

GRAPEFRUIT FOCUS GROUP

DRAFT MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCE OF THE GRAPEFRUIT FOCUS GROUP HELD AT 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Piet Smit (Chairman – Letsitele)
Marinus Neethling (Onderberg)
Stuart Geldenhuys (Swaziland)
Kobus van Staden (Vice Chairman - Hoedspruit)
Liza for Jannie Spangenberg (Oranje Rivier)
Danie Erasmus (Limpopo River)
Michael Wafer (Nkwalini)
Paul Bristow (Zimbabwe)
John Edmonds (CGA - secretariat)

APOLOGIES:

Hoppie Nel (observer)
Antoine Rouillard (Pongola)
Hannes de Waal (Sundays River)

1. Welcome

Chairman, Piet Smit welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 1 April 2015.

The minutes were approved; proposed by Stuart Geldenhuys.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Projections for 2015 (see annex A)

The latest projection was revised up from the CMF estimate and now stands at 12.5 million cartons of pigmented grapefruit and 1.4 million cartons of Marsh totalling 13.9 million actual cartons grapefruit (15.7 million 15kg equivalent) cartons for the Southern African region. This projection still includes the smaller counts. However due to the proportion of the smaller fruit on the trees, the actual shipped volume could well be in the order of 16 to 20 percent

Hoedspruit upped their projection to 3.55 million cartons pigmented fruit and 550 000 cartons of Marsh. However if the smaller counts are not exported, this figure could fall significantly. Piet Smit noted that packing had started slower than last year.

6. Markets

Piet Smit noted that the markets are relatively empty and prices good at present. He expressed concern at the proportion of smaller counts shipped to Middle East, Far East and China.

7. Japan Coordination:

Piet Smit said that there is buy in between the main players about a shipping interval of ten days for Japan. The first two vessels will be shared between the shipping companies with the first already booked. From vessel 3 the companies will ship independently. There is a lot more focus on the Japan market this year.

8. General

John Edmonds explained the weekly packed by region, count reports circulated to the group earlier. Piet Smit appealed for all growers to submit their estimates to the Grapefruit Taste Company. Piet Smit noted that grapefruit growers will receive a weekly newsletter from the Grapefruit Taste Company updating them on the industry situation and markets.

9. Meeting dates for 2015

The next teleconference be held on 13 May at 12:00.



Annex 1. Grapefruit Estimate for 2015 (Actual Cartons)

Red grapefruit			Proj_1
CGA Region	2014	Estimate 2015	22-Apr
Onderberg	2 034 438	2 100 000	2 100 000
Letsitele	3 749 602	3 770 000	3 770 000
Hoedspruit	2 890 780	3 200 000	3 550 000
Nkwalini	479 667	500 000	500 000
Limpopo River	1 066 038	830 000	830 000
Pongola	159 629	140 000	140 000
S.R. Valley	366 741	350 000	350 000
Oranje Rivier	603 790	533 000	518 230
Nelspruit	73 801		
Patensie	153 861	150 000	150 000
Senwes	47 041		
W. Cape	46 555		
S-KZN			
Boland	4 414		
Other	3 919	200 000	200 000
Total South Africa	11 680 276	11 773 000	12 108 230
Swaziland	425 000	236 000	236 000
Zimbabwe	141 000	140 000	140 000
Grand Total	12 246 276	12 149 000	12 484 230

White grapefruit			Proj_1
CGA Region	2014	Estimate 2015	22-Apr
Onderberg	589 060	578 000	578 000
Nkwalini	162 035	150 000	150 000
Hoedspruit	409 770	450 000	550 000
Letsitele	107 970	96 000	96 000
Pongola	32 025	15 000	15 000
Limpopo River	30 640	10 000	10 000
Oranje Rivier	-		
Nelspruit	6 980		
S.R. Valley	3 185	3 000	3 000
S-KZN			
Senwes	-		
Other	1 320	8 000	8 000
Grand Total(S.A.)	1 342 985	1 310 000	1 410 000
Swaziland	55 000		
Zimbabwe		-	
Grand Total	1 397 985	1 310 000	1 410 000

Total grapefruit			Proj_1
CGA Region	2014	Estimate 2015	22-Apr
Onderberg	2 623 498	2 678 000	2 678 000
Letsitele	3 857 572	3 866 000	3 866 000
Hoedspruit	3 300 550	3 650 000	4 100 000
Nkwalini	641 702	650 000	650 000
Limpopo River	1 096 678	840 000	840 000
Pongola	191 654	155 000	155 000
S.R. Valley	369 926	353 000	353 000
Oranje Rivier	603 790	533 000	518 230
Nelspruit	80 781		
Patensie	153 861	150 000	150 000
Senwes	47 041		
W. Cape	46 555		
S-KZN			
Other	9 653	208 000	208 000
Grand Total(S.A.)	13 023 261	13 083 000	13 518 230
Swaziland*	480 000	236 000	236 000
Zimbabwe	141 000	140 000	140 000
Grand Total	13 644 261	13 459 000	13 894 230

