

GRAPEFRUIT FOCUS GROUP

DRAFT MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCE OF THE GRAPEFRUIT FOCUS GROUP HELD AT 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2014

PRESENT: Piet Smit (Chairman – Letsitele)
Kobus van Staden (Vice Chairman - Hoedspruit)
Lisa for Jannie Spangenberg (Oranje Rivier)
Michael Wafer (Nkwalini)
Marinus Neethling (Onderberg)
Dawie Scholtz (observer)
Graham Barry
John Edmonds (CGA - secretariat)

APOLOGIES:

Danie Erasmus (Limpopo River)
Stuart Geldenhuys (Swaziland)
Hannes de Waal (Sundays River)
Antoine Rouillard (Pongola)
Paul Bristow (Zimbabwe)
Mzo Makhanya (CDC/ Nkwalini)

1. Welcome

Chairman, Piet Smit welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 14 May 2014.

The minutes were approved; proposed Kobus van Staden.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

5. Japan Coordination:

Dawie Scholtz reported that there had been issues with volumes of the first vessels and they were sorting out sensitivities between shipping groups. He expected more organized plan going forward. He said that vessel numbers will be updated every Friday.

6. Projections for 2014 (see annex A)

The latest projection was revised down again and now stands at 13.1million cartons (about 14.8 million 15 kg equivalent cartons) compared to the original estimate of 14.6 million cartons.

Onderberg: Marinus Neethling revised his projection down by another 100 000 cartons of Star Ruby. (now 1.9 million cartons vs original 2.5 million cartons) reported poor pack-outs from the young trees.

Letsitele: Projection of Star Ruby unchanged and Marsh down 21000 cartons.

Hoedspruit: Projection revised down by another 150 000 cartons of Star Ruby and another 50 000 Marsh due to yield although pack-outs were good.

Nkwalini: Unchanged

Oranje Rivier upped their estimate to 569 682 cartons and reported good size fruit.

Swaziland (by email) reported that 310,000 Ctns of Star Ruby and Marsh 46,000 Ctns had been packed thusfar. They have not finished packing, but have stopped for 2 weeks for Colour and are worried about the EU market.

Marinus Neethling felt that the current projection was still an overestimation.

Generally it was agreed that the count spread was good although some exporters were cutting back on 55s.

The meeting agreed with Graham Barry's suggestion that next season the individual varieties be highlighted in the inspection data.

7. Markets

Dawie Scholtz reported that the news was not good for grapefruit into Russia. In week 22 there are a lot of arrivals (7000 t versus 6000 t last year). He felt that the volume exported already was sufficient for the season in Russia. Piet Smit noted that the US sanctions could be affecting the market in that the banking systems were affected and the flow of money hampered.

Dawie Scholtz was quietly confident about prospects in the Japan market if there were no shocks and a stable, even supply could be ensured. He felt that it would be better than last year. Piet Smit noted that stocks were currently low in Japan but that consumption was also lower as well as alternative fruit choices being available in the summer.

Piet Smit said that Europe was difficult in that there was left over stock from Florida and Israel, a big volume had been shipped from South Africa and with holidays approaching, a window selling opportunities was closing. He felt that growers should look critically at the prospect of the smaller fruit not covering the shipping costs.

Dawie Scholtz warned that some unrealistic prices were being offered for oranges and grapefruit in the markets. Piet Smit agreed, saying it was important to deal with reputable companies.

The Far East had received a lot of fruit and was "a bit of a mess" but it is a good, growing market that needed to be looked after.

8. Meeting dates for 2014

The meeting agreed that the next teleconference will be held on 11 June at 12:00.

Annex 1. Grapefruit Estimate for 2014 (Actual Cartons)

Red Grapefruit

Red grapefruit				Packed	Proj_4
CGA Region	2012	2013	Estimate 2014	20	28-May
Onderberg	2 063 273	2 756 626	2 450 000	714 998	1 900 000
Letsitele	2 330 591	3 762 300	3 732 129	1 900 602	3 350 000
Hoedspruit	2 210 105	3 838 130	3 300 000	1 237 827	3 000 000
Nkwalini	498 235	535 600	500 000		500 000
Limpopo River	731 767	1 117 308	1 169 537	911 112	1 169 537
Pongola	181 145	236 746	165 000		165 000
S.R. Valley	441 223	345 462	400 000	14	400 000
Oranje Rivier	475 693	572 725	500 000	324 729	569 682
Nelspruit	46 020	51 931		33 312	
Patensie	104 237	118 656			
Senwes	111 001	58 746		24 657	
W. Cape	46 565	60 641		3 357	
S-KZN	40	275			
Boland	2 447	11 072		271	
Other	331	19 652	200 000	7 247	200 000
Grand Total(S.A.)	9 242 673	13 485 870	12 416 666	5 158 126	11 254 219
Swaziland	461 914	620 000	579 000	310 000	500 000
Mozambique	39 320				
Zimbabwe	75 000	156 000	145 000	141 000	141 000
Grand Total(inc Zim/Swazi)	9 818 907	14 261 870	13 140 666	5 609 126	11 895 219

White grapefruit	Packed			Packed	Proj_4
CGA Region	2012	2013	Estimate 2014	20	28-May
Onderberg	628327	687 275	550 000	129 545	450 000
Nkwalini	324370	431 335	325 000		325 000
Hoedspruit	356963	292 875	426 000	122 255	350 000
Letsitele	106235	82 307	81 569	10 370	60 000
Pongola	48050	32 125	35 000		35 000
Limpopo River	71865	80 725	141 804	26 820	141 804
Nelspruit	8735	-	-		-
S.R. Valley		5 848	-		-
Senwes	460	-	-		-
Other	10	-	10 000	1 320	10 000
Grand Total(S.A.)	1 545 015	1 612 490	1 569 373	290 310	1 371 804
Swaziland	123 740	95 000	74 000	75 000	74 000
Mozambique	17 350				
Zimbabwe			-		-
Grand Total(inc Zim/Moz)	1 686 105	1 707 490	1 643 373	365 310	1 445 804

Total grapefruit	Packed	Packed		Packed	Proj_4
CGA Region	2012	2013	Estimate 2014	20	28-May
Onderberg	2 691 600	3 443 901	3 000 000	844 543	2 350 000
Letsitele	2 436 826	3 844 607	3 813 698	1 910 972	3 410 000
Hoedspruit	2 567 068	4 131 005	3 726 000	1 360 082	3 350 000
Nkwalini	822 605	966 935	825 000		825 000
Limpopo River	803 632	1 198 033	1 311 341	937 932	1 311 341
Pongola	229 195	268 871	200 000		200 000
S.R. Valley	449 958	351 310	400 000	14	400 000
Oranje Rivier	475 693	572 725	500 000	324 729	569 682
Nelspruit	46 020	51 931		33 312	-
Patensie	104 237	118 656			-
Senwes	111 461	58 746		24 657	-
W. Cape	46 565	60 641		3 357	
S-KZN		275			
Other	2 788	30 724		7 518	
Grand Total(S.A.)	10 787 648	15 098 360	13 776 039	5 447 116	12 416 023
Swaziland*	585 654	715 000	653 000	385 000	574 000
Mozambique	56 670				-
Zimbabwe	75 000	156 000	145 000	141 000	141 000
Grand Total(inc Zim/Moz)	11 504 972	15 969 360	14 574 039	5 973 116	13 131 023
Grand Total(in 15 kg equiv)	13 038 968	18 098 608	16 517 244	6 769 531	14 881 826

