

SOFT CITRUS FOCUS GROUP

DRAFT

MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCE OF THE SOFT CITRUS FOCUS GROUP HELD AT 10:00 ON THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2015

Present:

Charl Tibshreany	(Sunday's River Valley – vice chairman)
Andrew Cooper	(Letsitele)
Stefan Bruwer	(Boland)
Ista Upton	(Senwes)
Jock Danckwerts	(Eastern Cape Midlands)
Graham Barry	(observer – CGA)
John Edmonds	(CGA – secretariat)

Apologies:

Martina Odendaal	(Patensie - chair)
Gerrit vd Merwe (jr)	(Western Cape)
Lawrence Mgdale	(Citrus Development Chamber).
AJ Esser	(Nelspruit)

1. Welcome

Charl Tibshreany standing for Martina Odendaal, welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

As noted above.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 14 May 2015.

The minutes were approved; proposed by Andrew Cooper and seconded by Jock Danckwerts.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Graham Barry was cut off from the teleconference but under general gave the following feedback arising from the previous minutes:

He noted that in the previous minutes under Markets, Gerrit van der Merwe noted a big demand for Novas for China. Gerrit felt that more effort should be put in with regard to cold treatment for this market. Feedback from Dr Vaughan Hattingh in this regard was there is a china cold treatment working group convened by CGA. Sean Moore and Vaughan were in China last week discussing treatment conditions for various citrus types. Elma carstens and Vaughan had meeting with DAFF this week. CRI are pushing as hard as possible (re the cold treatment protocol for China).

CRI is also co-funding a project at ITSC to evaluate cold storage potential of new soft citrus cultivars. The committee asked that Nova and Nova Seedless be included. 2014 results did not have any chilling injury at -0.5C storage temperature. Graham also got feedback from Dr Paul Cronje. He does not have any current projects on Nova's susceptibility to the different cold treatment protocols and the respective logistics involved: USA 22days in bulk vessels vs China 24 days in containers @-0.6°C; but he thinks that the two most important questions to answer would be to determine if Eastern Cape and Western Cape Novas differ in chilling injury (CI) susceptibility, as well as what is the impact of the two different logistical chains to USA and China on chilling injury? If/when the Eastern Cape can export to the USA, on-board shipment trial can be initiated to determine the effects of these differences. Graham also noted that research plans need to be put in place for October research funding meeting.

5. Updated Projection for 2015 (see Annex1)

In summary the latest total soft citrus projection returns to just over the original estimate at 10.1 million cartons.

Clementines were adjusted down and are expected to be 12% 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 have completed their Clementine packing. East Cape Midlands made a small downward adjustment to 200 000 cartons.

The **other Mandarin types** are 5.5% up on last year to 5.3 million cartons. Only Nelspruit made a revision, increasing late mandarins from 620 000 to 660 000 cartons. They had started Nadorcotts and had good quality and internals.

Sunday's River Valley report very good quality and sizes for their Novas and will finish next week. They had a lot of rain recently which affected acids.

6. Markets

Jock Danckwerts noted that Satsumas had been disastrous this year. He added that the late mandarins in Spain and Morocco expanding, meant they compete directly with our Satsumas and that some growers will have negative returns on Satsumas this year. In turn, our late mandarins affect their Satsumas. GB felt that 1.8 million cartons is more than the market wants.

Jock was more optimistic about Clementines. He said they were stable, demand is relatively inelastic and they are not easy to grow. He did note that last year had been poor for Clementines. He said that Clementines had to be grown in the right areas. Charl agreed noting that the Sunday's River Valley had proven to be the wrong location and growers were pulling out of Clementines which need diurnal conditions and a cool March.

Stefan Bruwer felt that we were lucky this year because Spain had finished their Late Mandarins early. However 1000 hectares has been planted in the EU. South Africa's northern regions are pulling out grapefruit and putting in early mandarins and in the Western Cape some struggling grape growers and part timers were changing to soft citrus which will further fragment the market and clash with the Western Cape and Eastern Cape timing. Charl proposed that members ask exporters about the prospects for exporting to China under cold steri.

7. Date of next meeting

Next teleconference will be held on 9 July at 10:00.



Annex 1: 2015 Soft Citrus Projection

Satsumas	2 014	EST. 2015	11 June Projection2
Boland	613 608	614 000	680 471
Patensie	335 610	350 000	415 619
W. Cape	229 587	225 000	281 813
E. Cape Midlands	258 698	300 000	336 449
Nelspruit	174 639	195 000	217 060
S.R. Valley	136 140	115 000	126 297
Senwes	27 082	10 000	20 000
Letsitele	4 663		38
Other	109		
Grand Total	1 780 136	1 809 000	2 077 747

Clementines	2014	EST. 2015	11 June Projection2
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	252 080
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	2 778 080

Other Mandarin Types	2 014	EST. 2015	11 June Projection2
Boland	851 185	888 000	869 000
W. Cape	951 278	1 065 000	1 065 000
S.R. Valley	760 331	690 000	595 000
Patensie	1 023 554	739 000	875 000
E. Cape Midlands	192 015	270 000	270 000
Nelspruit	757 013	905 736	855 556
Letsitele	77 444	265 000	265 000
Senwes	332 502	343 000	434 527
Limpopo River		30 000	
Other	76 237	42 000	45 500
Grand Total	5 021 559	5 237 736	5 274 583

Total Soft Citrus	2014	EST. 2015	11 June Projection2
Boland	2 732 608	2 602 000	2 649 471
W. Cape	2 234 180	2 390 000	2 430 619
S.R. Valley	1 224 819	1 055 000	1 128 893
Patensie	1 511 002	1 209 000	1 351 449
E. Cape Midlands	666 746	820 000	700 060
Nelspruit	1 014 407	1 218 361	1 061 853
Letsitele	85 842	265 000	268 000
Senwes	411 554	403 000	494 527
other	76 786	42 000	45 500
Grand Total	9 957 944	10 004 361	10 130 372