornel van der Merwe

The year under review will be one to remember after the introduction of COVID-19 to the world. We could never have realised the devastating impact this pandemic would have on our daily lives and the South African economy.

Our industry, consisting of Citrus Growers Association (CGA) Directors, staff and the Citrus Academy responded rapidly to form a COVID-19 response team in April 2020. Key risks were continuously monitored and identified. Proposed action plans were rolled out to the industry in preparation for the possible impact that infections would have on all factors of production as well as packhouses, inspection services and logistics.

Logistics were a particular challenge and represented difficulties due to COVID related shutdowns and the reduction of staff at ports, resulting in significant delays and poor port efficiency. However, the ports functioned well once they had adapted to the changes, subsequently achieving the clearance of record export volumes. This was achieved through the "all hands on deck" approach with CGA staff working closely with the ports to make it materialise.

The CGA played an exceptional role in ensuring a very successful citrus season resulting in an export volume of 150 million cartons, a record achieved under extremely difficult circumstances during a very volatile period. We need to thank all role players in our industry for this momentous effort.

The new levy (to be administered by CGA) approved by the Minister of Agriculture has secured R250 million per annum, of which over 60% will be allocated to research and development

at CRI, which will contribute to making our citrus industry amongst the most successful worldwide. CRI and the citrus growers of southern Africa have shown tremendous commitment by taking these steps to secure the future of the industry.

Due to the massive increase in citrus production expected within the next few years, our strategic objective remains to gain, retain and optimise market access. This will remain a challenge when marketing through current logistic channels and sourcing new markets due to a substantial increase in citrus volumes available for export.



Together with Ailimpo in Spain, the CGA was a founder member of the World Citrus Organisation (WCO). During the year under review the WCO hosted a successful Global Citrus Congress (Justin Chadwick as co-chairman) – breaking all records for attendance at such events. The WCO is making progress, attracting most citrus producing countries to take up membership. The WCO emphasizes the importance of issues such as the health and nutritional value of citrus fruit, as well as collating global data and identifying trends.

Leadership from the Grower Development Chamber is now represented on all CGA Group company boards, a significant step in leadership development and inclusivity in the citrus sector. It is pleasing to observe the successful strides that black growers are making in the industry. This will be buoyed by the Jobs Fund project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the CGA Directors, Justin and staff for their support, dedication and extremely hard work during the past challenging season.

"You have to be very open minded. Your success is going to be dependent on how you adapt.

The best way to predict the future is to create it".





CEO's Report

Justin Chadwick

We have all heard the phrase “avoid it like the plague” – in 2020 we realized what sage advice that is.

As the 2019/2020 season came to an end we were hearing rumours of a deadly disease in Wuhan, China – social media was aflutter with videos and pictures of dead bodies piling up in mortuaries and spilling over into streets. At Fruit Logistica in February 2020 we experienced a taste of what was to come – the Chinese section was eerily quiet with not a person around; they had been prohibited to travel.

On 27 March 2020 South Africa went into hard lockdown, and the indications were that the first wave of the pandemic (at that stage we did not think about more waves) would coincide with the peak of the citrus season.

At the Citrus Growers Association (CGA) we realized that we were dealing with something never before experienced. Although the impact of the pandemic was completely unpredictable, we decided to play with what was in front of us. A CGA COVID-19 Response Committee (CRC) was formed. This committee comprised of five CGA Directors, CGA staff and Citrus Academy staff. The CRC met every Thursday afternoon from April through to September. Risks associated with COVID-19 were identified, and ranked according to impact and probability. The CRC prepared responses to the high risk items. In 2021 the CRC has been reinstated, with additional representation from Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Fresh Produce Exporters Forum, AgBIZ and PPECB.

Although the predicted peak in infections did indeed happen at the height of the 2020 season, the responsible approach

taken by all in the industry meant that citrus export activities continued with little disruption. In fact, the industry managed to export a record 2,2 million metric tons of citrus fruit – for this ALL in the southern African citrus chain need a big round of applause. This does not just happen – it takes a huge amount of planning, implementation, re-planning on the run, long hours and a lot of stress; but the resilience of all in the chain made it happen.

During the year under review South Africa signed a protocol for the export of citrus to the Philippines. Opening of new markets are few and far between, and this new market is celebrated as it increases our ability to deliver on the mandate of increasing exports into Asia. By year end a few administrative issues are still being ironed out before the fruit can flow.

Black grower participation in the industry is starting to become meaningful as the CGA Grower Development Company (CGA GDC) assistance pays off. The year saw a marked increase in black growers' production, and an increase in their export activity. This will be accelerated with the CGA/Jobs Fund project which will inject R300 million into the black grower citrus sector.

The approval by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development for a new citrus levy to be administered by CGA for the years 2021 to 2024 has cemented growers' investment in research as the bedrock of the industry. In total growers will invest R1 billion in the next four years, with over 60% dedicated to research.





Administration

Gloria Weare

Governance

The CGA is governed by a Board of 23 directors, made up of representatives from each citrus growing region, emerging growers in the north and south of the country, a Government Relations director and a financially qualified director who heads up the Finance and Risk Review Committee.

With the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic which brought a halt to travel and physical meetings, the CGA's Board of Directors met via Zoom Conferencing during the year under review in April, June and September, under the guidance of the newly appointed Chairman, Cornel van der Merwe. The Annual General Meetings of the CGA group companies were included in the September two-day Zoom meeting. With the slight easing of restrictions towards the end of 2020, November saw the Board meet in Pretoria for a Strategic Planning Workshop.

There were no changes to the Board during the year under review. The Directors are thanked most sincerely for their continued commitment to serving the interests of their constituents.

Executive Committee

Cornel van der Merwe – Chairman
Ben Vorster – vice Chairman
Hannes de Waal – vice Chairman
George Hall
Gerrit van der Merwe
Piet Engelbrecht

Dates of Board Meetings

9th April 2020

(Special Board Meeting)
Via Zoom Conference Call
All directors attended.

2nd/3rd June 2020

Via Zoom Conference Call
All directors attended, barring Bennet Malungane (North PDI) who was not able to connect.

8th/9th September 2020

Via Zoom Conference Call
All directors attended, although both Paul Bristow (Zimbabwe) and Bennet Malungane (North PDI) struggled with connectivity.

The Annual General Meetings of the CGA Group companies namely Citrus Growers' Association, Citrus Research International, Citrus Academy, CGA Grower Development Company, CGA Cultivar Company and River Bioscience/Xsit were included in the September Zoom call

18th/19th March 2021

Via Zoom Conference Call
All directors attended except Mike Woodburn and Bennet Malungane.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) is the Government body responsible for the statutory levy process and they have observer status on the CGA Board.





CGA COVID-19 Response Committee (CRC)

Leading on from the outbreak of COVID-19 and the chaos that threatened to close down the export of citrus due to COVID positive cases at packhouses, harbours etc, the CGA formed a COVID Response Committee to deal with the issues as they arose and to circumvent delays as well as keep the citrus industry informed regarding the health regulations.

The Committee communicated closely with DALRRD to ensure that the regulations were discussed and made more practicable.

Orange Heart Fruit Donations

Through this Committee, growers were asked to participate in assisting with the donation and distribution of citrus fruit in order to stave off poor health and provide healthy fruit to the needy.



Following on from the success of this initiative, the Orange Heart Fruit Drive will continue through 2021 and beyond.

Communication

Roadshows

Due to the COVID restrictions on travel and meetings, the CGA held only one Roadshow meeting, via Zoom, in March 2021. The presentations were posted on the CGA website for members.

From the Desk of the CEO

The weekly one-page Newsletter is sent out to approximately 3000 growers, stakeholders and interested parties. The content is current and of interest to the citrus industry. Anyone can be added to the mailing list on request.

Twitter

The CEO has a Twitter account - [justchad_cga](#). He has a following of over 2 400.

CGA Website - www.cga.co.za

The CGA's website is comprised of two sections – one is open to the public, and the Member section is for registered growers in possession of a Production Unit Code (PUC/FBO) and members of the Fresh Produce Exporters Forum. We have over 800 individuals who avail themselves of the information on this password protected section. The Current Affairs section on the Home Page is updated on a daily basis with any documents or articles of interest to the citrus industry, also notifying members when they can check on updates on the Member section.

Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF)

The CMF was formed to ensure that both growers and export agents were kept up to date with news on the various overseas markets, as well as the estimated volumes of Southern African fruit available for export. These meetings usually take place twice a year; once in March to give estimates, and once at the end of the season to close up and discuss any successes

or failures experienced. It is sometimes felt necessary to hold a mid-season meeting, this is at the discretion of the various Variety Focus Groups, CGA and FPEF. Although all growers and registered export agents are automatically eligible to attend these meetings, other interested parties such as suppliers, and shipping companies can also be included on payment of an annual membership fee made to the CGA. Kindly email gloria@cga.co.za if you are interested in joining.

CGA Comms Tool

The CGA has its own internally managed Communication Tool through which various individuals on the CGA staff can send emails to assorted groups such as growers, stakeholders, variety focus groups, logistics, various markets etc. This method of contacting our members needs to be constantly updated with growers' details, be it changes of email and postal addresses, new growers and those growers who no longer export citrus. We ask that all our members ensure that we have their correct contact details. This means of communication is in the process of being upgraded to a more modern App which all growers will be able to download to their cellular phones. In this way they can be sent links to articles and information without having to access their computers.

S A Fruit Journal

The S A Fruit Journal is posted to all registered members of the CGA free of charge. The publication's shareholders comprise CGA, Hortgro, S A Table Grapes and FPEF. Articles are submitted from various sources within the industries and cover a wide spectrum ranging from research and technical papers to articles on the activities of shareholders and skills development. The SAFJ is also available digitally by going to their website www.safj.co.za. If anyone has any comments to make on the content or layout since the new look was introduced, please contact editor@safj.co.za





Representation

The CGA is represented on various Boards and Committees to ensure complete transparency. The representatives then feed the relevant information back to the CGA Board of Directors. The Office Bearers for the period April 2020 to March 2021 were as follows:

Agbiz: Justin Chadwick, Cornel van der Merwe, Charles Rossouw	CGA COVID-19 Response Committee: Cornel van der Merwe, Gerrit van der Merwe, Piet Engelbrecht, Hennie Ehlers, Jan Louis Pretorius, Justin Chadwick, Paul Hardman, Mitchell Brooke, Jacomien de Klerk	Food Safety Forum/GlobalGap National Technical Work Group/Fruit SA IT Steering Group: Paul Hardman
AgriHub: Mitchell Brooke	CGA Grower Development Company (CGA GDC): Andrew Muller, Ronald Ramabulana	Fruit South Africa (FSA)/SA Fruit Journal/SHAFFE/ATF: Justin Chadwick
BI Steering Committee: Vaughan Hattingh	Citrus Improvement Scheme (CIS): Jock Danckwerts, Paul Hardman	HLB Steering Committee: Justin Chadwick, Jock Danckwerts, Cornel van der Merwe
CBS and FCM Disaster Management Committee: Charles Rossouw, Ben Vorster, Jock Danckwerts, Cornel van der Merwe, Piet Smit (Citrusdal), Peter Nicholson, Hannes de Waal, Fanie Meyer, Hoppie Nel, Per Noddeboe, Francis Dillman, CGA and CRI staff.	Citrus Industry Trust (CIT): Phillip Dempsey	Market Access Committee: Elma Carstens
CGA Communication Committee: Jan Louis Pretorius, Deon Joubert, Justin Chadwick.	Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF): Gabrie van Eeden, Cornel van der Merwe, Jan Louis Pretorius	Perishable Produce Export Control Board (PPECB): Martli Slabber, Khaya Katoo
CGA Cultivar Company (CGA CC): Barend Vorster, George Hall, Siseko Maqoma, Hannes Joubert, Francois Joubert.	Citrus Research International (CRI): Piet Smit, Fanie Meyer, Deon Joubert, Edward Vorster, Mike Woodburn, Piet Engelbrecht, Louisa Mogotsi. (Citrus Growers Development Chamber).	River Bioscience/Xsit (RB/XSIT): Jan Louis Pretorius, Dave Gerber, Piet Smit (Citrusdal), Eric Nohamba
Citrus Academy (CA): Phillip Dempsey, Marius Bester, Bennet Malungane, Frikkie Olivier	Finance and Risk Review Committee (FRRC): Rajen Govender, Mike Woodburn, Andrew Muller, Hannes de Waal, Jan Louis Pretorius, Phillip Dempsey	SHAFFE/MRL Workgroup/Food Safety Forum/FSA IT Steering Group: Paul Hardman
Citrus Growers Development Chamber (CGDC): Eric Nohamba, Bennet Malungane	FMS Steering Committee: Jan Louis Pretorius	SIZA: Alana Snyman
		SPS/CLAM/CFSC: Vaughan Hattingh



Finance

**Robert Miller - Financial & Business
Administration Manager**

Levy

The Citrus Growers Association administers the statutory levy due on citrus exported. The levy is allocated to fund the following activities:

- **Research and technical support services.**
These are carried out on behalf of the CGA by Citrus Research International (CRI).
- **Market Access and Market Development.**
- **Consumer Assurance and Food Safety.**
- **Provision of industry information and statistics.**
- **Logistics.**
Ensures the efficient flow of citrus from farms to ports.
- **Transformation services.**

These include:

- Human capital development carried out by the Citrus Academy
- Enterprise Development carried out by the CGA Grower Development Company

In terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, the statutory levy is gazetted for a period of four years, after which a new application must be lodged. The current levy period expired in December 2020 and at the request of growers, a new four year levy application was lodged and approved for the period January 2021 to December 2024.

This new levy was published in Gazette number 43979 on the 11 December 2020.

The statutory CGA levies for the newly approved collection period are as follows:

2021 – R1.64 per 15kg carton
2022 – R1.68 per 15kg carton
2023 – R1.73 per 15kg carton
2024 – R1.79 per 15kg carton

CGA BEE Status

During early 2021, the Citrus Growers Association underwent a Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) verification audit. This process resulted in the CGA receiving a level 7 BEE rating based on the Agri BEE sector scorecard. The CGA B-BBEE certificate is available to all growers on the CGA website.

CGA Group Finance and Risk Review Committee (FRRC)

The members of this committee for the 2020 / 2021 financial year were Rajen Govender (FRRC Chairman), Mike Woodburn (CGA Director KZN), Hannes De Waal (CGA Director SR Valley), Andrew Muller (CGA Director Nelspruit), Phillip Dempsey (CGA Director Patensie) and Jan- Louis Pretorius (CGA Director Letsitele).

The main function of the FRRC is to provide oversight and guidance to the various CGA group company boards on risk, financial and internal control management. The FRRC also ensures compliance with various corporate governance and company regulations and requirements.

The Group FRRC held two meetings during the financial year on the 7 August 2020 and the 4 March 2021.





Risk Management

Some of the main risks to the CGA that were identified are as follows.

Effect of phytosanitary constraints on export volumes and associated levy income

Citrus Black spot (CBS)

Disaster management committee in place. Special Envoy is engaged with various role players on this matter. Government is being engaged. New export markets are being developed. Additional funds allocated to CRI for research on CBS. Trade lawyers engaged to prepare case for WTO dispute. Risk Management System developed and implemented.

False Codling Moth (FCM)

FCM management committee is in place to assess, monitor and manage this risk. Possible expansion of XSIT programme to new regions. Discussions with government taking place. FCM Management System developed and implemented.

Bactrocera Dorsalis

Is established in some regions in South Africa. Movement of fruit out of these areas is controlled. CGA and CRI Steering Committee Action Plan is in place and being managed by the committee. Other fruit groups have provided contributions towards the management of this risk.

Biosecurity - HLB

Biosecurity Manager position has been created at CRI to manage this risk. HLB Steering Group convened and HLB Action Plan developed.

Logistical constraints on export volumes and levy income

Logistics Development Manager is employed to address the following risks.

- Decreasing supply chain costs
- Monitoring and advising on reducing congestion
- Improving efficiency at ports
- Increasing exports through alternative ports.

Shipping cost escalations and national roads legislation is being addressed. Rail option being explored and encouraged.

Socio- political constraints on export volumes and associated levy income

Land Expropriation without Compensation (EWC)

CGA is communicating and engaging frequently and extensively with industry body AGBIZ on this matter. Is also engaging with the Minister of Trade and Industry. Submissions have been made to parliamentary review committee.

Transformation – General

CGA Grower Development Company is focused on developing black growers and industry transformation matters. Has developed good relationships with DALRRD and other government departments. Citrus Academy continues to focus on human capital development for the industry. CGA received approval from the Jobs Fund to implement a project to develop black citrus growers. This began in April 2020.

Effect of BEE status on future levy approvals

The CGA has undergone a BEE verification audit in March 2021 and obtained a level 7 compliance rating under the Agri BEE codes. Compliant status will strengthen future CGA statutory levy applications.



Buy in from producers - Constraints this may have on future levy approval and income

CGA holds a Citrus Summit every two years and conducts roadshows to each citrus producing area in alternate years. Regular communication with growers is done through weekly newsletters and various other publications. Growers are also informed through a communication database.

Mismanagement of company expenditure and corruption putting company assets and funds at risk

Two person release system in place on banking system. All payments are checked and authorised by Finance Manager and CEO. Payments are also checked that they are in line with the approved budget. Regular financial reporting is provided to the FRC, CGA Board and Executive. Annual audit is conducted. Review of internal controls policies and procedures was conducted. All control systems were found to be functioning well.

IT Systems failure putting industry data at risk and resulting in the company being unable to operate

Information Manager is employed to address this risk. Regular backup of data takes place. Offsite backup and storage of company data is in place and constantly monitored. Finance and accounting data is backed up to off-site location daily. New server installed in 2020.

A cyber risk review of all systems will take place early in the 2021 /2022 financial year. CGA will implement the recommendations from this review in order to improve and strengthen IT / cyber security.

The CGA has also taken steps to ensure compliance with the new Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA).

COVID-19. Effect on 2021 citrus season and exports

CGA has formed a COVID Response Committee. This committee meets regularly to assess and deal with matters arising from the pandemic. The committee engages with government through Agbiz.





Logistics

**Mitchell Brooke - Logistics
Development Manager**

6-Point Logistics Strategy

On 13 November 2018, the CGA board members and stakeholders met in Durban to develop strategies to manage the current and future export volumes. The strategy looks to develop initiatives mainly aimed at facilitating the forecast 20% growth in citrus exports towards the 2022 citrus export season. The CGA logistics portfolio continued with the focus on this strategy into the 2020/21 year as follows –

1. Rail transportation of citrus to ports for export.
2. Citrus exports from the Maputo port.
3. Increased shipments in breakbulk conventional ships.
4. Development of logistics IT and information systems.
5. Development and expansion of cold storage infrastructure.
6. Durban port operations and infrastructure development

1. Citrus Rail Transportation Development

Major focus was again put on rail development over the past year since it is expected that an additional 10,000 road truck trips will be required by 2025 in line with growth expectations. CGA and Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) continued exploring more options to move additional cargo on rail. The CGA also held a site visit at the GoGo cold room and packhouse facilities in Marble Hall. The purpose of this initiative was to align the Limpopo Provincial Government to the rail project development for Limpopo. Traction of rail transportation from the northern producing regions gained momentum whereby more than 2,500 reefer containers were railed to Durban from

Limpopo. The following rail terminals have been developed to transport containers from the northern region to the ports for export:

1. Bela Bela to transport containers packed in the Marble Hall and Groblersdal areas,
2. Tzaneen to transport containers packed in Tzaneen, Letsitele and Hoedspruit areas,
3. Musina to transport containers packed from the Limpopo River area, Tshipise and Zimbabwe areas, and
4. City Deep to transport containers from the greater northern regions.

2. Maputo Port

Exporting of citrus from Maputo port has all but diminished for the 2020 export season. However CGA has been encouraged to continue exploring options to realign the exporting of citrus from the port. By 2025 it is expected that growth in citrus production and export from the Mpumalanga and Limpopo regions will be so exponential that Durban port will increasingly be unable to cope with the volume. An assessment has concluded that cold store infrastructure is needed around the Nelspruit area that can facilitate preclearance inspections and exports to Far East countries (specifically to Japan and China). This coupled with easy access for shipments to Middle East countries would be sufficient volume for shipping lines to add a container service to Maputo. CGA continues to work on this approach to ensure sustainability of exports from this region.

3. Increased shipments in breakbulk conventional ships

As a result of the forecasted increase in citrus production and exports, coupled to this is the increased demand for reefer containers to ship the fruit. As an example in 2020, some 85,000 reefer container shipments were made from South Africa. In 2025, this could well increase to a demand for 110,000 reefer container shipments. It is foreseen that this demand

will negatively affect already congested ports as well as the foreseen inability for shipping lines to match this demand. The only plausible means to offset this demand is to increase the shipment of citrus in conventional reefer vessels. There was a 20% increase in shipments of citrus in conventional reefer vessels during the 2020 export season.

4. Development of logistics IT and information systems

The CGA consulted with Transnet Port Terminals to develop a port community logistics system. During the 2020 season, TPT subcontracted the development of the 'Cargo Connect' platform to Tata Consultancy Services. The Cargo Connect platform will be developed to align import/export stakeholders to a central information and planning network. This development should greatly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of port planning and operations.

5. Development and expansion of cold storage infrastructure

The CGA has recognised the need for cold store development and expansion in the different regions according to the forecasted volume growth. Two very significant cold storage facilities were commissioned during the 2020 year. Firstly the expansion of the PreCool Cold Storage facility in Hammarsdale, inland of Durban, with an additional 10,000 cold pallet spaces as well as Coega Cold Storage in Coega with 8,000 cold pallet spaces. In the last 2 years alone hundreds of millions of Rands have been invested across South Africa aligned to the increasing production of citrus in the country.

6. Durban port operations and infrastructure development

It is commonly known that the Durban Container Terminal is frequently congested which constrains the movement of reefer containers to the terminal. Transnet National Ports Authority in conjunction with the eThekweni Municipality have developed a Port Decongestion Committee to implement the necessary requirements to ensure goods move efficiently in and out of the

port. The CGA has been active in this committee and will do so until such time that the project scope has been completed. To this end, the Durban port infrastructure masterplan has been developed which will see massive investment in upgrading the Durban port over the next decade.

Logistics Communication

Various mediums were used as platforms to present logistics initiatives to the citrus industry. This was done at the CRI Packhouse Workshops, the PPECB pre-season meetings and the Citrus Logistics Forum. Logistics reports are communicated to the industry on a weekly basis to identify volume flows through the main ports and highlight logistics constraints. The CGA and Transnet Port Terminals held weekly meetings with key industry stakeholders in order to discuss operational challenges and to align stakeholders to the situation at the ports amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Impact on Citrus Exports iro Logistics

On 27 March 2020, the country went into lockdown with only essential goods being permitted to continue operations. Transnet invoked a hard approach to COVID-19 preventative measures whereby all staff older than 60 years, staff who were pregnant and staff who were on chronic medication were sent home. This impacted negatively on shipping as non-essential goods were not allowed to be offloaded from ships. Over a few days there were more than 20 container ships outside the SA ports which indicated that if the ports did not resume to normalized levels, massive bottlenecks would occur. The CGA met with Transnet management, Transnet Board and Minister of Public Enterprises to outline the situation. Very shortly afterward capacity at the Durban and Port Elizabeth ports resumed to normality whilst the Cape Town ports continued to be affected by positive COVID cases. Overall, exports were not substantially affected by the COVID lockdown measures and logistics continued in the most part.





Information

Portia Magwaza – CGA Research Economist

The CGA and Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum (FPEF) jointly fund the procurement of citrus information from two sources. The Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) supply weekly data on volumes of citrus packed and passed for export. AgriHub, an independent legal entity established between the South African fruit exporting industries and four competing software solution providers, supplies shipping data and reports on a real-time basis. This information is made available to all members of the CGA and the Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF).

Tree Census

The annual tree census was compiled from data collected during the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's (DALRRD) orchard registration process for exports in October 2020. Additional information was also provided by Zimbabwe and Swaziland (now eSwatini) growers. Of the 96 230 hectares accounted for in the 2020 census, Valencia and midseason oranges made up 31%. Interestingly, soft citrus hectares (24%) and lemons (19%) have overtaken navels (17%). Grapefruit remains at 9%. The tree census data is used for many purposes, including the Citrus Statistics booklet and updating the long term citrus production predictions.



Citrus Statistics Booklet

The annual Citrus Statistics booklet provides an overview of exports, crop distribution and growth trends of the different citrus commodities. Export-related data is supplied by Agrihub and PPECB. The tree census data as well as

data on export and local market sales, processing volumes and revenue are obtained from DALRRD. Budwood sales data supplied by CRI are also published in the booklet. The booklet has been printed and posted to all registered citrus growers and appears on the Member section of the CGA website.

Packed Figures

Information on volumes packed was supplied by PPECB on a weekly basis. These figures are placed on the Member section of the CGA website (www.cga.co.za). The packed figures reflect the actual volumes packed to date, previous years packed figures and the estimated packed figures for the current season. These figures are presented on a weekly and cumulative basis.

Shipped Figures

Information on volumes shipped was supplied by AgriHub in 2020. These reports are posted on the website on a weekly basis and show volumes shipped per variety, per week and per market with comparisons to previous years. Several additional reports were added to the existing selection in 2020. The reports can be drawn at any time directly from the Agrihub website and a selection are posted on the CGA website weekly.

Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF)

The CMF is a joint forum between growers and export agents (CGA and FPEF). It provides a platform for the sharing of information, initiating research and investigations, and making recommendations on a wide range of industry issues. In the 2020/21 year the CMF met twice. In October 2020 the closing season's events and lessons were discussed and in March 2021 the forthcoming season was the main area of consideration. The input to the CMF from the variety focus groups with respect to estimates, projections and growers' feedback was facilitated by the CGA.

Variety Focus Groups

The 2020 southern African citrus export crop estimate was

assembled by the regional variety focus representatives in March 2020. Regular Zoom meetings were held during the season to update the crop projection and discuss the markets. The variety focus groups' updated crop projections were communicated to the industry in the CEO's weekly newsletter and in minutes published on the CGA website. The table below shows the original 2020 estimates, the actual volumes achieved, and the estimates for the 2021 season. All figures are in 15 kilogram equivalents. The variety focus groups aim to estimate within 10% of final volumes inspected and passed for export by PPECB inspectors. Overall the 2020 estimate was 95% accurate.

Type	2020 Estimate (CGA)	2020 Actual	% Actual vs. Estimate	2021 Estimate
Valencia	50 361 673	55 052 065	9%	57 946 231
Navels	26 527 980	26 149 536	-1%	26 293 133
Grapefruit	16 688 662	15 482 554	-7%	18 031 324
Lemons	26 406 988	29 636 682	12%	30 224 748
Soft citrus	23 304 766	23 621 966	1%	30 478 091
Total	143 290 069	149 942 803	5%	162 973 527

International Information Exchange

Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters (SHAFFE):

The major southern hemisphere fresh citrus exporting countries participate in a joint initiative whereby members supply information of shipped by volume and destination to the SHAFFE secretariat who collates and supplies this information to the participating SHAFFE members. The weekly information was published on the CGA website and used in the Citrus Variety Update, SHAFFE graphical reports and others.

World Citrus Organisation (WCO) was officially launched at Fruit Logistica in Berlin in 2020. The WCO is the first global platform aimed at increasing coordination, dialogue and

action between citrus producing countries across the world. Freshfel Europe coordinate and administer the WCO, and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) provides expert market analysis and advice on trends for the citrus industry globally. A World Citrus Conference was held in November 2020.

The WCO's immediate focus is to collect the production and marketing data for the industry for this season. The WCO aims to claw back market share taken by other organised fresh produce sectors. The goal is to get more people to consume citrus – whether that be fresh or processed.

Their mandate is to:-

- Discuss common issues affecting citrus producing countries;
- Exchange information on production and market trends to prepare for the next decade - 2030;
- Foster dialogue on policy issues of common concern;
- Identify and promote Research and Innovation projects specific to the citrus sector;
- Liaise with public and private stakeholders on citrus-related matters to highlight the importance of citrus producers and the need for a fair return; and
- Promote the global consumption of citrus.

CGA CEO Justin Chadwick and the Spanish Lemon and Grapefruit Interbranch Association, AILIMPO CEO Jose Garcia Fernandez are the WCO's co-chairpersons for a period of two years. SA, which is the second largest global exporter of citrus fruit, played a leading role in the formation of the WCO, and through its co-chairmanship, will continue spearheading a new path where citrus producing countries work together.

Other citrus producing countries are invited to join the organisation. Private entities interested in the fresh and processed citrus markets can also join by becoming affiliated members of the WCO, whose official website has been launched. www.worldcitrusorganisation.org



Variety Focus Groups

The variety focus groups set the initial season's estimate for exports, monitor the packed and shipped information provided by the service providers, discuss market conditions and update export predictions during the course of the season. Minutes of the regular variety focus group meetings are published on the CGA web site and summarized in the CEO's weekly newsletter. The variety focus groups also give opinions on dispensation requests referred to them by DALRRD when called upon to do

so from time to time. The variety focus groups met regularly during the season 2020/21 season via Zoom Conferencing, with CGA convening the meetings and acting as secretariat. The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa extends its appreciation to the variety focus group regional representatives for giving their time to serve their fellow growers. Thanks are due to Dr Hoppie Nel and Dr Graham Barry for their contribution to the variety focus groups.

The regional representatives of the variety focus groups for the 2020 season are as follows:

Regions	Grapefruit	Lemon	Soft Citrus	Valencia/Navel
Boland		R. Allen	S. Bruwer	B. Mildenhall
E.C. Midlands		D. de Villiers	J. Danckwerts	T. Landman
Hoedspruit	K. van Staden	G. Bezuidenhout	J. du Preez	B. Landman
Letsitele	B. Landman	B. Landman	D. Fourie	J. Joubert
Limpopo River	F. Dillman*	F. Dillman	J. Joubert	A. Muller
Nelspruit		A. Muller	P. Pretorius	M. Wafer
Nkwalini	M. Wafer	C. Gray		C. van der Merwe
Onderberg	M. Neethling		M. Bester	R. Van Zyl
Oranje Rivier	D. Steyn	M. Hamman	M. Odendaal*	T. Meyer/ S. Meeding
Patensie		S. Meeding		
Pongola	A. Rouillard	A. Barnard		
S.R. Valley	H. de Waal	L. Venter*	A. Janse van Rensburg	D. Joubert/ K. Terblanche
Senwes		H. Schoeman	G. Smit	P. Nortje
S-KZN		P. Button		P. Button
W. Cape		B. Mouton	H. Warnich	S. Engelbrecht* / P. Hough
e-Swatini	S. Geldenhuys			G. Brown
Zimbabwe	P. Bristow			P. Bristow

* Chairman

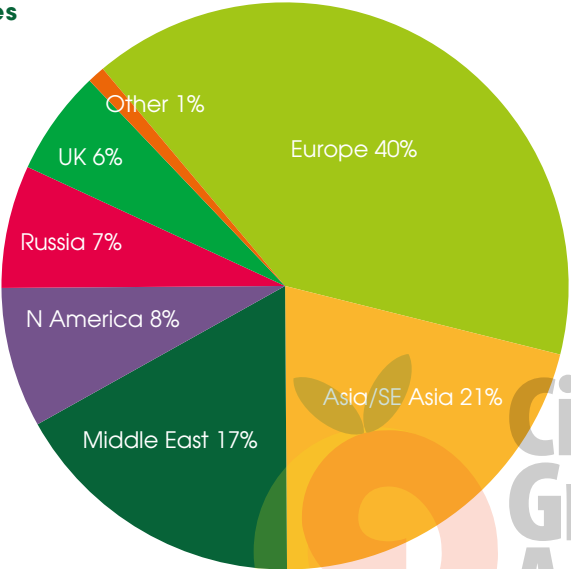
During 2020/21 the Navel Focus Group and Valencia Focus Group conducted joint Zoom meetings during the season.

The variety focus groups held meetings as follows:

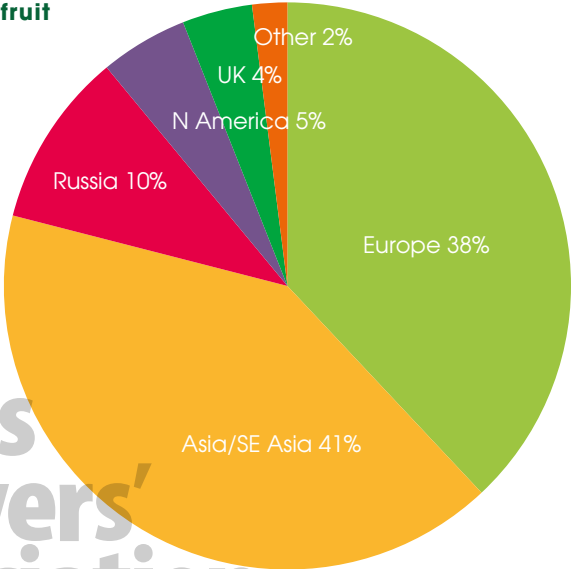
Month	Grapefruit	Oranges	Lemons	Soft Citrus	Total
March	1	1	1	1	4
April	2	1	2	1	6
May	2	1	1	1	5
June	2	1	1	1	5
July	1	1	1	1	4
August		2	1	1	4
September		1	1	1	3
Total	8	8	8	7	31

Exports 2020

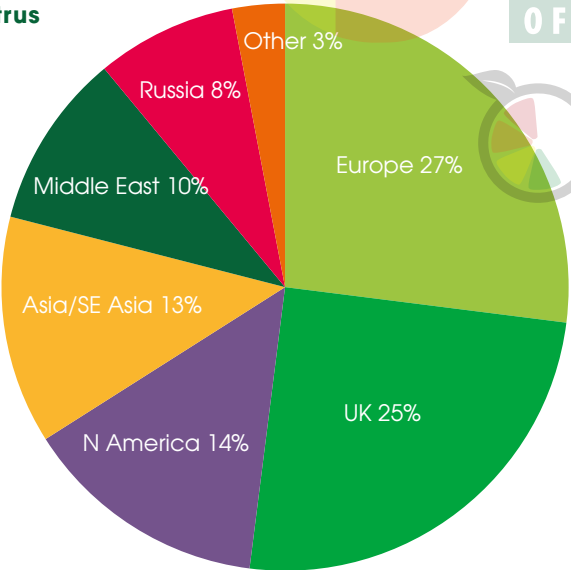
Oranges



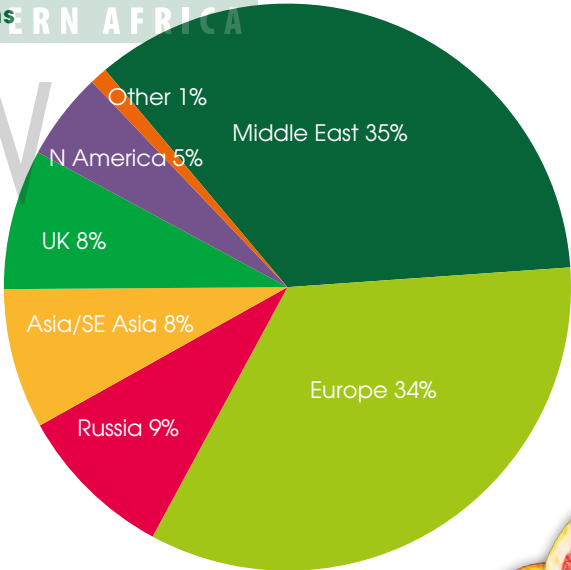
Grapefruit



Soft Citrus



Lemons





Consumer Assurance

**Paul Hardman – Industry Affairs
Manager**

The rapid pace at which food safety and sustainability requirements are now changing in key markets is putting the southern African citrus industry on a new path. How well the citrus industry adapts to this new policy and commercial framework will determine the shape and future competitiveness of the citrus sector.

This is particularly true in the area of crop protection where the availability of critical active substances is under significant threat while there are few alternative remedies on the horizon. Pest and disease management is expected to require much more research, adoption of new approaches and careful execution at the orchard level.

True Sustainability

In terms of new practises, the challenge lies in identifying approaches that are genuinely good for the planet and people in the long-term. Producers must resist being pulled off course with products that make for good marketing but add no true benefits to the grower, or worse are counter-productive from a sustainability perspective. Only proven tools that take into consideration ALL the key factors for successful exporting of citrus must be pursued. CRI has a key role to play in guiding the industry here.

CGA Food Safety and Sustainability Strategic Plan

At their November Strategic Planning Session the CGA Board gave considerable attention to what the future sustainability challenges facing growers will be. Management were tasked with taking these ideas and compiling a CGA Food Safety and

Sustainability Strategic Plan – a living blueprint to focus CGA resources that can be ploughed into helping the industry adjust to the new requirements.

The Strategic Plan seeks to address five key focus areas for the period 2021 to 2024. It is intentional about finding ways to improve cooperation and communication across stakeholders, and ensure everybody is “pulling in the same direction”. The key focus areas are:

- 1) **Better CGA-DALRRD engagement:** The challenges ahead will require close cooperation with DALRRD, particularly the Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA), and for DALRRD to defend or promote South African interests on the international stage. CGA have initiated regular briefings with FSQA to encourage this closer cooperation.
- 2) **Backlog of plant protection product (PPP) registrations in South Africa:** CGA remain very concerned about the backlog of approximately 3000 applications awaiting consideration by the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947. This means producers lack access to the latest chemistry or PPP options to manage pests and diseases. The industry is being placed at risk should any emergency arise where the approval of remedies would need to be done swiftly. CGA joined with Agbiz and the SA Agricultural Inputs Forum (SAIF) to engage with the Registrar and DALRRD management on how to fix this dire situation. By March 2021, proposals were tabled aimed at filling skills and personnel gaps and to streamline the registration process itself. Unfortunately no firm commitments to take up these proposals were evident by DALRRD yet.
- 3) **European Union (EU) PPP Policy:** From the early 2000s EU PPP regulations have included more criteria that are used when evaluating PPPs and in the setting of the residue tolerances (MRLs). Now as active substances come up for routine review (usually about every decade) these new criteria are being applied. CGA undertook a risk assessment

and found that at least seven MRLs to be reviewed in the next two years could be lowered, having a real impact on the industry ability to control key pests and diseases. This has a direct impact on the ability to comply with EU Plant Health requirements. In some cases CGA is generating appropriate data to try to maintain Import Tolerances (e.g. Mancozeb). Other projects to retain key MRLs are anticipated to start later in 2021.

4) Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork (F2F) Strategy: Besides the pressures from existing policies, the EU F2F Strategy introduces another important policy shift where the EU parliament has greater influence over the adoption of MRLs. Decisions around MRLs are no longer dependant on the science and technical merit of the case, but subject to political opinion. This creates considerable uncertainty in the MRL-setting process and is a significant disincentive for investment into new PPPs and technology.

5) Retailer Requirements: The commercial food safety and sustainability requirements from retailers are also having a direct influence on how growers use PPPs. This is highly problematic where common sense and scientific advice is being pushed aside. Not surprisingly, increasing cases of resistance to actives is observed, and a movement away from true Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

The challenge remains that the phytosanitary requirements set by markets like the EU require the absolute control of phytosanitary significant pests and diseases and any deviation away from this undermines market access. CGA have made provision for additional resources in the Consumer Assurance portfolio to tackle these five issues in the new financial year.

Launch of the Citrus Sustainability Forum (CSF)

The CSF was launched in February 2021 to create a vehicle for the exchange of ideas and the development of joint solutions to the sustainability challenges. Approximately 150 participants

joined the first meeting. A Citrus Sustainability Survey followed in March 2021. The Survey showed that “Phytosanitary requirements”, “Loss of key actives substances helpful to IPM programmes” and “Retailer requirements” were the top three factors preventing more adoption of IPM principles. The result also clearly indicates that retailer requirements, and especially those from German retailers, are actually having a negative impact on IPM application and are the most challenging from a sustainability perspective. The empirical data from the Survey will be used when engaging further with retailers.

Confronting Climate Change: A fruit and wine initiative (CCC)

The introduction of carbon taxes for agriculture were delayed until 2023. Once these taxes come into play growers will need to demonstrate they are monitoring carbon emissions. Here the CCC is aligning itself with the taxation framework as well as the ability to trade carbon credits. Participants in the CCC are expected to benefit from these developments. However the ability to isolate and decrease the highest carbon sources on farmers – which is often linked to the most expensive inputs – adds immediate value to the managers.

Sustainability Initiative of South Africa (SIZA)

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the operations of SIZA when the national restrictions on people movement precluded on-site visits and audits. Virtual audits were initiated quickly. Once restrictions were relaxed in-person audits were resumed and ad hoc checks done to ensure the credibility of the SIZA system was not undermined. The online platform used by SIZA proved very valuable over this time. Although no international visits were possible, SIZA remains sensitive to what the market requires from a social and environmental perspective and seeks to balance this with the practical and economic approach to providing such assurance. CGA is satisfied with the performance of SIZA in the last 12 months.





COVID Reponse in 2020

Justin Chadwick

**2020: the year that offered so little
but delivered so much**

“Avoid it like the plague” we were all aware of the saying, we now know how true it is.

For the Citrus Growers’ Association of Southern Africa (CGA) and its members in South Africa, Eswatini and Zimbabwe, 2020 has been one of the most stressful, exhausting, rewarding, educational and lengthy years ever. The dawn of the 2020 southern African citrus season coincided with the governments declaration of a hard lockdown – bringing the country to a standstill (other than what was deemed to be essential sectors and services). A number of scenarios flashed before our eyes – and uncertainty prevailed. This piece is written as a tribute to all those who saw through adversity and made 2020 a successful year for the southern African citrus industry, and as a reminder of what prevailed in case we are faced with similar crises in the future.

When we as an industry sat together in late March 2020 we faced a few realities:

- This crisis was unprecedented, there was no source of learnings or a blueprint to follow in seeing our way through the season. There was no roadmap to success. This was seat of your pants stuff.
- It is what it is – there was no use in bemoaning the situation we were in. We would just need to suck it up, and address the issues as they arose. Hope for the best, but plan for the worst.
- We needed to act immediately on each element of the crisis – if you procrastinated another issue would arise and the problems would multiply. See the issue, address it, and resolve it; immediately.
- Even better – try and foresee possible issues before they

arose. Difficult in the aforementioned lack of blueprint – but be creative in assessing what was coming.

- Be clear and concise in what to do about each issue – strong leadership was needed. A message of uncertainty would mean a lack of adoption of the necessary actions to address the crisis. Make a decision – act on it with confidence. Reassess – and go again.
- Make sure that reliable information sources are used. There was (and still is) so much fake news out there. Even the reliable sources were learning as they went – but at least by using these sources the naysayers and the worriers could be addressed from a platform of good sensible discourse.
- This too shall pass – at all times plans had to be made with the end game in sight – that being when the pandemic is over. To worry that this would be the way of life forevermore could introduce bigger issues – depression and mental illness, despair and anxiety could take hold and render people less useful. By working towards solving present problems with a view that the pandemic would end gives hope and a sense of purpose. The reality is that the pandemic could be with us for some time – and we could even be facing similar situations in the 2021 season.
- Engage with everybody and anybody – this is the time to call in all favours, to learn from all those who can add value. With face to face meetings disrupted – now was the time to embrace the new communication technologies, to equip staff and members with the ability to communicate like never before.
- Be patient with the authorities – they have never faced a situation like this before. They are also learning. Engage

constructively with them in order to achieve the desired outcome.

- Make a decision to come out stronger after this is over – stretch staff targets, become a better sector, make things happen; in such a way that the Association and the southern African citrus sector is stronger than before the pandemic.

With this as background there are a number of factors in this pandemic, and with lockdown, that were beneficial to the southern African citrus industry;

- Agriculture, including the citrus industry, was deemed as an essential sector. Government was very aware of the danger of food insecurity; the situation could get unmanageable if the population could not get access to reasonably priced, safe and nutritious food. As a result, all agricultural activities could continue (those that were related to food security – with noticeable exceptions in forestry, wine and wool). This privilege was recognised by the citrus industry – as it was a privilege and not a right. The decision was taken to ensure that the citrus industry acted responsibly so that the allocation of this privilege would not be reconsidered.
- Southern African citrus is exported using ocean going vessels – not aircraft. The banning of flights around the globe meant that fresh produce using airfreight was extremely disrupted, in most cases halted. Although sea freight was disrupted – it was not halted completely.
- Citrus fruit is sold in wholesale, retail and hospitality trade. These multiple routes to the customer meant that fruit could still move. Considering that the pandemic started in Asia in a wet market, many Asian countries clamped down on these markets. In addition, the retail sector was disrupted due to pandemic regulations, making shopping more difficult; and most problematic was the closing down of the hospitality trade (restaurants, hotels and bars). Citrus fruit such as lemons are used extensively in the restaurant and bar trade – this seems to have been offset by the cook at

home trend, with lemons being an important ingredient.

- Consumers wanted to have less visits to the retail store – each visit represented another risk of becoming ill. As a result, fresh produce that had a longer shelf life was preferred. On top of this – citrus did not need to take up space in the fridge.
- Citrus has long been perceived as a remedy for colds and flu, and an immune booster. Many consumers turned to citrus for vitamin C, and in response to health experts advised to consume more fresh produce. Interestingly, navel oranges became a sought after citrus fruit, in some way reversing a trend where consumers were switching from navels to easy peelers.

Given the above scenario, let us look at what CGA did. Internally we needed a committee to assist with the narrative, the planning, the resourcing and the driving of a strong response to COVID-19. All information pointed to the peak of the pandemic coinciding with the peak of the southern African citrus industry. With a labour intensive industry facing a pandemic that put people out of work (whether that be to recuperate, quarantine or isolate) at the peak of the season – the season was under threat. CGA needed to be agile, assertive and pivot when needed.

This need resulted in the creation of the CGA COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMITTEE (the CRC). The CRC included the CGA Chairman, two Executive Committee members of CGA, and two Directors of CGA. In addition, CRC members included the CEO of CGA, senior staff of CGA and the General Manager of the Citrus Academy. The five CGA Directors on the CRC represented the bigger citrus growing regions (Letsitele, Sundays River, Senwes, Western Cape and Onderberg). The CRC met on a Thursday at 14h00 from 15 April to 27 August 2020 – all in all twenty weekly meetings were held.

The CRC prepared a risk monitoring and action template. The different value chain links in





the industry were identified – on farm, packhouse, transport, cold stores, port, documentation, shipping and markets. In each of these links the key risks were identified prior to the start of lockdown:

- A significant risk was that of workers falling ill – the impact of even one worker testing positive could be devastating given the protocols regarding isolation and quarantine of those deemed to be a contact of the positive tested worker. Worst case scenario was that harvesting teams could be closed down; or packing houses, cold stores or shipping terminals. As the pandemic spread from the Western Cape to the north, this risk increased.
- A further risk was that of inspectors (government and Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB)) falling ill - and the associated contact screening, isolation and quarantine that follows such a positive case. Citrus destined for export markets needs to be inspected to meet phytosanitary protocols and quality standards; should inspection capacity be impacted this could be problematic.
- There are three pre-clearance programmes for fruit exported from South Africa – all fruit destined for Japan, USA and South Korea is subject to a pre-clearance inspection. With international travel halted, there was a risk that citrus would not be pre-cleared for these markets.
- The hard lockdown meant that all but essential services ceased operations. There was a concern that this could impact on citrus industry access to important inputs; most importantly (as packing was commencing) access to cartons, pallets, labels and other packaging essentials.
- Movement of people was also registered as a risk; the citrus industry makes use of a large number of seasonal workers to harvest and pack citrus fruit. The hard lockdown

introduced extreme measures governing the movement of people – there was a risk that workers may not get to farms and packhouses across the country.

- In the first few months of 2020 the trade press was full of stories regarding thousands of containers stuck in various ports around the world (mostly in China) as the necessary people to move the containers, or unload and work the containers; had been forced to stay at home. This was identified as a risk – the southern African citrus industry would require empty containers in order to load the 2020 citrus crop; if these containers were stuck in other sites around the world this could be problematic.
- Cold store capacity in South Africa and abroad was identified as a risk. Once harvesting and packing starts – the industry keeps churning out pallets of fruit; and if logistics chains keep moving, this fruit keeps arriving in the port precinct. There was a concern that any shortage of container capacity, or any disruption in logistics chains could lead to citrus fruit volumes building up in the cold stores, eventually leading to cold store capacity shortages. In addition to this there was a concern that non-essential goods could clog up the cold stores (as there was restrictions on movement of these goods). Likewise – these events in target markets could also impact on the free flow of cargo.
- The efficiency of ports – and in particular the container terminals – was identified as a risk. When the country went into lockdown, Transnet Port Terminals reduced staffing in Durban to 30%. This decision was based on an assumption that only essential cargo would be worked, and on the high number of staff at risk from the virus. What this failed to address was the fact that offloading and loading only essential cargo is nigh impossible. What was needed was for an entire vessel to be offloaded, and non-essential cargo to be stored until restrictions eased. This reduction in

work force was a huge risk to the industry as more than 50% of southern African citrus is exported through Durban. Given the difficulties in Port Elizabeth and Coega port in 2019, and concerns about Cape Town – port efficiency was identified as a risk.

- Added to that – there was a concern about port communications. This risk was identified as the risk of port management timeously advising the citrus industry on port activities, as well as industry keeping port management abreast of the crop volumes, packing and fruit being sent to the ports.
- Asia has been a target for increased export volumes for some time. In Asia a considerable volume of fruit is marketed in wholesale (or wet) markets. Since the Corona Virus was contracted in the wet markets in China, these markets had been closed down initially, and later allowed to operate under restrictive conditions. This was the case throughout Asia. There was a risk that these markets would not operate efficiently, and that volumes demanded in Asia could be reduced.
- There were also risks in other markets – there was a great deal of uncertainty regarding how retail stores would operate, what the impact of closure of the hospitality trade (restaurants, bars and hotels) would hold for citrus fruit. Markets were identified as a risk.
- Much of the documentation required to ensure the passage of fruit through the supply chain is couriered to authorities and trading partners in destination markets. Most courier services stopped during hard lockdown. The ability to ensure documentation requirements were met was identified as a significant risk.

Once the season started, and harvesting and packing tempo increased, additional risks were added:

- After hard lockdown, and with restrictions lifted as the

country moved up to level 1, the diesel industry was caught off guard by the increase in demand for refined diesel. The refineries had insufficient diesel for the demand. In addition, criminal elements had tapped into the diesel pipeline between Durban and the reef, causing a disruption to the diesel supply line. This was a risk as almost all citrus fruit from northern South Africa and Zimbabwe is transported by road to Durban port.

- Unrest around the employment of foreign drivers raised its head again mid-season. This unrest manifested in the burning of trucks, and attacks on foreign drivers. These criminal activities forced transport companies to change their operations, a risk to the citrus industry. Many transport companies stopped travelling at night, others hiked their freight transport costs while others refused to offer a service. This threatened the growers' ability to get fruit from packhouse to port.
- The changed trucking operations lead to congestion in the Durban port precinct, which had been problematic even before 2020. Coupled with the big 2020 citrus crop, Durban port was a risk.
- Given all these risks, the CRC needed a systematic method to decide on priority risks, and an action plan to address the identified risks. For this purpose, all risks were scored on a scale of 1 to 10 in terms of probability and impact. A risk that was highly improbable scored a 1; while a highly likely risk scored a 10. Likewise, if the risk held little impact on the citrus industry it scored a 1; while a risk that had a massive impact on the industry scored a 10. By multiplying probability and risk a score out of 100 was calculated. Any risk that scored more than 30 was then identified as needing an action. The CRC then identified the CGA's area of influence – and developed an action plan to address those risks scoring above 30 where influence could be exerted.



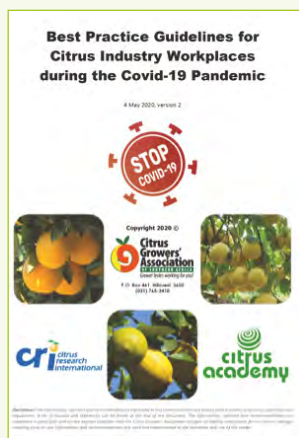


- The evolution of these risks is presented in the heat table below:

	24/4	30/4	7/5	14/5	21/5	28/5	4/6	11/6	18/6	25/6	2/7	9/7	16/7	23/7	30/7	6/8	13/8
Farm Worker +ve	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	100	100	100	80	80	80
Farm availability inputs and services	30																
Farm workers - interprovincial transport			40	40	40												
Packhouse input and services	64																
Inspection Services DALRRD PPECB	56	56	64	64	64	64	64	80	80	80	80	100	100	80	70	50	30
Packhouse worker +ve	49	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	100	100	100	80	80	80
Farm Packhouse transport workers	35	35	35	35	35												
Diesel shortage						80	80	80	80	80	80	80	40				
Transport Criminal activities						42	42	42	42	42	42	80	80	64	64	64	32
Transport Border Post												64	80	40	40	40	40
Transport Cost												64	80	100	100	30	30
Transport Congestion												48	80	100	100	50	
Transport Availability Vehicles												42	80	80	80		
Cold Store worker tested +ve	56	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	100	100	80	80	80
Cold Store Space Availability	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	32	72	72	72		
Inspections Pre Clearance		72	72	72	72												
Shipping Availability empty containers	64	64	64	64	64							48					
Port worker tested +ve	56	80	80	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	60	60
Port communication	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56					
Port Efficiency		80	80	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	50	40
Markets Closure wet market	42	42															
Market Availability and Price competing products	32																
Market Volatility			56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	80	80	80	80	40
Markets General low demand				80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	56	56	56	56	32
Documentation SARS/BOL	50	50	50	50	50												
Documentation Issuing Phyto	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50					
Documentation acceptance phytos	30											50	50	50	50	30	
Documentation acceptance phytos	30											50	50	50	50	30	

In order to address the risks a number of initiatives were introduced by the CGA;

- It was clear that industry stakeholders needed access to credible information. As a member of the Agriculture Business Chamber (AgBiz), CGA was getting regular circulars regarding government directives. These directives were consolidated into COVID-19 Memo's. In addition, the COVID-19 Memo's included any other relevant information with regard to COVID-19. In total 44 memos were distributed to over 3 000 stakeholders covering the period April to July 2020. The memo's stayed away from controversial or sensational aspects of COVID-19 reporting, and also steered clear of statistics of the pandemic; focussing on industry important COVID-19 relevant information, advice and updates.



It was clear that growers and packhouse operators needed guidance on what to do at the workplace. CGA and Citrus Academy developed two guidelines – one guideline for the workplace and one guideline for transport of workers. As regulations changed, or new information became available, these guidelines were updated.

Guidelines were distributed with the memo's, sent to all CGA members, and placed on the open section of the CGA website. Contact was made with fruit industry representatives in Spain, Australia and New Zealand who assisted by sharing their approach to responsible activities in the workplace. CGA also asked grower members to share their tips and experiences, which were also distributed to stakeholders.

- A positive outcome from the pandemic is the closer relationship with government. The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) called a meeting following the President's lockdown announcement, and a steering committee was formed consisting of all partners in the agricultural sector. AgBiz represented citrus industry interests on this steering committee. In addition, CGA had the opportunity of reporting on issues impacting the citrus industry through twice a week reporting in the BFAP End to End Agri Food Chain Tracker. Information captured in this Tracker was reported directly to the responsible Minister. Many issues identified in the Tracker were given immediate attention by the relevant ministry. CGA also held direct briefing sessions with Minister Public Enterprises (regarding ports) and Minister Trade, Industry and Competition.
- The CGA also used the opportunity to build a relationship with provincial government in the four provinces with the largest citrus plantings – Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Mpumalanga. Videoconference calls were scheduled with the MEC's for agriculture and rural development.
- The good relationship that DALRRD has with authorities in Japan, South Korea and USA also assisted with regard to pre-clearance. Japan and South Korea allowed DALRRD to conduct the inspections, while the US ensured appropriate capacity to ensure citrus fruit was cleared. The strong relationship between CGA and the US Embassy officials in Pretoria also assisted in minimising disruptions.
- CGA held weekly meetings with DALRRD inspection services, to monitor inspection activity and plan for different scenarios.
- As businesses opened up, government placed certain requirements on these businesses. One such requirement was that each business must have a COVID Compliance Officer. The Citrus





Academy developed a COVID-19 Compliance Officer training manual, and trained over 300 Compliance Officers and related delegates.



market were circulated to members, and Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters (SHAFFE) meetings were attended and reports circulated. Videoconference calls were conducted with the trade in China (importers, retailers and wholesalers) to get first-hand information on the status of the markets; while information was also attained from contacts in



Philippines, India and Japan. Industry contacts in the USA also provided information through the season.

As it turned out concerns about negative market dynamics were largely unfounded – in fact citrus products were generally “flavour of the month” and sales were very good (largely driven by the search for vitamin C and the perception of citrus as a remedy for colds and flu, and as an immune booster).

- A few years ago CGA initiated a project to move a lot of phytosanitary controls and reporting to an electronic platform. This project widened in scope – and was transferred to Fruit South Africa, with funding and participation from DALRRD. This was extremely opportune – as it allowed South Africa to electronically transfer phytosanitary certificates and related information. This addressed documentation risks in the EU, and some other destination markets.
- The CRI assisted with information on availability of pallets and cartons – which was generally undisrupted. CGA also assisted with certificates and proof of provision of essential services.
- For Zimbabwean growers the Beit Bridge border post was a nightmare – north bound traffic sometimes held up for up to three days, impacting on transport and provision of cartons and other inputs. South bound was less impacted, but still delayed. This was reported through the BFAP tracker.
- The lawlessness on the roads, with arson and intimidation of foreign drivers, was also reported on the BFAP Tracker, and received attention. Other criminal activities on roads in Western Cape (impacting transporters of citrus from Western and Northern Cape to Cape Town Port) were reported to provincial and national authorities.
- The diesel situation was reported on the BFAP Tracker, and some preference in supply was given to those transporting agricultural products.

- The CGA monitored cold stores – in general, capacity limitations did not arise.
- The shipping lines stepped up to the plate and ensured that enough empty containers arrived in time for the season.
- The biggest disruption was at the ports, and in particular the container terminals. Apart from the disruptions mentioned above (where Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) reduced the work force), TPT faced a big problem in Cape Town, where a large number of workers tested positive for COVID-19, resulting in a reduced work force (and operating less and less gangs). At the peak of the problem, vessels were at anchorage for twenty-two days, awaiting berthing in Cape Town. This resulted in one shipping line introducing surcharges, while others skipped Cape Town port altogether. Some fruit caught up in this debacle took over two months from harvest before eventually arriving in the destination port. As a result, a fair amount of Western Cape fruit was trucked to Eastern Cape ports – adding to time wasting and costs. CGA held discussions with the Minister of Public Enterprises; Transnet Group Chief Executive, senior

staff and Directors; TPT Chief Executive and management; to craft out solutions and keep the fruit moving. In addition, CGA was included in daily operational meetings, and weekly reefer container meetings.

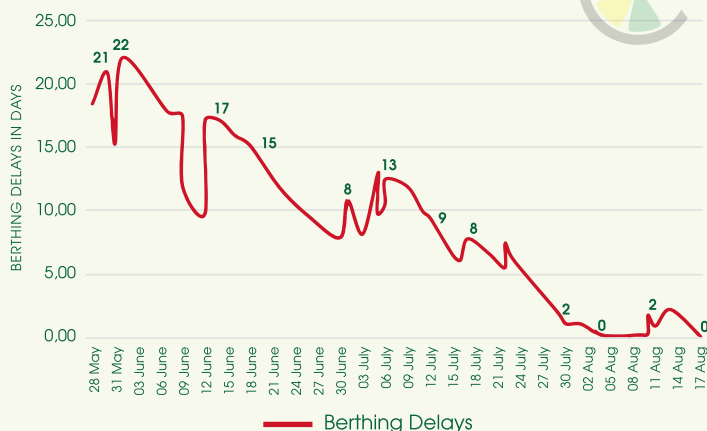
- The weather also did not help – strong winds and ocean surges caused many port stoppages – exacerbating the delays.
- The situation in Cape Town did improve, and fortunately both Port Elizabeth and Coega worked well.

There were also some really strange problems to deal with. One such problem was the discovery of stowaways in a vessel that had left Cape Town on route to Durban. One can only imagine the dilemma – with the pandemic nobody wanted to take custody of two stowaways with an unknown history. The vessel was turned back to Cape Town. Through AGBIZ, contacts at The Presidency and other high ranking officials the stowaways were eventually removed, and the vessel could continue.

One unfortunate outcome of the pandemic was the impact on lives and livelihoods – with the unemployment levels reaching unprecedented levels, small business operators closing down and the hospitality trade decimated. The CGA decided to assist by way of providing fruit for the needy. Firstly, CGA put out a call for growers and packhouses to identify surplus fruit that could be supplied to feeding initiatives. Thereafter, CGA approached the Department of Social Development, and NGO's to determine who required fruit. CGA staff were then directed to match the donated fruit with those who could distribute the fruit. In excess of 1 600 tonnes of citrus was distributed in 2020. In addition to the fruit distributed through the CGA initiative (called the Orange Heart Fruit Drive), many packhouses and growers distributed fruit, food parcels and other donations within the communities where they operate.

Early on in the process it became clear that those involved in funding in the citrus sector needed to be informed of what was happening in the

CAPE TOWN TERMINAL BERTH DELAYS





industry, how the industry was managing the pandemic, and what could be expected for the season. Briefings were held with the four major commercial banks – in March/April and July/August.

As expected the peak in the virus did coincide with the peak of the citrus season. However, the responsible actions of workers on farms and in packhouses, and vigilance by management, meant that very few workers fell ill, and there were no reports of harvesting gangs being disrupted, or packhouses being closed down.

In conclusion

- The impact of the pandemic has resulted in a much closer working relationship between CGA and the relevant government departments, at all levels.
- Deficiencies at the ports were brought into stark focus, actions to fix the problem and improve efficiencies at the port are now being initiated.
- Economic recovery is being driven by export focussed industries – such as fruit.
- The Orange Heart Fruit Drive has introduced a sense of community – and will continue in 2021 and beyond.
- The important role of labour, and the value placed on a motivated and healthy labour force was reinforced.
- Sector and grower unity meant that problems could be faced by the collective, and decisions made for the collective good were accepted and responsibly implemented.
- The foresight in terms of implementing digital solutions to replace documentation was hugely beneficial.
- The demand for citrus fruit – in the quest for vitamin C, healthy food, food with a long shelf life and as a remedy for colds and flu – meant that sales volumes and returns were good in 2020.



Market Access



Justin Chadwick

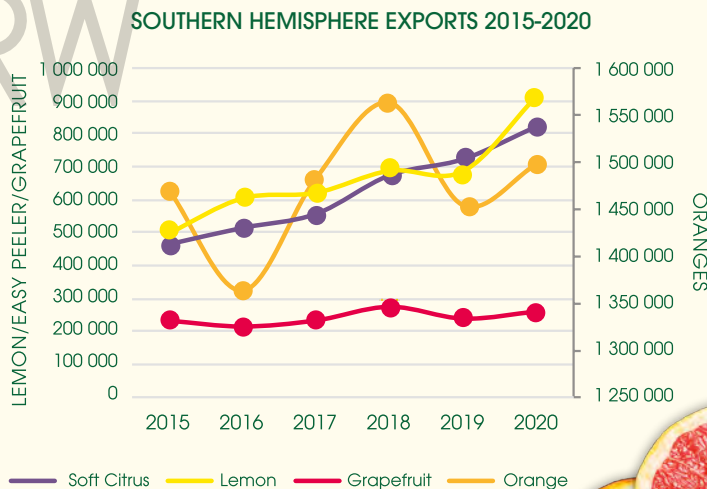
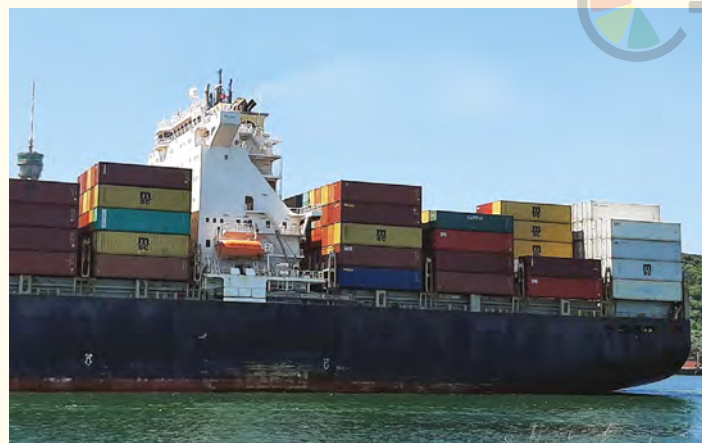
Dr Vaughan Hattingh

Dr Elma Carstens

Southern hemisphere citrus exports returned to their growth path in 2020, after taking a breather in 2019. Exports increased by 400 000 tons in the year – a 13% increase on the 2019 season.



All citrus sectors experienced growth when compared to the 2019 season.





Philippines

With the signing of the Workplan by Philippines Bureau of Plant and Industry (BPI), the final step to gaining access for South African citrus to Philippines is now complete. This has been a long journey, with many involved in the process.

The CGA would like to thank Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for their perseverance, and particularly Acting DG Mr Ramasodi and Counsellor Sithembele Kelembe who took us over the line. Others who played a crucial role were Citrus Research International (CRI) and Fruit South Africa. Dr Vaughan Hattingh reminded us that this protocol is twelve years in the making. Dr Elma Carstens of CRI travelled to Manila in late 2019 in a final push for access, while Mono Mashaba (Fruit South Africa) led annual delegations to Manila – massaging the process.

If there is one person who really went the extra mile it was the past South African Ambassador in Manila (Martin Slabber) – he opened his Embassy to the Fruit South Africa delegations who arrived on his doorstep every year, he attended trade shows, government meetings and seminars with the delegations; finding every way possible to advance the cause. In his Embassy he had some excellent foot soldiers in Tshire Kau and Ellen Vega. For a number of years Fruit South Africa exhibited at the Agri Link Trade Show – with excellent graphics prepared by Fresh Produce Exporters Forum. Exhibiting at this event, and seminars presented by Anton Kruger (FPEF) showed the BPI that South Africa is serious about the Philippines market.

Process: On 25 February 2020, DALRRD sent CRI feedback from BPI. In the letter an indication was given that BPI is in the process of drafting the Workplan and that the work plan will be sent to DALRRD for comments and review. Attached to the letter was the final draft PRA and the phytosanitary import

conditions. The phytosanitary import conditions however did not reflect all the agreements reached. DALRRD sent a letter to BPI on 6 March 2020 to confirm that BPI did accept the following condition – “Pre-export quarantine inspection shall be conducted by the DALRRD to ensure freedom from the all the Philippines’ quarantine pests of concern, particularly, *Ceratitis capitata*, *C. rosa* and *Thaumototibia leucotreta* and in case of interception of these species during the export inspection, DALRRD will reject the consignment and shall ensure that the fruit will not be allowed to be exported to the Philippines”. On 6 April 2020, the BPI confirmed in a letter that they did agree to the procedure for the pre-export quarantine inspection. On 8 April 2020 DALRRD sent a letter to the BPI to enquire about the status of the Workplan.

On 20 May 2020 DALRRD received the draft Workplan from the BPI. After consultation with CRI, DALRRD responded to the BPI on 19 June 2020. In the response only three issues were highlighted: - No de-listing of packhouses and orchards based on export inspection in SA; details of the responsibilities of PPECB and the correct stipulation of the 22-day cold treatment. DALRRD also requested the BPI to allow trial shipments, contrary to the Workplan stating that the BPI must be present in SA when the first consignment is exported. On 15 July CRI received the final Workplan for citrus exports to the Philippines from DALRRD and all the concerns had been addressed.

DALRRD submitted the signed Work plan to the BPI on 24 July 2020. On 31 August 2020 SA received the signed Workplan from the BPI. The negotiations for market access for all fresh citrus fruit types from SA to the Philippines started in 2009 when SA submitted a Pest Information Package to the Philippine authorities (BPI). DALRRD made several follow up enquiries with BPI as to when permits will be issued and exports can commence.

The administrative procedures in the Philippines had been concluded in March 2021. The cut-off date for registration for export to the special citrus markets was 31 March 2021.

DALRRD will submit a list of approved PUCs and orchards to the BPI, as well as a list of packhouses.

Latest Developments - Despite follow ups by SA Attaché responsible for this region, DALRRD and Industry, the administrative procedures in the Philippines has not been concluded yet and therefore no imports permits are as yet being issued for the importation of South African citrus. We hope this will be resolved in time to allow exports to Philippines in 2021.



Vietnam

South Africa applied for access for oranges in 2012.

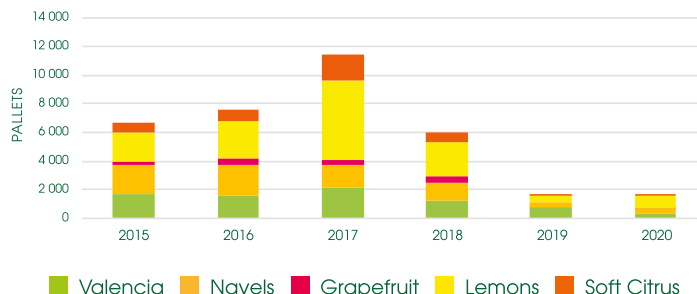
The first response from the Plant Protection Department (PPD) since January 2018 was received on 14 January 2020. DALRRD received a request from the PPD for a site visit to South Africa. The PPD requested confirmation from DALRRD that the site visit to the South African citrus industry can take place in June 2020. CRI was consulted and on 17 January 2020 DALRRD confirmed the proposed date (June 2020) with the PPD. The PRA is not yet completed. The outstanding issues are the finalizing of the list of quarantine pests and packhouse procedures.

No feedback was received from PPD on DALRRD's confirmation of a site visit in June 2020. DALRRD and Industry had hoped that the outstanding issues could be finalized during the site visit. On 08 July 2020 DALRRD submitted a letter to PPD requesting an update.

Latest Developments - There is ongoing engagement by the South African embassy staff, but an official response from PPD to DALRRD remains pending. COVID-19 related travel restrictions are impacting on progress.

Volumes - Without an official protocol in place, exports to Vietnam are negligible.

VIETNAM



China

Optimising access conditions for lemons - Exemption of lemons from the current 24-day cold treatment requirement.

DALRRD and General Administration of Customs in China (GACC) previously reached agreement to include a reduced cold treatment for lemons in the citrus export protocol. On 14 January 2020, CRI received a request from DALRRD to provide inputs on the response received from GACC, regarding the wording in the revised protocol. GACC agreed to remove the requirement for information about region and province on the carton labels. Although GACC had agreed with DALRRD on the quarantine pest control measures for *E. ceratoniae*, it was not reflected in the draft protocol received. DALRRD responded to GACC on 17 January 2020 with changes to the protocol reflecting what had been agreed regarding *E. ceratoniae*.

The early 2020 planned DALRRD Minister's visit to China to provide an opportunity to sign the amended protocol was cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. Other options have been pursued to get the amended protocol approved.





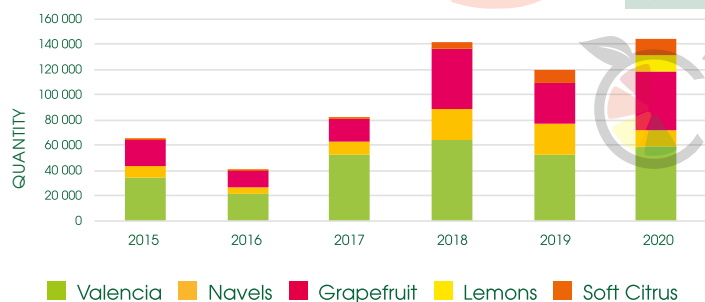
DALRRD received the final amended protocol from the GACC and provided the document to CRI on 06 October 2020. The

amended protocol reflected all the changes as requested by DALRRD. A virtual technical meeting between GACC and DALRRD was scheduled for 09 November 2020 to sign the amended protocol, but the meeting was cancelled and DALRRD has not been able to secure a re-scheduled meeting.

Latest Developments - Despite several follow ups by DALRRD and various industry partners, the amended protocol has not been signed.

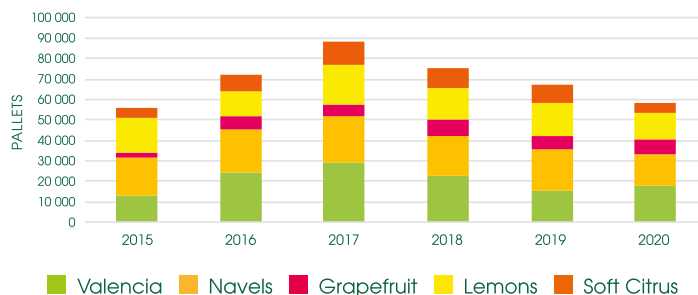
Volumes - Export volumes in 2020 recovered back to the 2018 levels at 145 000 metric tons. Despite the cold treatment, exporters sent 13 000 mt of lemon (up from negligible volumes in previous years). Grapefruit increased by 40% from 33 000 to 46 000 mt. Valencia oranges (13%) and soft citrus (33%) also grew in export volumes from 2019. Navel oranges decreased from 24 000 to 13 000 mt. This volume is the highest ever shipped to China.

CHINA



Export volumes into Hong Kong continued to decrease from the highs of 2017. The market decreased from 67 000 metric tons in 2019 to 58 000 mt in 2020 (a 13% decrease). Although there were slight increases in valencia oranges (+13%) and grapefruit (40%); lemons (-25%), navels (-25%) and soft citrus (-50%) all showed decreasing export volumes.

HONG KONG



Japan

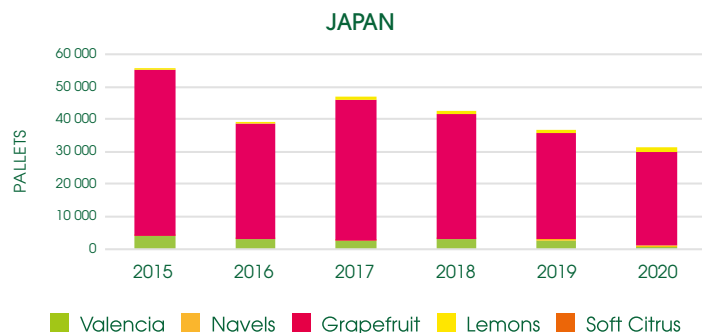
Wider access for soft citrus (mandarins) - Feedback is pending from MAFF.

Adoption of a revised cold treatment condition for the export of all citrus types - Feedback is pending from MAFF.

Amend current bilateral protocol to include all Navel oranges from SA - Feedback is pending from MAFF.

Pre Clearance Programme - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting global travel, DALRRD sent letters in March 2020 to Japan to propose alternatives for conducting phytosanitary preclearance inspections and calibration of equipment for in transit cold treatments. Japan indicated that inspections and calibration can be conducted by DALRRD and that a bigger sample will be inspected on arrival in Japan. Japan MAFF notified DALRRD that the 2020 inspection arrangements will again apply for the 2021 season.

Volumes - Export volumes continued the downward trend that started in 2013. Volumes exported to Japan have decreased from 55 000 metric tons in 2015 to 31 000 mt in 2020. Grapefruit remain the dominant player in the market – with export volumes decreasing from 33 000 mt in 2019 to 29 000 mt in 2020.



letter in support of the revision of the import conditions.

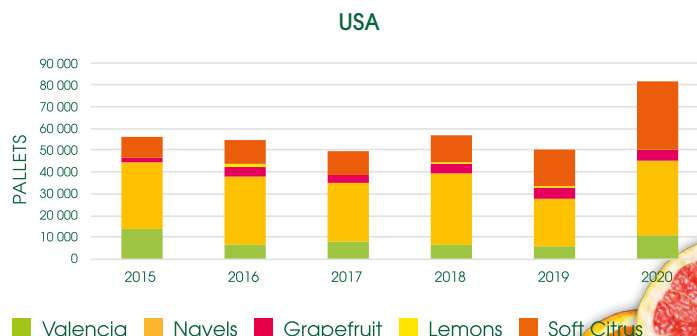
On 4 November 2020 USDA-APHIS announced that the restriction on ports for entry of SA citrus had been removed and the new rule will be effective after publication in the Federal Register on 5 November 2020. The revised conditions will be included in the Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements.

Pre-Clearance Phytosanitary Inspections - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting global travel, DALRRD sent letters in March 2020 to the USA to propose alternatives for conducting phytosanitary preclearance inspections. The USDA-APHIS indicated that inspections can be conducted by DALRRD and the permanent USDA staff in South Africa.

CGA Representative in USA - Nick Gutierrez was appointed to represent CGA in the USA from 2018.

Swaziland (eSwatini) - CGA and CRI continued to assist Swaziland growers and authorities with the access process.

Volumes - 2020 was a record in terms of volumes shipped to USA. After steady export volumes of about 50 000 metric tons over the past five years, 2020 volumes exceeded 80 000 mt, a 60% increase. The biggest increase was in soft citrus, an increase from 16 600 mt to 31 000 mt (almost double). Navel oranges also almost doubled from 6 200 to 11 100 mt; while valencia oranges increased from 21 000 to 34 000 mt. This increase in volumes was fuelled by consumers appetite for Vitamin C and citrus as a remedy for colds and flu. Retailers reported considerable increases in citrus sales in 2020.



USA

Equivalence between USA domestic CBS regulations and USA import regulations - access for fruit from the rest of South Africa - Still pending USA action

Recognition and access for CBS pest-free places of production in an area of low pest prevalence and inclusion of other Western Cape magisterial districts in the export program - Feedback is pending from USDA APHIS

Updated pest list - Finalisation of the revised pest list is pending from USDA-APHIS

Updated Work Plan - Finalisation of the updated work plan is pending from USDA-APHIS

Additional ports of entry for export of citrus from SA - On 21 January 2020 DALRRD requested CRI to provide inputs on the response from USDA-APHIS. CRI submitted a response to DALRRD on 13 February 2020. DALRRD submitted feedback to USDA-APHIS in March 2020 and on 1 April 2020, USDA-APHIS published a notice in the Federal Register. The Notice included a proposed revision to Import Requirements for Fresh Citrus from South Africa. The revision proposed that the restrictions on ports of entry for SA citrus fruit be removed, with a public comment period up to 01 June 2020. The CGA submitted a



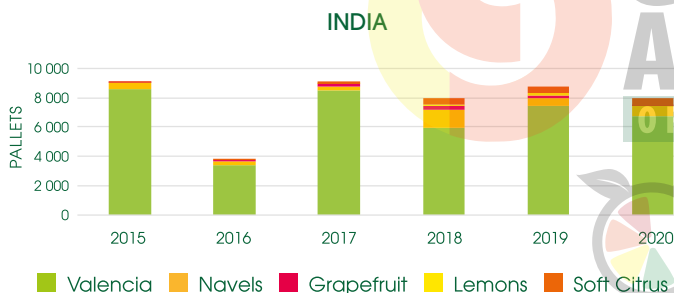
India

Cold treatment protocol (in transit cold treatment) for citrus shipments

- DALRRD sent a letter to the Special Secretary at the Indian Plant Protection Division in June 2020 to again request feedback on the trial shipments sent. Although the Indian Authorities acknowledged receipt of the letter, there was no feedback on the trial shipments and acceptance of the in-transit cold treatment procedure.

Latest Developments - Despite follow ups by various industry partners, there was no response from the Indian Authorities by the end of this reporting period.

Volumes - Export volumes in 2020 were in line with 2019 levels at about 8 000 metric tons, increasing slightly from the previous year. Valencia oranges remain the preferred product.



South Korea

Inspection, pre-cooling and loading of citrus fruit from other cold treatment facilities in South Africa, including the Western Cape - Feedback is pending

Pre Clearance Programme - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic

affecting global travel, DALRRD sent letters to South Korea in March 2020 proposing alternatives for conducting phytosanitary preclearance inspections and calibration of equipment for in transit cold treatments. Despite letters and follow up by SA Embassy in Japan, South Korea maintained their position that no exports would take place in the absence of a South Korean Inspector in South Africa. Meetings and further communication took place and on 24 April 2020 South Korea indicated that on submission of the following documents they will be in a position to make a decision: results of the field inspection of export production units during the growing season; confirmation of checks of regular disinfection and sanitary conditions of packing houses and storage facilities to ensure conformance with set requirements; confirmation of checks of cold treatment facilities and the estimated export volume and cold treatment facility location from 1 May to 12 July 2020. The documents were submitted to South Korea and on 1 May 2020, South Korea indicated that inspections can be conducted by DALRRD and that a bigger sample will be inspected on arrival in South Korea. They also indicated that continuation of this arrangement would be reviewed on a monthly basis. South Korea advised DALRRD that the same phytosanitary inspection arrangements will apply for the 2021 season.

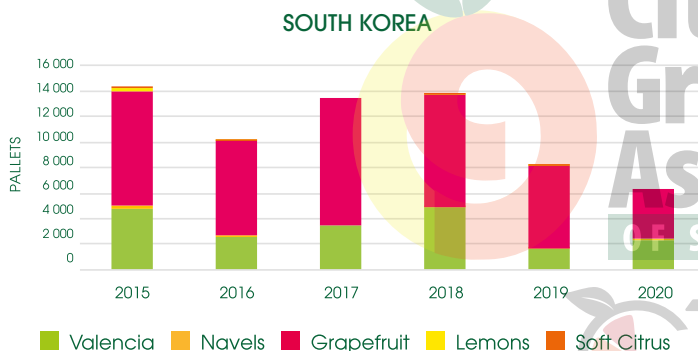
Mealybugs - During the last two export seasons concerns were raised by South Korea about rejections for mealybugs and incorrect carton markings. The most abundant species of mealybug that may be found on citrus is not a quarantine pest for South Korea. However, identification of mealybugs to species level detected during official inspections at the port cause problematic logistical bottlenecks. During the 2020 export season all consignments in which any mealybug was detected were rejected, without determining the mealybug species. This also resulted in problematic disruption to the programme.

CRI re-evaluated a molecular mealybug diagnostic procedure

that was developed in the early stages of opening the Korean export market. It was found that with some minor adjustments the technique can be used as a rapid mealybug identification procedure to reduce unnecessary rejections. CRI and DALRRD agreed upon a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for using this technique in 2021.

At the 2020 Annual Citrus Coordinating Meeting, it was agreed that a working group including DALRRD, PPECB, CGA and CRI will revise the procedures to present fruit for export to South Korea. The revisions were workshoped and finalised with the industry on 14 January 2021. The South Korea one pager document was accordingly amended on 11 March 2021.

Volumes - There was a significant decrease in volumes sold to South Korea in 2020, continuing the slide observed in 2019.

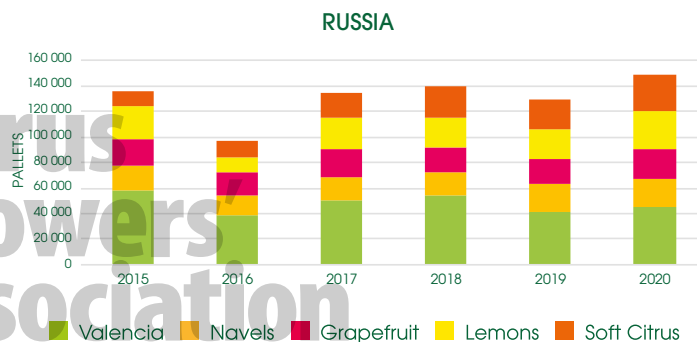


CGA Representative in Russia - Mikhail Fateev continued to represent southern African citrus interests in Russia. Mikhail used all opportunities to engage on issues facing the industry, and in building links between South Africa and Russia. Mikhail prepared a weekly newsletter which is distributed to the Russian Interest Group.

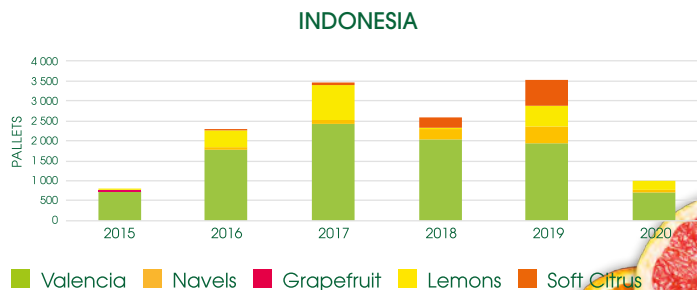
BRICS - Mikhail used his position on the BRICS Business Chamber to raise South African citrus issues.

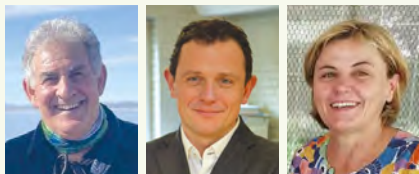
Labelling - This remains an issue in Russia. Anton Kruger (FPEF) and Mikhail Fateev (CGA) used every opportunity to raise the issue and bring about a workable solution.

Volumes - Russian exports hit record levels of almost 150 000 metric tons. This is an increase of 20 000 mt (15%) when compared to 2019 export volumes. Although orange volumes (both navel and Valencia) remained steady, lemons increased by 30%, grapefruit and soft citrus increased by 21%.



Volumes - Volumes exported to Indonesia were disappointing, back to levels last seen in 2015.





Deon Joubert
Rocco Renaldi
Dr Elma Carstens

The EU and UK received 44, 3% of the 150m carton southern African citrus crop during the past 2020 season. This represented 64, 9 million cartons - 15kg equivalents - and up by 23, 2 million cartons from the 2014 season's 41, 7 million cartons. This massive growth (55, 5%) in 6 years was not expected and delivered by the same consumer base it served in 2014 (27 EU member states and UK).

This growth speaks to the enormous capacity and resilience of the SA citrus growers to successfully re-adjust their production and marketing protocols on fruit destined to the EU. It did not come cheap as the price tag associated with the CBS RMS opportunity cost for EU access, annually exceeds R1, 8 billion. This according to a BFAP (Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy) study in 2019. Since that study, the FMS (FCM market access protocol) joined the EU market access requirements for SA citrus producers. It is considered to have an even heftier price tag. A study to quantify the FMS opportunity costs (plus an updated CBS RMS opportunity cost) is currently underway.

Perhaps the most significant improvement in Spain for SA was the joint creation of the World Citrus Organisation (WCO) with Spanish Producer Organisations in late 2019. The WCO got down to work in this COVID disrupted 2020 year and with the benefit of citrus growers around the world jointly discussing and addressing challenges to all, has shown the benefit of working together for a better citrus future.

The relationship with the EU's DG Santé remains cumbersome, notwithstanding SA's much improved performance and good standing on importing third countries regarding both FCM and CBS NONC's (notifications of noncompliance). There seems an insistence at the DG Santé level to politically deal (vote) in the Standing Committee On Plant Health (SCOPA) on plant health science issues. It should only be facts and science that counts in a science body. SA have undoubtedly been receiving much more attention and re assessment of EU access legislation than its excellent record on Noncompliance's (NONC's) warrant. This compared to any other similar pest count by importing third countries.

Fortunately access to other agencies in the EU remains open and warm, which allows SA citrus to convey its message - this of our high risk mitigating and utilising of revenue and growth to assist addressing the massive unemployment and rural challenges in SA.

Although the new "Farm to Fork" and "The Green Deal" EU policies are potentially restrictive and cumbersome (as they will refocus and rehash internal import controls and existing market access requirements), we have identified the SA citrus pillars regarding green issues, sustainability and development. This can be leveraged to align SA with new EU green, sustainable and development goals. This will not lower SA's risk mitigation on plant health matters, but may assist with eliminating some of the current unsustainable environmental requirements of compliance.

New faces in the EU Commission now champion these environment and sustainability matters and have offered assistance to improve SA citrus access by elimination of unwarranted and environmentally unfriendly practises, an avenue worth pursuing.

UK'S Brexit

Finally, at 23h00 GMT on 31 Dec 2020 we witnessed the

definitive departure of the UK from the EU. Although we are losing a major ally in the EU, and especially a large number of important votes in the EU Standing Committee on Plant Health (SCOPA), SA will reap a Brexit dividend through the relaxation of UK plant health rules.

There has been some confusion on the SA citrus position with regard to UK access, this regarding both Phytosanitary requirements and import tariffs. As from April 2021 no phytosanitary certification will be required on SA citrus exported to the UK. This with the exception of Northern Ireland, which remains subject to EU import requirements.

The import tariffs on citrus going forwards for the UK are as follows:

SA citrus exports to the UK were subject to the UK Global Tariff regime (UK MFN duties post Brexit) but the UK-SACUM (Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, Lesotho, Mozambique and South Africa) EPA has been in force since 1 January 2021. The agreement is a roll-over of the EU-SADC EPA in terms of tariff liberalisation commitments.

This implies that **oranges other than Fresh, sweet** (0805 10 80); **Clementines** (0805 20 10); **Monreales and Satsumas** (0805 20 30); **Mandarins and Wilkings** (0805 20 50); **Tangerines** (0805 20 70); **"Other"** (0805 20 90); **Grapefruit, including pomelos** (0805 40 00); **Limes** (0805 50 90) are fully liberalised.

For **Fresh, Sweet oranges** (0805 10 20) UK import duties under the UK SACUM EPA are the following:

- 1 June-15 October: 0%
- 16 October – 31 October: 2%
- 1 November – 31 November: 7.2% (the duty will be gradually phased out in the next 5 years at the same pace included in the EU-SADC EPA).
- 1 December– 30 April: 10%
- 1 May – 30 May: 2 %

For **lemons** (0805 50 10):

- 1 January- 30 April: 6%
- 1 May- 30 October: 0%
- 1 November – 31 December: 6%

As can be seen on fresh sweet oranges and lemons from SA, some of UK import duties are lower than those applied by the EU. This is because while maintaining tariffs, the new UK tariff regime has slightly lowered duties on a limited number of products and simplified the tariff structure. Thus getting rid of the EU entry price system as well as additional duties that can be imposed when there is a surplus on the EU market.

Lastly, the UK has also launched an application process (which opens between 1 June and 31 July 2021) for UK based companies to request partial or complete, temporary duty suspensions on products for which production in the UK is inadequate or non-existent. Theoretically a UK importer of citrus fruit could submit an application. Normally the products benefiting from such duty suspension would need to be used in a production process, but exceptions may be considered. The UK tariff (out of season) on oranges will track the EU tariff reduction resulting from the EPA tariff on imported citrus.

EU Compliance

The continued crucial importance of Europe as an export market means that we will need to continue our efforts to manage plant health issues to the best of our abilities and sustain our engagement with the EU and Member State NPPOs in 2021 and beyond.

Due to continued travel restrictions, we were not able to visit Member State NPPOs in 2020, but we kept up bilateral contacts from a distance, supplementing the work of our Brussels office. We worked particularly closely with our Dutch partners, since as much as 50% of our volumes flow through the port of Rotterdam.



CBS (Citrus Black Spot)

In terms of compliance with EU phytosanitary requirements, SA performed very well on CBS, with only 6 interceptions in 2020 (vs. 9 in 2019). The EU's focus was understandably on Argentina, which accounted for 112 CBS interceptions out of a total of 142 in 2020, mainly in Spanish Ports. Argentinean citrus exports were banned from the EU market on 14 August 2020 and only allowed back in on 1 May 2021 after an exhaustive process and guarantees.

FCM (False Codling Moth)

SA also performed well on FCM, with 14 interceptions. The EU's total was 231 FCM interceptions and while they may still regard the SA number as too high, it compares favourably with our 2019 number of 21 official FCM interceptions. Additionally, comparing with other third country imports, South African citrus was appreciably better than that of Uganda, with 129 FCM interceptions, and Kenya with 51. These countries export minor volumes, while SA did in excess of 921 K tonnes of citrus to the EU/UK combined.

The non-parity approach of the EU on SA is clearly demonstrated by the EU requesting an assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of SA's FMS (False Codling Moth Management System), alongside the systems approach implemented by Israel. The high FCM interceptions numbers from African third countries was not reviewed although some of them export to the EU from a production area "Free of FCM". While we considered this request by EFSA to be misplaced in light of our good performance, SA did cooperate. CRI provided invaluable input to DALRRD, which was conveyed to EFSA, whose report is expected in the course of 2021.

The final count of interceptions for South African citrus in 2020 was 20 with 14 interceptions for FCM and 6 for CBS. There were no interceptions for fruit flies. In 2019 the total number



Ceratitis capitata (Mediterranean fruit fly or Medfly), dominant fruit fly pest of citrus in South Africa. Source: CRI (Photo by Peter Stephen)



False Codling Moth FCM



CBS on a Valencia orange

of interceptions were 31 with 19 interceptions for FCM, 9 for CBS and 3 for fruit flies. Since 2016, 2018 was the best year for SA with only 12 interceptions - 9 for FCM, 2 for CBS and one for fruit flies. The worst year was 2017, when SA received 24 notifications for CBS.

Interceptions Analysed (2016 -2020)

The information below suggests SA has achieved remarkable low NONCs, given its substantial citrus export volumes. SA has recorded lower numbers as the Risk Management Systems have been bedded down and growers become more experienced with applied measures. This will hopefully continue as we jointly address production units with issues on compliance, and offer alternative markets to stabilise EU market access and growth.

i] 2016 Total = 15 (including fruit fly – 3)

Thaumatotibia leucotreta – 8 - first notification - June;
Phyllosticta citricarpa – 4 - first notification - August

ii] 2017 Total = 34 (including fruit fly – 1)

Thaumatotibia leucotreta – 9 - first notification - June
Phyllosticta citricarpa – 24 - first notification - August

iii] 2018 Total = 12 plus (including fruit fly – 1)

Thaumatotibia leucotreta – 9 - first notification - June
Phyllosticta citricarpa – 2 - first notification - September

iv] 2019 Total = 31 (including fruit fly – 3)

Thaumatotibia leucotreta – 19 - first notification - June
Phyllosticta citricarpa – 9 - first notification – July

v] 2020 Total = 20 (no fruit fly)

Thaumatotibia leucotreta – 14 - first notification - June
Phyllosticta citricarpa – 6 - first notification - July

Direct Shipping to Spanish Ports

The CGA/FPEF project was once again approved for the 2020 season. Although a limited shipping programme, this time

both Vigo and Algeciras ports were approved for access. A total of 377 containers were shipped to Spanish ports during 2020 and no EU NONC's reported. Excellent cooperation and communication were received from both ports. This is very good news as we are near to the historic direct supply figure to Spanish ports before the CGA and FPEF Spanish Port Embargo came into force at the end of 2015.

A very low (out of project) number of containers were recorded. There were 25 containers that went to other ports but the majority were Western Cape lemons, which have no limitation nor destination embargo in the EU or Spain.

Due to the Argentinian crisis (largely in Spanish ports) of excessive CBS NONC's which resulted in the Argentinian citrus expulsion from the EU in 2020, the project was carefully monitored and only shipments every second week were allowed. This ensured the possibility to stop the project if risks factors were rising.

In another positive move, the Spanish Authorities announced that the six Spanish Reference Laboratories for Plant Health – two in Madrid and four in Valencia, will be moved to a single National Spanish Reference Laboratories for Plant Health in Lugo, Galicia.

Clean Corridors Project

Again a lot of focus was on the Groentenfruihuys, Wagening University and KCB project with the CGA and CRI during the SA citrus season through the port of Rotterdam. This to assess the SA FMS in operation and possible adjustments based on the inspection data shared. The goal remains to have the SA FMS deliver minimal intervention corridors on low risk SA - supply chains. The project is still receiving high priority in the Netherlands but we have had some challenges with differences in interpretation on what constitutes dead FCM larvae or low/no risk.





2021 Market Access: USA



Nicholas Gutierrez

Deon Joubert

Consumer demand in the US for South African citrus continues to grow in a favourable trajectory, especially the soft citrus varieties, with a new record being reached of over 77,000 metric tons (MT) exported in 2020. This represents an increase of over 68% on the 2019 volume.

SA citrus growers ship fruit duty free to the US under the AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act). In addition, the public health benefits in boosting immunity as a source of Vitamin-C during the current COVID-19 virus pandemic should continue to increase preference for citrus in the foreseeable future.

However, full SA citrus market access continues to be hampered by USDA and USTR political leadership resisting the approval of the long-awaited citrus black spot (CBS) rule change for SA. The USDA has slowly harmonized both their domestic and foreign legislation for CBS over the past 9 years, whereby the disease is no longer considered a risk on fruit for consumption when basic field and packing house mitigations are applied. This progress was largely built on the SA citrus case study and CRI involvement in 2014. The current USDA requirements addressing CBS certification stemming from this work are now referred to as a “systems approach.” The USDA legislation began with Florida and Texas (2010) and the same rule has slowly been expanded to a number of third importing countries. So it is quite significant that Argentina (2013), Uruguay (2017) and China (2020) have received access based on this CBS science and technical principle, but not so for South Africa.

Currently, only CBS-free magisterial districts from the Western and Northern Cape have access to the US market. Full market access would allow access from all RSA citrus producing areas and would significantly increase especially soft citrus to eager US consumers (counter season to US supply).

USDA has recently announced Jennifer Moffitt as new Under-Secretary for Marketing & Regulatory Programs (responsible for APHIS & the Agricultural Marketing Service). She has not yet been confirmed by the US Senate but her previous experience was as Under-Secretary with the California Department of Food & Agriculture, and also managing the family walnut farm. No announcements have as yet been made by the Biden Administration for the key positions of the USDA Under-Secretary for Trade & Foreign Agricultural Affairs or the USTR Chief Agricultural Negotiator.

CBS equivalence on US domestic and import regulations affecting SA citrus access

Since 2018, USDA has been adamant in a trade reciprocity policy concerning the publication of the citrus black spot (CBS) regulation with increased access for US poultry and/or pork. Previous USDA Under-Secretary for Trade McKinney and USTR Chief Agricultural Negotiator Doud were insistent in their direct linkage regarding the publication of the CBS rule with that of enhanced access for US poultry and/or pork. Trade negotiations did not lead to any successful outcomes and both sides seemingly became more entrenched. Although the US considers the SA markets to be very small, the poultry and pork industry sectors continue to monitor closely and aggressively lobby both USDA and USTR to maintain pressure on SA by not approving any new market access requests.

However, the incoming Biden Administration offers some hope that the bilateral relationship may be reset, where the previous Administration’s rigid “quid pro quo” trade policy be modified to allow the publication of the CBS rule. Secretary Tom Vilsack

has returned to USDA after holding this position under the Obama Administration from 2009-2016. Secretary Vilsack was considered a major champion of AGOA and building a closer relationship with the African Continent, especially through USDA support of technical assistance and capacity building projects. Top Vilsack objectives include trade promotion and market access as well as assisting farmers/ranchers of colour and diversifying the USDA workforce. These USDA initiatives could provide an opportunity or pathway for SA to collaborate and cooperate more closely with USDA, especially with advancing the CBS rule.

SA Gains Full Access to all US Ports-of-Entry

On November 4, 2020, USDA announced that South African citrus would be allowed full access to all US Ports-of-Entry (POE). The new regulation greatly expanded citrus access from the previous four authorized POEs that included Newark, New Jersey; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Wilmington, Delaware and Houston, Texas. USDA based the decision on a 2-year risk evaluation study carried out at the four POEs, where over 2,000 shipments were inspected and no live quarantine pests were discovered. During the public comment period prior to the rule being finalized, Florida and Georgia citrus growers had unsuccessfully opposed the proposed rule stating that the risk would not be acceptable. DALRRD had made the original formal request to USDA to expand access in December 2019.

SA Lobbying Efforts

The CGA has maintained a proactive, outreach effort with USDA and USTR regulatory and trade officials as well as a number of US citrus importers and port authority leaders. The CGA representative in the US, Nick Gutierrez, remained very active in providing ongoing liaison and flow of information to the CGA on the situation and opinions expressed in Washington DC.

As such the COVID-19 restrictions were a major hindrance concerning public access to meetings and travel but the work continued through teleconference calls and video conferences. For example, the US Federal Government was basically shut down for the past year from March 2020-2021 where all USDA and USTR employees were working from home.

Additionally, the Holt family and Port Facility in Philadelphia remained a major source of assistance to address the current stalemate on full SA citrus access to the US. In light of the travel restrictions with COVID-19, they undertook regular visits to the USDA and USTR on the CGA's behalf, as well as organising multiple virtual meetings with their lobby groups and networks to probe possible options with the CGA in SA to break the deadlock.

Lastly, the South African Embassy in Washington welcomed new Ambassador Nomaindiya Cathleen Mfeketo in March 2020. The Ambassador has immersed herself in support of citrus by holding a number of telecon discussions with USDA and USTR leadership including a more recent effort to establish a relationship-building video conference between Trade Minister Patel and new USTR Ambassador Tai. In addition, Ambassador Mfeketo had planned an SA citrus representational event at the Port of Philadelphia last summer but unfortunately, the proposed Embassy celebratory occasion had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

US Ambassador in SA

Ambassador Lana Marks became a passionate ally of the CGA and worked diligently within the Trump Administration to persuade White House, USDA and USTR decision-makers to approve the CBS regulation. Unfortunately, she was not successful and resigned her position in January 2021 after the US Presidential elections. No Ambassador-designate has been selected to date.





USTR Effort on Hold via Proposal to Review of SA General System of Preferences (GSP)

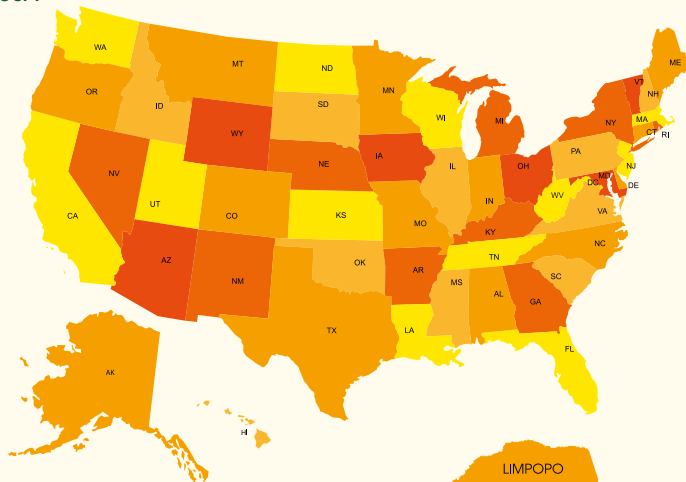
USTR appears to be satisfied with the on-going and open discussions with SA counterparts with no decision made to continue with formal legislation to review SA's official GSP status. A modification of GSP status would be extremely harmful by negatively affecting the duty-free status for citrus through currently AGOA special preferences.

As background, in January 2020, USTR held several public hearings to listen to a large number of stakeholders after receiving a series of complaints that SA was not compliant on protection of intellectual property rights. Fortunately, USTR was able to travel to SA in March 2020 to meet with SA counterparts and private sector entities and gather additional testimony prior to making any decision on next steps forward. USTR officials contacted were pleased with the site visit and the collaboration extended by SA officials. Lastly President Ramaphosa did not sign the incoming legislation on intellectual property rights, but referred it back to parliament.

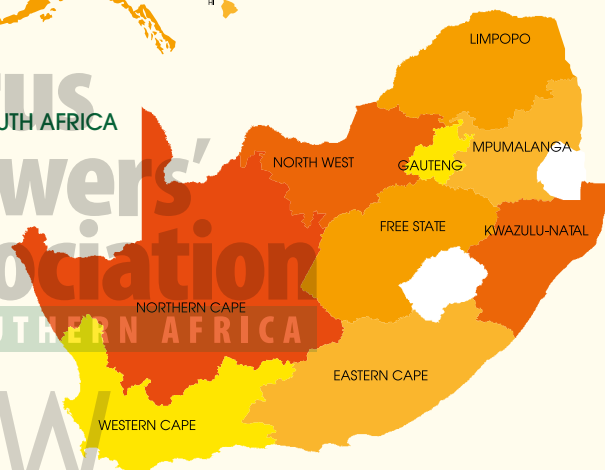
Status of Eswatini citrus access to the US

USDA continues to finalize the Pest Risk Assessment and begin to slowly draft the necessary text for a proposed rule that would eventually be open for public comment. USDA has identified the target pests and mitigations required similar to South African citrus. USDA would require the in-transit cold treatment to eliminate the quarantine fruit fly complex and false codling moth. CBS would be mitigated through a basic "systems approach" series of control measures at the field and packing house (i.e., CBS disease-freedom certification would not be included). Since Eswatini is such a small country without major strategic value to the US, special efforts by Eswatini government officials and the local Embassy will be needed to advance this issue via the limited USDA trade priority inventory.

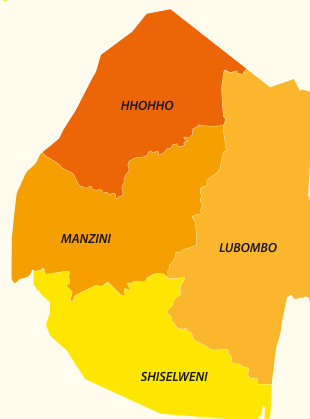
USA



SOUTH AFRICA



E-SWATINI





CRI - Research and Technical

Dr Vaughan Hattingh



Governance and Funding

The new levy that was approved by government in December 2020, represents a major milestone for the citrus industry. This levy provides the means for implementation of CRI's 4 Year Plan, aimed at ensuring that CRI continues to fulfil its industry mandate, as reflected in the CRI Mission: to maximise the long-term global competitiveness of the southern African citrus growers through industry research and technical support services. Extensive efforts throughout 2019 and 2020 were successful in obtaining the required industry support for CRI's 4 Year Plan and the new levy. In parallel, intensive planning and preparation took place for implementation roll-out of the plan as of April 2021, being Year 1 of the plan. This preparation included a major upscaling of research projects, a process that commenced in 2019, continued through 2020 and led to approval of the 2021-22 CRI budget by the CRI Board of Directors in November 2020 and subsequent approval by the CGA Board in January 2021.

The structure of the CRI Board of Directors remained unchanged as did the structure of the CRI EXCO with four grower directors, and a fifth place reserved for co-opting the most recently appointed grower director.

The Exco members were:

Piet Smit (chairman)
Deon Joubert (vice-chairman)
Mike Woodburn
Eddie Vorster
Piet Engelbrecht serving as the most recently appointed director.

The CRI advisory committees were chaired by the following directors:

IPM - Fanie Meyer
Disease Management - Eddie Vorster
Citriculture - Piet Smit
Cultivar and Rootstock Evaluation - Deon Joubert
Citrus Improvement Scheme Advisory Committee (CISAC) - Fanie Meyer

The balance of the board consisted of the following:

Steve Turner - Citrus Exporters Forum
Ntahbiseng Motete - ARC
Chris Kellerman - Citrus Consultants
Nigel Barker - University of Pretoria
Karen Theron - Stellenbosch University
Martin Hill (co-opted) - Rhodes University
Louisa Mogotsi co-opted in an observer status as a Citrus Growers Development Chamber nominee.

Market Access

In addition to the market access section of this publication, the following items are highlighted. Some longstanding market access issues remained pending, despite all technical issues having been resolved, reflecting the need to continue with a multi-faceted approach to gaining, retaining and optimising market access. Wider access for USA exports, wider and improved conditions of access to Japan, improved conditions for access to India, and a bilateral agreement with Vietnam, remained





outstanding issues. Previous restrictions on the list of USA ports authorised to receive citrus imports from South Africa were relaxed.

Improved shipping temperatures for lemon exports to China were agreed upon, but the protocol revision giving effect to the change remained unsigned. The South Korean programme experienced disruptions due to unavailability of a quick diagnostic procedure for mealybugs, but a solution was developed and put in place for 2021. The Philippines protocol and workplan were concluded in preparation for implementation in 2021. Pre-clearance inspections for exports to USA, S Korea and Japan required the adoption of extraordinary arrangements to ensure exports proceeded successfully despite COVID-19 restrictions.

Research

In 2020, COVID-19 represented a major challenge and frustration for the research effort. In most cases, researchers were able to reschedule objectives but in some projects the inability to travel to trial sites meant that project schedules had to be extended and some academic campuses were closed for long periods. Fortunately, with agriculture being recognised as an essential service, research at CRI facilities continued and projects that were delayed have mostly been brought back onto schedule. Financial support continued to be received from the Department of Science and Innovation for postharvest research projects and for projects in a programme entitled Research for Citrus Exports. This funding was particularly valuable in that some of these projects have paved the way for research that will be funded by the increased new levy.

Research in horticulture faces increasing future challenges to ensure continued profitable citrus production. The FCM Management System (FMS) used for exports to Europe includes shipping at lower temperatures than in the past, so research on chilling injury has become more urgently important. It has been found that fruit grown under nets is not

more susceptible to chilling injury than fruit grown in the open, but the likelihood of chilling injury is partly dependent on the production region. Wax remains the primary management tool in the postharvest environment to reduce chilling injury. The airflow and cooling efficiency of shipping containers is being studied intensively and the need for improved carton designs has become evident. When Asian greening disease (HLB) becomes widespread in southern Africa, trees will require replacement more frequently and there will be increased demand for rootstock seed. A project is investigating ways to maximise seed production of the commonly used rootstocks and another project in the Cultivar Evaluation programme will evaluate new rootstocks, including some that may have HLB tolerance. With rising production costs and increasing awareness of carbon costs, research is being conducted to optimise the nutrition of citrus in different production regions. A handbook on the fertilisation of citrus has been produced. The evaluation of new cultivars and rootstocks continues in all production regions so that the industry will always have the cultivars that the consumers want.

Research within the disease management portfolio continues to focus on diseases of importance to market access and additionally prepares us to address future industry threats. To enhance coordination of research in preparation for the arrival of HLB, a new HLB research programme was created that will be coordinated by Prof Hano Maree. Research has given rise to molecular diagnostic techniques that enable the distinction of the Asian and American greening species from the African species in a single assay. A cheap, reliable DNA extraction technique was developed as a replacement for commercial kit extractions, allowing for the processing of more samples. Viroids continue to receive attention because newly planted orchards are especially susceptible if sensitive rootstocks are used. Results of a field trial comparing the horticultural performance of field-cut propagation material to budwood supplied by the Citrus Improvement Scheme (CIS),

confirms that better growth and tree health is achieved using CIS propagation material. Research on improving protection from tristeza virus has continued, including field trials evaluating single-strain citrus tristeza virus sources for potential CTV cross-protection. Research on improving pre-harvest management of citrus black spot (CBS) includes CBS control under nets, the role of pruning debris, and confirmation of fruit susceptibility periods. Standard packhouse treatments and shipping conditions have been shown to be effective in rendering CBS infections non-viable and prevent pycnidiospore release. Processed citrus fruit was shown to be an epidemiological dead end. These results affirm that fruit is not a pathway for CBS spread. Continued access to Imazalil is under threat, but research has established that azoxystrobin and fludioxonil are effective against *Penicillium* decay. There is an increasing research focus on non-chemical alternatives for postharvest decay control. Potential biocontrol agents for soil borne pathogens have been identified. Much of the research involving graft transmissible diseases is of benefit to the Citrus Improvement Scheme. The use of high throughput sequencing to potentially fast-track diagnostic processes in the shoot-tip grafting pipeline is under investigation as a means of potentially enabling quicker release of new cultivars to the industry.

The key pests in the **Integrated Pest Management** research portfolio remain market access pests, of which false codling moth (FCM) receives the most attention, followed by fruit flies. Control of mealybugs is being studied in citrus grown under nets, including the biological control of mealybugs using the parasitoid *Anagyrus vladimiri*. Ant control is an important part of managing mealybug and a new ant bait (Saga) developed by CRI for the two most common problem species has finally been registered. A project comparing the efficacy of different attract-and-kill devices against fruit fly has been completed with promising results. This control approach reduces non-target effects on natural enemies and possible residue problems at harvest. Postharvest cold treatment research has shown that Medfly *Ceratitis capitata* is more tolerant to

cold than other fruit fly species that have been recovered from citrus fruit. This means that protocols for Medfly control using cold will be effective against other species too. A cold disinfestation treatment at 3.5°C to reduce chilling injury has now also been quantified. FCM continues to receive the most research attention in the IPM portfolio and in the last research cycle 14 pre-harvest management projects were conducted and four post-harvest projects. Four of the pre-harvest projects focused on monitoring, including clarifying FCM activity timing in the northern production regions, and better understanding FCM activity in organic farming. Extensive research was conducted on the efficacy of various shipping temperatures on FCM larvae in fruit. The use of vapour heat as an FCM treatment has been investigated. Research on the use of volatile chemical emissions to detect FCM in fruit is complete and has led to further research on the use of Selected Ion Flow Technology MS in collaboration with a European research partner. A semi-field technique was developed to make it possible to conduct FCM trials where field populations are too low for such trials. IPM research of a biosecurity nature is being conducted in Kenya with the objective of testing various treatments for the Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*. CRI's recently appointed entomologist Dr Evans Mauda has been developing improved identification procedures for all the *Trioza* and *Diaphorina* species found on yellow traps in different parts of the country to prepare for the identification of *D. citri* when it arrives.

Extension

The greatest challenge for effective extension in 2020 was undoubtedly the impact of COVID-19, when lockdown coincided with the start of the citrus packing season. Extension continued to operate throughout the lockdown, with physical group technology transfer being replaced by virtual meetings on various platforms like Zoom and MS Teams. The integrated pest and disease management workshops of September 2020 were replaced by pre-





recorded presentations on the CRI website, for downloading by the growers and relevant role players, followed by a live Q&A session on

MS Teams a week later. The postharvest workshops for February 2021 were replaced by a one-day webinar consisting of three sessions. A survey conducted amongst attendees indicated that by far the majority would prefer physical events. The accreditation process for carton manufacturers was suspended during lockdown due to the fact that the laboratory closed for a few months, but alternative processes were put in place to ensure that cartons continue to comply with the minimum specifications. The Exporters Technical Panel meeting and Cooling Working Group meeting was combined into one physical meeting this year, and despite the pandemic, the meeting was well attended with good input and discussions among the attendees. A small number of study group meetings and packhouse forum meetings continued to address specific pre- and post-harvest technical needs in the production regions. Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and associated control measures the difficult decision was taken to postpone the Citrus Research Symposium to August 2021 (subsequently again postponed for another year to 2022). Summaries of all the research topics earmarked for the symposium were sent out to the industry. A Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for more effective communication and technology transfer is being implemented. The Extension divisions' 4 Year Plan is on track for implementation as of the 2021-22 financial year.

Biosecurity

CRI continued its African biosecurity collaborations as part of the proactive actions to prepare for the inevitable incursion of the Asian citrus greening, Huanglongbing (HLB), and its primary vector the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). In addition to ongoing biosecurity activities in South Africa, Zimbabwe and eSwatini, CRI engaged with contacts in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia in pursuit

of collaboration and regional awareness relating to the threats posed by HLB and ACP. CGA grower members in Zimbabwe were provided with various packages of information to share with the government of Zimbabwe in response to concerns about potential biosecurity risks associated with any potential introduction of citrus planting material from China.

Following a scientific publication in early 2020 that revealed the detection of HLB/Las in coastal Kenya, CRI provided DALRRD with a technical briefing document for communication with the NPPO of Kenya. DALRRD's engagement with their Kenyan counterparts resulted in a virtual bilateral meeting in September 2020 (CRI and ICIPE participated to provide technical guidance) to share information on efforts to contain HLB in East Africa. Cutting Edge 296 was disseminated to citrus growers and nursery operators to highlight the discovery of Las in Kenya and its implications for southern Africa, and encourage active involvement in detection surveys for HLB/Las and ACP.

The HLB Steering Committee held quarterly virtual meetings and disseminated HLB public awareness material. An official media release by DALRRD elicited interest and was echoed in several media outlets. CRI worked with DALRRD in the formulation and revision of the HLB and ACP regulations, gazetted by DALRRD in February 2021 (Regulation no. 44188 of 12 Feb 2021). The HLB/ACP Action Plan was revised to align with new regulations, as well as aspects of detection and delimitation surveys to make the plan more practically feasible. The HLB Safe System has also been revised, to give effect to practical considerations relating to nursery operations, ensuring minimum disruptions to nursery operations while using appropriate and transparent risk assessment and compliance management measures.

Field-based training was held for 12 DALRRD inspectors on HLB and ACP surveys and sampling using the African Greening field conditions in Swellendam. This was a follow up to the lab-based training held in the prior reporting period for the same group of inspectors. DALRRD has confirmed that the training

has empowered the inspectors to continue operating early detection and monitoring trap networks across selected areas in non-commercial areas, selected entry pathways and border regions. In parallel CRI has established a network of traps and monitoring stations across selected frontier commercial orchards in Limpopo and Mpumalanga that are serviced monthly. The traps deployed by DALRRD and those by CRI (250 trapping points) are analysed and read at CRC, Nelspruit. CRI's Diagnostic Centre in CRC has been accredited by DALRRD for analysis of ACP traps, citrus leaf samples as well as insect specimens.

In July 2020, Citrus Leprosis (CL) affected farms in the Sundays River Valley were audited for compliance with the Citrus Leprosis Response Plan. The audits focussed on pruning, spray programmes, weed control, mite presence, controlled movement of people and record keeping. Significant containment and eradication of the disease and mites has been achieved in most of the affected orchards, and where non-compliance was found, the necessary steps to ensure compliance have been taken. The next audit is scheduled for July 2021.

CRI continued its participation as citrus industry representative on the Phytosanitary Risk Forum, a DALRRD convened biosecurity risk management forum. The following biosecurity risk management issues handled by this forum include the following: surveys in the citrus greening free buffer zone in the Western Cape (Knysna magisterial district); reports of *Phytophthora palmivora* on papayas in Tzaneen and Malelane and implications for citrus; and providing necessary scientific evidence in response to the EU's concern relating to *Xylella fastidiosa* that ultimately resulted in an official notification from the EU that South Africa is recognised as a country free from *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Follow up delimiting and detection surveys for African Greening (*Liberibacter africanus*, *Laf*) were conducted in

Knysna in September and October 2020, an area recognized as an African Greening free buffer zone in the Western Cape. Due to the continued detection of *Laf* positive trees in this zone it is clear that the buffer zone needs revision and a revision is currently under development.

Citrus Improvement Scheme

Certified budwood supply over the past five seasons ranged from 6.4m to 7.2m buds. The Citrus Foundation Block (CFB)'s ability to directly supply demand increased to 81%, with the remainder of buds authorised for cutting in nurseries. In this period, 78.6% of total budwood demand was for mandarin hybrid (22 to 46% per season), lemon (6 to 45% per season) and Valencia (5 to 31% per season) cultivars. CFB cultivar stock rose to 502 cultivar lines, but the top 30 varieties comprised 90.5% of total number of buds supplied. In the past season, ARC Nadorcott LS (ARCCIT9) mandarin was still the most popular cultivar, followed by Eureka lemon, Midnight Valencia, Star Ruby grapefruit, Tango mandarin, Jassie Valencia, Turkey Valencia, Bennie 2 Valencia, Nules Clementine and Leanri mandarin. As a biosecurity measure, a state-of-the-art polycarbonate greenhouse was built at CFB, to further safeguard South Africa's nucleus block of virus-free cultivars. Newly planted rootstock orchards are coming into production, and the 2020 rootstock seed harvest yielded record volumes with a total of >8000 L seed processed. The total rootstock seed demand was supplied for most cultivars, with the exception of US812 (Sunki x Benecke), which recently became more popular. The CIS Nursery Certification criteria were updated; expanding on the audit criteria and developing a more objective and quantifiable rating system. Thirty-one fully certified and six provisionally certified nurseries are currently participating in the CIS. Major objectives for 2021/22 include the promulgation of the compulsory statutory CIS, the readiness and participation of the CIS and nurseries in the HLB/ACP Action Plan, and the development of a biosecure CIS Seed Farm.





CGA Cultivar Company

Jon Roberts - General Manager



We have released four new cultivars this past year which has resulted in a sharp increase in our authorised cultivar budwood, based on orders received. Licenced variety orders actually tipped the one million mark this year, but due to limited budwood availability in the first year of release, we were unable to supply all buds this season.

Budwood authorised for delivery to Nursery

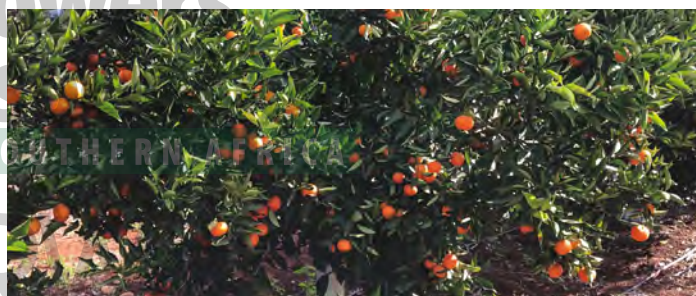
Varieties released	2016/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
CGACC cultivar budwood authorised for release	126 922	294 659	301 094	290 387	723 778

Our commercial varieties continue to climb up the table with Bennie and Turkey the top two protected Valencia varieties sold, after open varieties Midnight in first place and Jassie coming in second.

- **Rosalina**; (early Red Lina navel) has also climbed up the Navel table and with the expected release of **Valentine Late Red** Navel in the coming months we hope to see this variety climb alongside Rosalina.
- **Florida C41519**; (Florida Early); We have had consecutive years of evaluation that continue to show promise for this early, seedless, easy peeling Mandarin.
- **Clemensoon**; another new release: the earliest maturing Clementine proved to be every bit as early as we had seen in Spanish results. The first trial site to produce fruit this year in Patensie, Gamtoos area showed that this Clementine



Comparison from Left to right, Rosalina – CaraCara – Valentine



Florida C41519, (Florida Early)



Degreened Clemensoon 1st March 2021



Tanorlate



DeWet comparison with Washington Navel



Florida 900 early Mandarin

reached maturity for picking with Satsuma Mihowase, the earliest commercial Satsuma in South Africa. This provides growers an alternative to the limited Satsuma market. Internal quality and crop was impressive for these 2-3 year-old trees.

- Tanorlate**; a variety that we have been watching for a few years - a large, seedless, high quality easy peeling Mandarin - is starting to raise its hand for serious consideration. We have had some concerns regarding this Ultra-late mandarin in terms of fruit size which in the first years of production reached 3-4X size. This has not affected internal quality however, where it has reached up to 16 Brix with a good acid ratio. The variety matures after the mainstream late mandarins and an orchard in the East Cape Midlands last year showed its true Ultra late credentials with 15.5 brix and 1.5 acid at the end of August. Being a seedless mandarin variety, another concern was to see if alternate bearing would be a problem. One of the oldest orchards in the East Cape midlands that set a good crop last year on 3 year-old trees, has set an even bigger crop in this fourth year, which is promising. The oldest trees, planted at the CFB for true-to-type testing now show fruit size is also settling down to a 1-2X peak as the trees lose juvenility. Quality continues to improve, with the highest brix to date of 16.2 being achieved on a six-year-old trial site. This seems to be a variety to watch.

As reported last year, three promising varieties that we have been waiting for have finally been released from Quarantine and Clean-Up and will now enter evaluation.

- Florida 914**; is a cultivar that promises to give new life to the Red Grapefruit industry. Developed by Florida CREC under Prof's Fred Gmitter and Jude Grosser, their lab was working on creating a sweeter and less bitter grapefruit hybrid, and only incidentally discovered that UF914 had low furanocoumarin levels. Furanocoumarin is a chemical compound that causes the "grapefruit juice effect", where over 85 prescription





medications are known to interact with grapefruit, and 43 of them have serious side effects when taken with grapefruit.

The hybrid, which is seedless, larger, juicier, sweeter, and less bitter than a standard grapefruit, has already gained the approval of tasting focus groups in Florida.

With the additional safety benefits, this cultivar has the potential to not only bring back the older consumer, but also the younger health conscious consumer who traditionally has not eaten Grapefruit because of the general bitter flavour.

- **KAS**; (formerly **TS Early** Valencia), 2-3 weeks earlier than Turkey with superior external and internal colour and flavour has also been released and we are starting with evaluation of the Cleaned material. The variety has the potential to replace Turkey as an even earlier entry into the Valencia market. Early evaluation has shown very good production characteristics.
- **RBC-01**; a low seeded mutation of Furr Mandarin, (Clemcott), from Brazil has been released and is being multiplied for evaluation. The variety has retained the high quality and production characteristics of Clemcott. The mutation measures only 11 seed per 100 fruit which would make it a serious contender in the mid-late Mandarin window.

These and other recently released varieties I have reported on (**Valencia's; Beli Valencia, Ngonini early Delta, Ratho, Malinda** and **Maxi**) all promise to keep the impetus going as the company rolls out its commercial offerings across the Valencia maturity windows in the next few years.

Early Navels; in our basket, **Addo Early**, and **Sunrise Early** are starting to produce very promising results in evaluation and both look like improvements to the current mainstream Fukumoto, Newhall and Lina Navel in terms of early overall colouring, size and shape. **DeWet**; in the Mid maturity range with very small Navel continues to show superior packout compared to Washington of same age, same rootstock in the oldest trial. There is little to no waste resulting from Navel

End Split, Alternaria, FCM and Mielie bug hitchhikers which translates into significantly improved packout.

Added to this are imported Finger Lime, Pink Lemon, Kinsei Dekapon and several Mandarin types.

One of these Mandarins, **Florida 900** caught my eye at a recent True to Type evaluation, the variety is the earliest Mandarin I have seen, it will ripen with Oronules, has higher brix, easily peeled and outstanding colour. Seed is an issue in mixed blocks, so it will be trialled in isolated blocks. This is definitely one we will be watching closely.

With the increased management of these varieties as they become available for evaluation and commercialisation, I am pleased to report the company will be taking on a Business and Technical Manager to assist with this growth going forward. Assistance to myself in the field is much needed and will improve our reach to growers and also to our cultivars being evaluated in all the climatic areas of SA.

Off shore developments

We are continuing developing relationships with suitable companies to manage our varieties off shore, specifically the Northern Hemisphere. This will require the importation and quarantine 'Clean-Up', protection and commercialisation of our varieties off shore. An important component of these agreements is to develop an exchange of cultivars between these companies.

In-house

Our staff, Brenda Nell - Operational Admin and Reyhana Vadee - Financial Admin, have coped well in the 'Virtual' handover of Admin processes that we have taken on from CGA. Congratulations to our staff in showing the resolve to get through the unknown territory of lock down and office shut downs.

Thanks to Robert Miller from CGA who assisted Reyhana and me with a final 'hand over' session before we started with our financial audit. Having Financial admin in-house will help with making these financial processes more seamless and efficient.



Citrus Academy

Jacomien De Klerk - General Manager



Citrus Academy Board of Directors

Representation	Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Resignation
CGA	Phillip Dempsey chairperson	2012/11/20	
Donors (Citrus Industry Trust)	Alex Sithole (vice-chairperson)	2015/05/06	2020/11/12
CGA	Cornél van der Merwe	2015/03/12	2020/09/08
CGA	Marius Bester	2017/03/09	
CGA	Bennet Malungane	2018/03/22	
CGA	Frikkie Olivier	2020/09/08	
Donors (Citrus Industry Trust)	Hlami Ngwenya	2020/11/12	
Service providers	Vacant		
Additional seat	Vacant		

The company secretary, Robert Miller, attends board meetings *ex officio*, while the Chief Executive Officer of the CGA, Justin Chadwick, and the chairperson of the CGA Audit Committee, Rajen Govender, are invited to attend board meetings as observers.

The following board meetings were held during the year under review:

Date	Meeting	Apologies
2020/06/05	Board Coordination Meeting – COVID-19 Planning	Cornél van der Merwe
2020/09/07	Board Meeting	None
2021/03/29	Board Meeting	None

The thirteenth annual general meeting of the Citrus Academy was held via Zoom on Tuesday, 8th of September 2020.

Financial Results

Funding received from the CGA, as approved by the CGA board of directors, is used for overheads, salaries, and funding of on-going projects. Additional funding is secured and appropriated for specific projects. Income is furthermore

earned from delivering short courses and e-learning programmes.

In the 2020/21 financial year the Citrus Academy reported a surplus of R125 713, compared to the 2019/20 shortfall of R163 194.





Citrus Academy Bursary Fund

Citrus Academy Bursary Fund allocations are separated into three categories, namely Postgraduate Bursary Support, Undergraduate Bursary Support, and BEE Bursary Support. The BEE Bursary Support section of the Bursary Fund supports black-owned citrus enterprises to build their internal capacity and empower self-management.

The Bursary Fund supports around sixty-five to seventy students every year, and has done so for the past ten years. The average value of bursaries has however almost doubled over that time period, mostly because of the rising cost of post-school education and a greater emphasis on supporting postgraduate students. The increase in the average value means that the total amount paid out as bursaries has also increased significantly, to just over R2,6 million in the 2021 academic year.

The results of the Bursary Fund remain impressive. Of the students that have graduated with the support of the Bursary Fund, more than two thirds are employed in the citrus industry, academia and government departments, with more than half of them employed in the citrus industry. Graduates generally receive job offers reasonably quickly, but we are aware that we are not meeting the industry demand in some fields.

Support for emergent grower enterprises through the BEE Bursary Support category has remained steady over this period. In the 2021 academic year, twenty students are benefiting from this support, to the value of around R650 000.

The Citrus Industry Trust and the AgriSETA are still the major sources of bursary funding. During the last few years we have

however seen a pleasing increase in the support we receive from companies within the industry. We appreciate their continued support.

Citrus Academy Bursary Fund Experiential Learning Programmes

The Citrus Academy create opportunities for Bursary Fund students to gain exposure and experience while they are studying, and after they have graduated. Vacation work is arranged for all B-degree and diploma students, at workplaces where they can gain experience relevant to their field of study. The internship and graduate placement programmes assist Bursary Fund students to find placements at citrus enterprises where they can gain work experience. Through the industry exposure programme, current and former students are assisted to attend conferences, symposia and other events that are relevant to their field of study.

In the year under review, we were unfortunately not in a position to offer any experiential learning opportunities to students, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Career Fairs

The Citrus Academy takes part in regular Career Fairs at various institutions around South Africa. The aim is to create awareness about the Bursary Fund and to encourage young learners to study agriculture. In 2020, there were no contact career fairs due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the Citrus Academy participated in the AgriCAREERConnect online career fairs for the University of Pretoria and the University of Stellenbosch in October.



Pick Me!

The new Citrus Academy website has improved the efficiency and accuracy of the Pick Me platform. Available candidates



are able to register and upload their details directly to the website, and postings are kept on the platform for only a limited period, to ensure that

candidates who are no longer available are removed from the platform. A bulletin with the details of available candidates by province is circulated to growers every second week.

Citrus Short Courses

The Citrus Academy has developed four short courses which are being presented on a regional basis in citrus growing regions. The short courses deal with citrus production, citrus packing, the citrus export supply chain and citrus business administration.

In 2020, the number of contact courses had to be reduced significantly due to COVID-19 restrictions. A decision was taken to transfer the short courses to the Citrus Academy e-learning platform, to ensure that the industry can continue benefiting from these offerings.

E-Learning Programmes

Apart from transferring the citrus short courses to the e-learning platform, we also continued development on e-learning programmes dealing with advanced citrus business management and citrus production management. A certification course for COVID-19 compliance officers was also added to the site.

Learning Media - Audio-Visual Media

The Citrus Academy develops audio-visual learning modules on various aspects of citrus production. All Citrus Academy audio-visual material is available on USB, and can also be found on the Citrus Academy YouTube channel. Audio-visual modules are also now available for download from the Citrus Resource Warehouse website.

In the year under review, development of any new series was suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Citrus Resource Warehouse

The Citrus Academy moderates and maintains an industry information-sharing platform where documents can be found that deal with all aspects of citrus production, including research reports, extension briefs, legislation and regulations, annual reports of CGA group companies, amongst many more. All documents are in searchable PDF format, which means that a variety of sources linked to keywords can be searched easily.

Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers Programme

In 2020, the Citrus Growers' Association implemented the Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers Programme, aimed at providing support for capital expansion to black citrus growers. The programme is being implemented from April 2020 to March 2023.

The Citrus Academy is responsible for the implementation of the skills development programme, funded by the AgriSETA to the value of just under R13 million over the three-year programme period. The Citrus Academy identified six implementation sites, namely Sunday's River Valley, Patensie, Fort Beaufort, Nkweleni, Thohoyandou, and Brits. Skills programmes on citrus business administration, citrus production practices, and citrus packing are being rolled out at all of these sites, in addition to plant production and citrus business management learnerships.





CGA Grower Development Company (CGA-GDC)

Lukhanyo Nkombisa - General Manager



'Resilience is the name of the game in the Citrus industry as we observe the black citrus growers rising above all odds of the COVID-19 Pandemic.'

Although writing this annual report during a year where the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone in the country, and indeed the world, and taking into account the difficulties growers experience, we have seen a very positive growth for black growers in both export and local markets. This positive outcome confirms the hard work and initiative of the CGA-GDC in support of growers.

The CGA-GDC's primary mandate was very clear from the beginning - to focus on black grower development and ensure that we enable the farming environment of growers with the support we provide:

- Business and management Support
- Technical/ Extension Production Support
- Skills development and mentorship
- Market readiness and compliance
- Lobbying funding through partnerships for development

The above initiatives are testament to the growth we have observed in the increase in the hectares under black farmers and the subsequent increase in volumes exported.

Increased production figures of black citrus growers

In the past season we have observed a 40% increase in production. Several black growers have increased output by 40 000 cartons with one increasing his output by 99 000 cartons in just one year.

The harvesting records also reveal that black citrus growers have increased output for domestic market by 55% since 2019. During the year under review, black citrus growers provided over 400 000 cartons of fruit to South African stores and supermarkets. In addition, more than 75% of black citrus growers in SA export their produce to global markets.

The CGA-GDC will continue to strive to be the vehicle which addresses and solves the challenges faced by black citrus growers - with its prime objective being to continue making a significant impact on the transformation of the citrus industry and agricultural sector at large.

Extension Services Programme Support

The provision of a mechanism for effectively transferring research outputs in appropriate formats to the intended users of the technology has been identified as a key strategic objective in the southern African citrus industry.

The CGA-Grower Development Company Extension Unit has the objective of cost-effectively coordinating the transfer of knowledge to the developing citrus growers and their service agents. Extension in the southern African citrus industry represents a partnership between numerous parties.

Group Extension Farmer Support

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, group extension methods such as Citrus Study Groups, Information Days and Farmers' Days, which draw large numbers of citrus growers and other industry stakeholders, were suspended in line with the COVID-19 protocols on social distancing and restricted numbers allowed at meetings.

One-on-One Farmer Support

One-on-One Farmer Support is probably the most universally used extension method in both developed and developing countries. The extension officer meets the farmer at home or on the farm and discusses issues of mutual interest, assisting the farmer to sort out his citrus production and marketing challenges. One-on-One Farmer Support assists the extension officer(s) to:

- familiarise himself/herself with the farmer and his family,
- enable him/her to give specific advice or information to the farmer,
- build up his/her knowledge of the area, and of the kinds of problems which farmers face,
- permit him/her to explain a new recommended practice or follow up and observe results to date, and
- arouse general interest among the farmers and stimulate their involvement in extension activities.

Developing citrus growers were also reached through COVID-19 memos, SMS, emails and by phone.

New Entrants Farmer Support

A total of fifteen new entrant farmers requested support, with eight being assisted during the 2020/2021 growing season.

These farms were assessed for the suitability of planting citrus varieties.

North West Province

In the North West province four farms were supported.

- Molamu & Sons Agric Services Farm: Molamu and Sons Agric Services is being further assisted with the compiling of a bankable business plan by the CGA Grower Development Company Business Unit
- Lesego Mokoga Farm: The farmer has to come back to the

CGA -GDC after drilling boreholes for further assessment of the farm.

- Prof. Neo Mathabe Farm: The CGA-GDC Technical Unit is waiting for Prof Mathabe to show them the demarcated 2 000 ha for further assessment of the soil and water.
- Isaac Kerowe Farm: The farmer has prepared 6ha of land to plant oranges. He was further assisted to make blocks and pegging of his farm.

Limpopo Province

A total of three farms were supported.

- Jocye Munyani Lemon Farm: The farmer has planted 2ha of lemons.
- Jenny's Farm: The CGA-GDC Business unit is further assisting the farmer with his business plan.
- Manini Holding: The farmer has already secured citrus seedlings and will start planting in August 2021.

Eastern Cape Province

One farm was supported in the Eastern Cape.

- Middeldrift Farm: The farm was visited and referred to Dr Hannes Coetzee for further assistance regarding the analysis of nutrients.

Biosecurity

Citrus Huanglongbing (HLB) is caused by the Asian Psyllid and is a destructive disease of citrus and a major threat to the citrus industry around the world. It is moving towards South Africa and as such the Citrus Research International (CRI) has started putting traps along the citrus farms in the north-eastern section of our country.

The CGA-GDC, CRI and Government extension officers were involved in putting Asian citrus psylla traps at Easy Farm, Tshivhilwi in Limpopo. The aim of setting the traps is to monitor the movement of this pest.





Citrus Sub-Sector Revitalization of the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Value Chain (RAAVC)

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has established RAAVC Citrus Sub-Sector to drive the implementations of the RAAVC citrus projects in the province. The committee is chaired by the GM of the CGA-GDC.

Considering the growth potential and transformation imperatives of the sector, one of the key components of the 9-point plan was an initiative on Revitalization of Agriculture and the Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC). The committee is working on a list of potential projects to be funded under the programme.

The prioritised farms to be supported for citrus expansion purposes were chosen due to their massive sizes and potential to create jobs. The development interventions in those farms will be executed over many years and is expected to commence during the 2021/2022 financial year.

Enterprise Development Support – Northern Region

The Northern region was on the second phase of enterprise development funding. The first phase was implemented in 2018 to the tune of R100 000 per farm with the next phase



in 2020 increasing to R150 000 per farm. The majority of the requests were for production inputs, to a lesser extent growers applied for irrigation support, equipment and trees. In most cases, growers normally make the request to support bearing orchards. The timing of the disbursement was therefore perfect, as the initial support started in July when the growers are busy with the spray programme and this made it possible to allow for soil and foliar applications in most cases. This investment model of production support is of great help to smaller enterprises that are less than five hectares, since in this region the cost of production support could be between R40 000 to R80 000 per hectare. Due to limitations in resources, some enterprises spread the support to production inputs, and other pressing matters on the farm, such as fixing the current irrigation system.

The following table indicates the number of farms supported and increase in yields.

Province	No. of farms supported (31)	Detail	2019 Export Season (15kg carton)	2020 Export Season (15kg carton)
Limpopo	17	4 exporting 13 local	568 377	897 206
KZN	4	1 exporting 3 near export	442 394	286 635
Mpumalanga	3	2 exporting 1 local	0	298 750
North West	7	4 exporting 3 local	29 000	48 000

The Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers Project (JF 8/1388) - Jobs Fund (R Miller)

The Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers Project officially launched on 1st April 2020. There were a few challenges faced by the project over the year due to COVID and Lockdown restrictions as well as First National Bank (FNB) replacing Land Bank as the project loan funding partner.

The project funders are now CGA, DALRRD, AgriSeta, FNB and

The Jobs Fund, with the total funding for the project remaining at the original R307 million.

Due to the COVID and lockdown restrictions, an online application process was developed and black growers were encouraged to apply through this process for funding from the project. A number of applications were received and went through a Technical Review process before being presented to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for consideration.

The first PSC meeting was held on 22nd August 2020 and six applications were approved and recommended to FNB for blended funding.

The second PSC meeting was held on 3rd February 2021. At this meeting, seven applications were approved and recommended to FNB for blended funding.

Since these meetings, FNB have carried out site visits at all the farms as well as conducted their other due diligence checks and processes on the applications.

To date four applications have been officially approved for blended financing from the project. Disbursements of these funds will take place in the 2021/2022 financial year.

The Skills Development aspect of the project has started and progressed very well during the year. Learnerships were provided to 125 people in the Brits, Nkwalini, Fort Beaufort, Sundays River and Thohoyandou regions of South Africa. Funding for these courses has been provided by AgriSeta.

Project reporting takes place on a quarterly basis and all matched funders receive detailed reports and updates on the project progress every three months.

The project will run for three years and has committed to provide funding to a minimum of 30 farmers, to create 329 permanent jobs, 1 397 permanent seasonal jobs and will provide training and skills development to 2 006 citrus industry workers. The project will also significantly contribute to the

further development and economic sustainability of black citrus growers in South Africa.

Further applications for funding from the project are encouraged in the 2021/2022 financial year. The online application can be accessed through the CGA Grower Development Company website www.cga-gdc.org.za

DALRRD Project (Land Development Support)

The Service Level Agreement with DALRRD was signed in December 2018, but the approval to implement the project was only received in the third quarter of 2020. The total approved for Batlhako Temo Farm in North West Province is R10 009 937 of which R9 813 664 is the grant portion and R196 273 management fee. The focus of this project is on orchard expansion, production support, infrastructure support and mechanisation.

Mechanization was identified as a critical area, and the procurement process commenced to acquire the items. Thus far, mechanization support has been concluded, fertilizers and chemicals for current orchards, and trees purchased for planting towards the end of 2021.

On infrastructure, the engineering services faced delays since the current designs could not be accommodated in the approved budget and alternative measures had to be explored. Furthermore, due to the extra quota that the farm has received for water, they will no longer need the two boreholes, and that allocation will be deferred for use towards the dam construction.

Top of the Class Training

The CGA-GDC received funding of R100 000 towards the implementation of this project. This training provides an overview of the export value chain from the field to households. It seeks to further develop new farmers, emerging exporters and industry employees with





knowledge and skills with respect to the key aspects of the fruit value chain.

Participants from five farms and one emerging export agent attended the training, which was hosted in the North West. This group was targeted as most of them joined the industry without prior knowledge of the farming sector. Participants were from the following areas: Healthy Life for Achievers (2), Gaman 67 (2), Elandskraal (2), Maako (1), Spillion group (1) and two staff members from CGA-GDC.

Business Plans

The following enterprises were supported with business plan development: Lovers Retreat; Gatyena; Oakdene; Zanentlutha; Jerico; and Letas Farm. Some farms applying for the Economic Transformation projects had their business plans reviewed.

SIZA

Ten enterprises were receiving ethical compliance support at different stages. The programme consists of the following aspects of support:

- registration on the SIZA Platform; completion of the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ);
- pre-audit assessment assistance to ensure that gaps identified to comply with the SIZA standard has been addressed;
- social/ethical auditing where requested and when ready; continuous improvement support to ensure sustainability and to maintain compliance and continuous support.



CGA GDC: (Front Row - left to right) Yolanda Ntlakaza (Manager Business Support); Tebogo Ramodisa (Intern); Nomonde Ntloko (Business Support Assistant - South); Camille Khoza (Finance and Admin Assistant); Zamazima Njili (Extension Officer - South); Princess Mogale (Business Support Assistant (North)); and Andrew Mbedzi (Manager Production and Extension Support)
(Back Row - left to right) Melton Mulaudzi (Extension Officer- North); Awonke Mazizi (Intern); Lukhanyo Nkombisa (General Manager) and Mathapelo Mello (Finance Manager)

Citrus Growers Development Chamber (CGDC)

The CGDC is responsible for assisting emerging growers and addressing any concerns or needs they may have.

The Chamber is a committee of the CGA Board and usually meet twice year. **Members of the Chamber** are as follows:

Eastern Cape

Eric Nohamba	- Amathole KAT River
Lawrence Mgadle	- Amathole Peddie
Luyanda Kutta	- Amathole Great kei
Khaya Brian Katoo	- Sarah Baartman Patensie
Siseko Maqoma	- Amathole KAT River
January Simphiwe Yawa	- Sarah Baartman SRV

Western Cape

Wayne Mansfield	- Boland
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Limpopo

Ntamiseni Thompson Mankhili	- Vhembe District
Bennet Sdumo Malungane	- Mopani District
Octavias Masalesa	- Waterberg District
Pheladi Tlomatsane	- Capricorn District
Walter Tshiane Mathidi	- Vhembe District

Mpumalanga

Olivia Dikeledi Selowe	- Ehlanzeni District
Petros Eric Shiba	- Gert Sibande District
Hlulekile Phonela Yoce	- Ehlanzeni District
Simona Tiisang Selowe	- Ehlanzeni District

KwaZulu-Natal

Mziwoxolo Makhanya	- Uthungulu KZN Nkweleni
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North West

Louisa Maloka-Mogotsi	- North West Province
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Gauteng

Motsile Joel Matlou	- Gauteng Province
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The CGDC Executive Committee is elected by the Chamber.

Mziwoxolo Makhanya (Chairperson)
Ntamiseni Mankhili (Vice Chairperson)
Luyanda Kutta
Eric Nohamba
Bennet Malungane
Lawrence Mgadle
Lukhanyo Nkombisa (General Manager, CGA-GDC)
Justin Chadwick (CEO, CGA)
Jacomien de Klerk (General Manager, Citrus Academy)

Additional Members to Exec

Monodowafa Mashaba (Chairman, CGA-GDC)

Virtual Executive meetings were held on the following dates:

- 31 July 2020
- 6 October 2020
- 1 December 2020
- 11 March 2021 - A hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) was held on 11 March 2021 at City Lodge OR Tambo.

A Chamber meeting was held on 12 March 2021 which was also a hybrid meeting where some members were physically present at City Lodge OR Tambo and some were present via Zoom.

Sive Silo from Citrus Academy was contracted by CGA to act as secretariat for the Chamber.





RBX Group

Rob Elfick - Group Managing Director



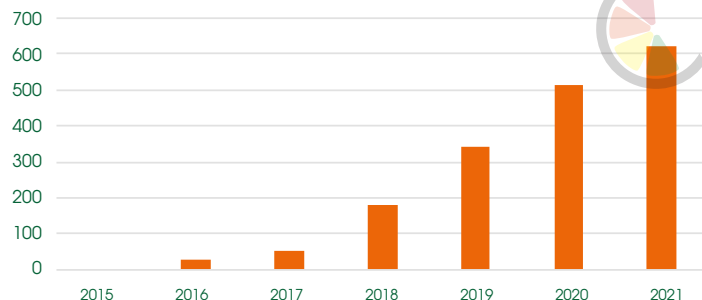
Through the significant effort of the entire team the financial results of the RBX group for the 2021 financial year are extremely encouraging.

As a supplier of crop protection inputs and service, our two companies were included as essential services under the COVID-19 state of emergency legislation. This meant that from day one of lockdown, we had to ensure we could operate country wide without a drop in service levels.

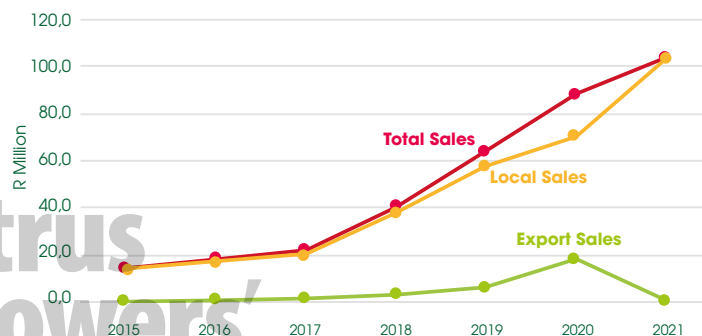
The Group's achievements in this environment are testament to the commitment of all our colleagues and something everyone should be proud of.

River Bioscience (RB) Financial Results to March 2021

CUMULATIVE TURNOVER GROWTH PERCENTAGE



LOCAL & EXPORT SALES



The RB turnover has increased by over 600% since 2015 and reached the R100 million mark for the first time despite our limited sales into West Africa due to COVID and realignment of priorities in this region. This past year also saw a drop in certain costs such as travel due to the local and international pandemic restrictions. This local interaction and international exposure is critical to our growth into the future and these costs will need to return as soon as conditions permit.

Our increased footprint through an increased portfolio of products and services taking a holistic approach to pest management programmes, has made a significant contribution to our growth. With this exponential growth we continue to focus on building capacity to support and retain our current volumes while being ready for more growth in the future as more new products are registered.

Portfolio Development

This portfolio development has reduced risk through diversification and is an enticing base on which to seek collaboration with other companies and service providers to expand our package-based offering to the benefit of the industry.

During this year, our key products have been tested with the cyclone in the North and drought conditions in the Eastern Cape requiring special attention to monitor the effect of these conditions on the area and orchards we work in. This focus supports our key objective, which is to do everything possible to ensure clean, high-quality produce is available to the overseas markets that our growers serve. The extremely good results obtained from our products under tough conditions is a very satisfying and valuable reward for the hard work put into developing and sourcing these products to support the industry by the CRI and ourselves.

Our X Sterile Insect Technique (X-SIT) team has faced several tough challenges over the years but have reached a level of production consistency and quality over the last two seasons that allows for better planning into the future. With production reliability in place, the focus moved to the radiation source that had been used for a few more years than what is ideal.

An eighteen-month project to replace the old radiation source was focused on being completed in July 2020 as this is the only time of the year that there is a break in production allowing the old source to be exchanged for the new one. With the source having to be imported from Canada, COVID-19 put this whole project at risk right near the end, but the team persevered and got this all done on time under lockdown conditions.

The team is also working with the CRI to confirm where the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) programme best fits in the continued fight against the phytosanitary threat of FCM. Tools like SIT are so critical to getting the balance between crop

protection and food safety delivered at the same time. To achieve this, the programme needs to be integrated with supporting interventions to get the results desired.

RB developed its basket of goods with one major label change and one new registration approved during the last year. Our future pipeline is also key and two new registrations were submitted over the same time period. Other options to further expand our portfolio in as short a time as possible and fund this, where possible, through collaboration are also gaining momentum with input from Dr Andre Schreuder. Andre comes with a wealth of experience and has joined the team at board level offering some fresh perspective and key considerations to ensure maximum relevance for our offerings in the future.

On a group basis we supported our business philosophy and culture statement by the national launch of our values: *Courage, Commitment, Respect & Loyalty, Fun and Integrity & Honesty*. We know that living these values will help us grow as a team and as a contributor to the continued success of the Southern African Citrus Industry. The future is "Our Hands" and with everyone pulling together and the pipeline we have, it certainly looks bright.

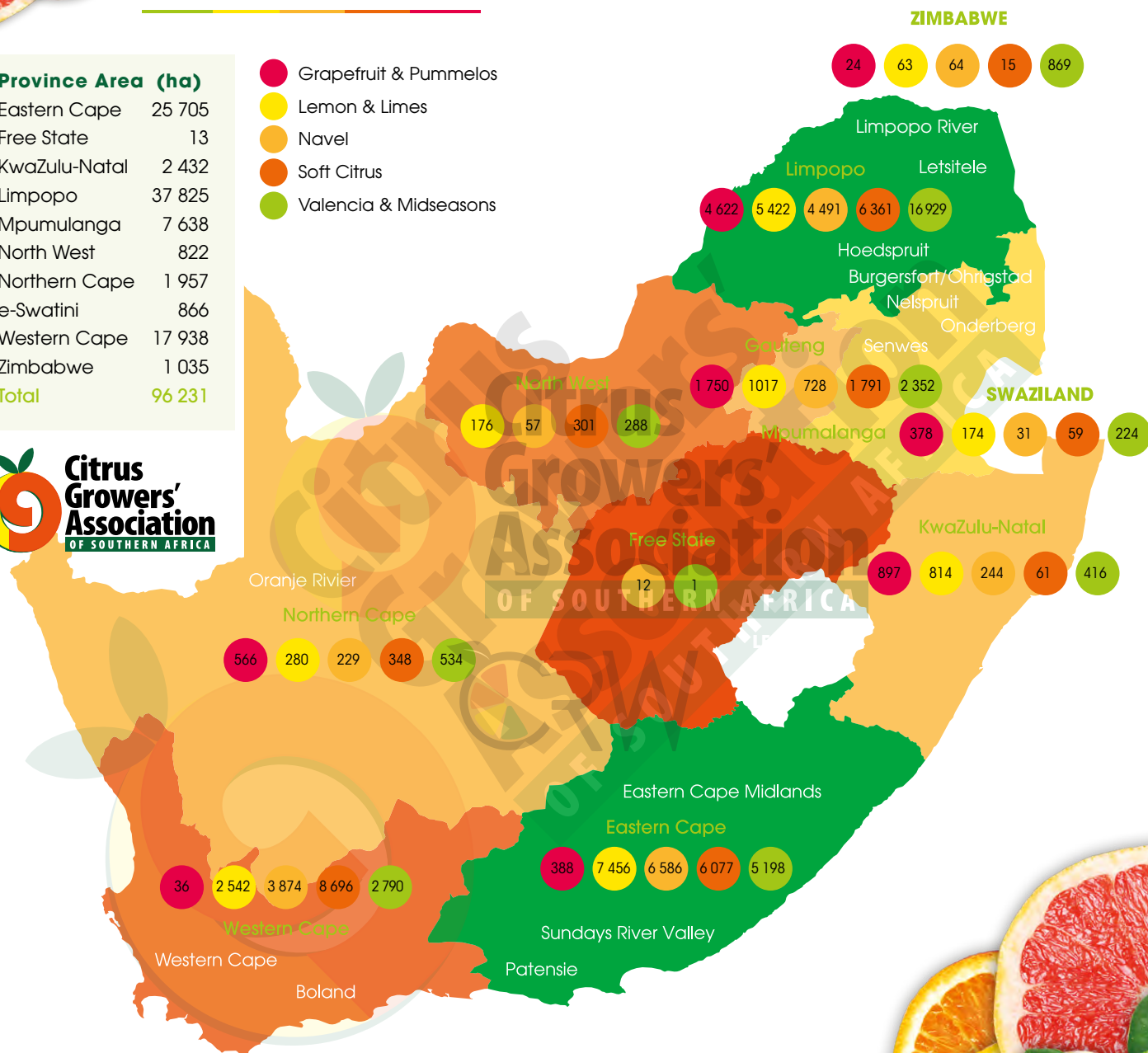


Citrus Producing Regions

Province Area (ha)

Eastern Cape	25 705
Free State	13
KwaZulu-Natal	2 432
Limpopo	37 825
Mpumulanga	7 638
North West	822
Northern Cape	1 957
e-Swatini	866
Western Cape	17 938
Zimbabwe	1 035
Total	96 231

- Grapefruit & Pummelos
- Lemon & Limes
- Navel
- Soft Citrus
- Valencia & Midseasons



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Abridged Financial Statements

	Actual 2019/20	Budget 2020/21	Actual 2020/21	Budget 2021/22
Income	94 275 723	104 720 000	111 429 059	234 440 000
RSA Levy	90 851 272	93 980 000	108 102 782	229 600 000
Swaziland / Zimbabwe Levy	1 520 659	1 240 000	1 862 389	3 900 000
CBS Provision (Drawn from reserves)	-	6 400 000	-	-
Property Income	163 587	-	240 520	-
Interest	963 508	800 000	746 551	600 000
Dividends Received - River Bioscience / XSIT	321 045	2 300 000	334 208	340 000
Other Income	455 652	-	142 609	-
Expenditure	94 769 736	104 614 385	99 672 749	225 278 403
Staff Costs	6 826 372	8 736 712	7 586 985	5 076 500
Travel & Accommodation	472 218	348 200	107 922	210 000
Office - Rent & Equipment	228 546	139 500	231 115	180 000
Office Expenses	560 179	554 500	576 864	560 000
Board Expenses	647 165	866 550	360 316	1 014 500
Services (Accounting, Legal & Insurance)	537 129	610 000	533 742	680 000
Subscriptions	685 685	706 970	780 093	786 970
Communication	90 836	866 500	810 057	1 050 000
Market Access	2 592 442	3 038 800	2 655 882	5 130 000
Market Access - CBS	4 165 619	7 472 000	3 088 161	7 780 000
Fruit South Africa	986 766	593 600	1 104 862	593 600
Research Programmes - Citrus Research International	52 092 950	55 218 527	55 218 527	150 120 083
Research: CRT Bond	-	500 000	500 000	3 400 000
Transformation - CGA	3 820 678	2 113 236	3 626 066	2 725 000
Transformation - CGA Grower Development Company	11 500 000	12 527 080	11 396 563	33 500 000
Transformation - CGA GDC Jibs Fund Project	-	-	1 130 517	-
Transformation - Citrus Academy	4 804 200	5 104 960	5 104 960	8 000 000
Depreciation	102 276	120 000	91 034	120 000
Information	611 167	684 800	486 366	1 183 000
Regional Capacity	21 300	-	-	-
Provision for doubtful debts	(57 924)	-	358 940	-
Leave Pay Provision	252 580	-	102 746	-
Impairment of Loan - CGA Cultivar Company (Pty) Ltd	1 000 000	-	1 600 000	-
Impairment of Loan - Citrus Academy	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure & Logistics	2 492 606	3 729 950	2 254 867	2 800 000
Market Research	-	-	-	318 750
Market Development	336 946	632 500	(33 836)	-
General	-	50 000	-	50 000
NET SURPLUS / (LOSS) FOR YEAR	(494 013)	105 615	11 756 310	9 161 597



www.cga.co.za

Conceptualised by Gloria Weare

Designed and produced by www.sarahscottdesign.co.za

