

SOFT CITRUS FOCUS GROUP

DRAFT

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SOFT CITRUS FOCUS GROUP HELD AT 14:00 ON THURSDAY 24 APRIL 2014

Present:

Martina Odendaal	(Patensie)
Stefan Bruwer	(Boland)
Andrew Cooper	(Letsitele)
Ista Upton	(Senwes)
Charl Tibshreany	(Sunday's River Valley)
Lawrence Mgdale	(Citrus Development Chamber).
Jock Danckwerts	(Eastern Cape Midlands)
AJ Esser	(Nelspruit)
Graham Barry	(observer – CGA)
John Edmonds	(CGA – secretariat)

Apologies:

Gerrit vd Merwe (jr) (Western Cape)

1. Welcome

Martina Odendaal welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

As noted above.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 3 April 2013.

Proposed Jock Danckwerts seconded Ista. Approved subject to John Edmonds adding missing segment.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1. UNECE document:

Martina Odendaal noted that South Africa on UNECE agenda.
Graham Barry said that UNECE sets the standard. He said that Shawn Coetzee had informed him that some members who will be involved with the UNECE meeting were hesitant with the phrase in the wording, "when presented as such" He met with PPECB and DAFF and they indicated that they felt that Soft Citrus Focus Group not being transparent. Graham Barry will redraft the wording and make it even simpler and send copies to Martina Odendaal and Jock Danckwerts for vetting. DAFF and PPECB seem to have a problem with packing Clementine as Clementine and also as Mandarins. Jock Danckwerts felt that this is illogical and used the example that it implied that one can call Nova a mandarin; but cannot call a Satsuma a mandarin. Graham Barry reminded the meeting that the original purpose of wording to prevent Nadorcotts and Novas being labelled as Clementines.
Martina Odendaal all industry palyers use the expertise available.

4.2. CBS: Jock Danckwerts has communicated the message regularly. Continue to make others aware of soft citrus' unique situation. Soft citrus viewed independently of other citrus types. Some promising developments. Reinspection after mid July and Ethapon dip test to be implemented after July. Get update after 28th April on developments in UN. Soft Citrus Focus Group urge CGA again to push for more indeprndent recognition. Letter to CGA, put on record appreciation and request every effort be taken to get soft citrus recognised by auth in EU to be viewed differently to other. Martina Odendaal req feedback. Martina Odendaal draft letter.

5. Estimates for 2014 (see Annex1)

Andrew Cooper gave feedback on the Mpumalanga region; Satsuma (includes Sonet):packing weeks: 8 – 17; counts 1x – 2; Finishing 1 week later due to rain early in the season. Clementine: weeks 17 – 22, counts 1 – 2; packing 2 weeks later. Nova counts: 1, 1x, 2;packing 2 weeks later. Late mandarins (Nadorcott,Mor, Orri, B17, B24 etc) packing weeks 23 – 37; counts peaking on 1x, 1, 1xx. He reported that the first arrivals of Satsumas in the market had been disappointing with some cold damage.
Stefan Bruwer (Boland) reported some hail.
Martina Odendaal's report from Patensie reported that rain had affected picking.

Jock Danckwerts also reported rain and indicated that the Satsumas volumes may be a bit down. Charl Tibshreany (Sunday's River Valley) kept his estimate unchanged. They had finished Satsumas with small sizes (3 and 4). Pack-outs were low because of the sizes. Clementines were due to start and Novas with degreening in week 19.

6. Markets

Stefan Bruwer spoke to Justin Chadwick regarding the competition commission. Will meet week 5-9 May and report back. He said that Satsumas did not have much chance with South America, but Clementines and late mandarins faced less intense competition.

Stefan Bruwer said that a problem for Spain is our late mandarins are superior to their early fruit. Martina Odendaal noted that prices were stable especially for Satsumas.

7. Date of next meeting

It was decided to hold the next meeting on Thursday 29 May 2014 at 2pm.



Annex 1: 2014 Soft Citrus Projection 2.

