

SOFT CITRUS FOCUS GROUP

DRAFT

MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCE OF THE SOFT CITRUS FOCUS GROUP HELD AT 10:00 ON THURSDAY 14 MAY 2015

Present:

Martina Odendaal	(Patensie - chair)
Gerrit vd Merwe (jr)	(Western Cape)
Andrew Cooper	(Letsitele)
Ista Upton	(Senwes)
Jock Danckwerts	(Eastern Cape Midlands)
John Edmonds	(CGA – secretariat)

Apologies:

Charl Tibshreany	(Sunday's River Valley)
Lawrence Mgdale	(Citrus Development Chamber).
Stefan Bruwer	(Boland)
Graham Barry	(observer – CGA)
AJ Esser	(Nelspruit)

1. Welcome

Martina Odendaal welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

As noted above.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 2 April 2014.

The minutes were approved; proposed by Andrew Cooper and seconded by Gerrit van der Merwe.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1. UNECE document and standards :

Martina Odendaal noted that the dispensation request to DAFF had been approved and thanked John Edmonds and Graham Barry for their efforts. John Edmonds explained the effect of the request meant no change to the current standards. Jock Danckwerts noted that there are growers who want to change the current standard and this should be done through due process by submitting a proposal to DAFF.

5. Procedures and protocols in respect of implementation of meeting decisions

Jock Danckwerts noted his concern that the last topic (dispensation) had been reopened after a decision had been taken at a meeting leading to delays in implementation. Once a decision has been taken it should be implemented immediately. Other points noted were that participants in the meeting should make themselves familiar with the topic of discussion to give meaningful inputs and that clear consensus should be reached before implementing the decision.

6. Updated Projection for 2015 (see Annex1)

In summary the latest total soft citrus projection drops to 9.7 million cartons from the original estimate of 10 million cartons.

Satsumas are all but finished and almost bang on target.

East Cape Midlands are 15% down and Patensie still have some to go. It has been disappointing in that fruit in good condition has arrived in the market showing signs of "burn". Western Cape experienced similar. Discussion on this topic pointed to stress on the fruit with high temperatures (38%) and dry conditions being the likely cause. A big variation between day-time and night-time temperatures was also forwarded as a potential culprit.

Clementines were adjusted down and are expected to be 14% down on last year's 3.2 million cartons. Boland, Sunday's River Valley and Patensie all expect a drop in exports.

Sunday's River Valley are close to completing their Clementine packing and experienced a lot of problems with Zebra stripes and water spotting. Growers here are removing Clementine trees. Gerrit van der Merwe (Western Cape) said that a big wave of Clementines was coming from Western Cape and Boland but the USA market is very good which absorbed a lot of the volume and this took pressure off the EU and UK markets. He expects the season to finish early; from about week 23/24. He noted that fruit fly was a big problem this year and FCM had presented a problem

The **other Mandarin types** are 5.5% up on last year to 5.3 million cartons. Sunday's River Valley report very good quality and sizes for their Novas.

7. Markets

Gerrit van der Merwe noted a big demand for Novas for China. He felt that more effort should be put in with regard to cold treatment for this market. Consensus was that the grey channel is extremely risky and only well coloured fruit in good condition could have a chance of withstanding the protocol.

8. Date of next meeting

Future teleconferences will be held on 11 June at 10:00.



Annex 1: 2015 Soft Citrus Projection

Total Soft Citrus	2014	EST. 2015	14 May Projection1
Boland	2 732 608	2 602 000	2 583 000
W. Cape	2 234 180	2 390 000	2 385 000
S.R. Valley	1 224 819	1 055 000	1 000 000
Patensie	1 511 002	1 209 000	1 270 000
E. Cape Midlands	666 746	820 000	669 000
Nelspruit	1 014 407	1 218 361	1 010 556
Letsitele	85 842	265 000	268 000
Senwes	411 554	403 000	433 000
other	76 786	42 000	74 869
Grand Total	9 957 944	10 004 361	9 693 425

Satsumas	2 014	EST. 2015	14 May Projection1
Boland	613 608	614 000	614 000
Patensie	335 610	350 000	370 000
W. Cape	229 587	225 000	225 000
E. Cape Midlands	258 698	300 000	255 000
Nelspruit	174 639	195 000	186 000
S.R. Valley	136 140	115 000	115 000
Senwes	27 082	10 000	20 000
Letsitele	4 663		
Other	109		
Grand Total	1 780 136	1 809 000	1 785 000

Clementines	2014	EST. 2015	14 May Projection1
Boland	1 267 815	1 100 000	1 100 000
W. Cape	1 053 315	1 100 000	950 000
S.R. Valley	328 348	250 000	180 000
Patensie	151 838	120 000	140 000
E. Cape Midlands	216 033	250 000	213 000
Nelspruit	82 755	117 625	80 000
Letsitele	3 735		3 000
Senwes	51 970	50 000	40 000
Other	440		
Grand Total	3 156 249	2 987 625	2 706 000

Other Mandarin Types	2015 NOVA est	2015 OTHER est	2015 LATE est	EST. 2015	proj. Nova	proj. Other	proj. Late	14 May Projection1
Boland	189 000	80 000	619 000	888 000	170 000	80 000	619 000	869 000
W. Cape	105 000	260 000	700 000	1 065 000	105 000	260 000	700 000	1 065 000
S.R. Valley	485 000	30 000	175 000	690 000	390 000	30 000	175 000	595 000
Patensie	330 000	25 000	384 000	739 000	450 000	25 000	400 000	875 000
E. Cape Midlands	60 000	10 000	200 000	270 000	60 000	10 000	200 000	270 000
Nelspruit	180 778	14 778	710 180	905 736	180 778	14 778	620 000	815 556
Letsitele			265 000	265 000			265 000	265 000
Senwes	120 000	43 000	180 000	343 000	150 000	43 000	180 000	373 000
Limpopo River		30 000		30 000		30 000		
Other		5 000	37 000	42 000		5 000	40 000	74 869
Grand Total	1 469 778	497 778	3 270 180	5 237 736	1 505 778	497 778	3 199 000	5 202 425

