

Valencia Focus Group

Minutes of the Valencia Focus Group Meeting held at 14:00 on 19 June 2014

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Deon Joubert welcomed all to the meeting.

Present

Deon Joubert	Sunday's River Valley
Peter Nicholson	Limpopo River
Andrew Muller	Nelspruit
Marisa van den Heever	Senwes
Fanie Meyer	Hoedspruit
Paul Bristow	Zimbabwe
Barend Vorster	Letsitele
Stiaan Engelbrecht	Western Cape
Tertius Meyer	Patensie
George Brown	Swaziland
Bester Snyman	Nkwalini
Graham Barry	(observer – on behalf of CGA)
Mitchell Brooke	(observer – CGA)
Sonwabo Cera	(observer – CGA)
John Edmonds	(Secretariat) CGA

Observers from Navel Focus Group:

Gabrie van Eeden (Chairman)	Western Cape
Hannes de Waal (Vice Chairman)	Sunday's River Valley
Graham Piner	Nelspruit
Barry Mildenhall	Eastern Cape Midlands
Hendrik Schoeman	Senwes
Phillip Dempsey	Patensie

2. Apologies

Cornel vd Merwe	Onderberg
Danie Matthewson	Vaalharts
Andre Barnard	Pongola
Samson Qomondi	Citrus Development Chamber
Andre Spangenberg	Oranje Rivier

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 17 March 2014.

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Peter Nicholson gave feedback on progress since the previous meeting on EDI. He said that the most important thing was that all parties including departments of DAFF agreed that the information system represents a process flow which culminated in a phyto certificate for each market. He reported that PPECB had made good progress with their tablet project and delivery was due 1 October. DAFF had been asked what they need from industry to deliver their part of the flow. It is a work in progress and will not be in place this year.

5. Canada and Mancozeb

There was very strong objection to the latest development. Hannes de Waal expressed the sentiment that this came from DAFF mid-season, without consultation. Fanie Meyer felt that the new measure was put in place without awareness of the consequences and was not solicited from the Canadian side. They asked that John Edmonds pass on the request to Justin Chadwick to take it up at the highest level with DAFF. Gabriele van Eeden noted that he had spoken to Paul Hardman and that there would be a teleconference the following day with CGA and DAFF. The meeting agreed that they would like to receive feedback immediately following this meeting.

6. Estimates for 2014

Appendix 1 below reflects the regional estimates for the 2014 season and latest projection. There was effectively no change made to the original estimate.

Barend Vorster gave feedback from Letsitele region indicated some creasing and fruit smaller than originally anticipated.

Deon Joubert said that Sunday's River Valley were a size better (peaking 72, 64s)

Fanie Meyer (Hoedspruit) noted creasing problems for their Turkey valencias and sizes peaking on 72s rather than the normal 64s.

Marisa van den Heever said Senwes counts are peaking on 72,88.

Tertius Meyer (Patensie) said their season was running about two weeks late but they are likely to catch up.

Andrew Muller (Nelspruit) said that counts would peak on 72 and 88s.

Cornel vd Merwe reported via an earlier call that said that Onderberg had started backing Turkeys and sizing was a bit bigger than last year.

Paul Bristow said that counts were peaking on 64s and the fruit was a bit greener for this time of year.

George Brown (Swaziland) indicated that they had some creasing problems and colouring up was slow.

7. Markets

It was noted that China was very strong, Far East good and the Middle East stable. Peter Nicholson noted that about a third of orchards would be withdrawn from supplying the EU and it was more expensive and risky to supply Europe than in the past. Initial demand from Europe was not high initially this season and now the supply base has shrunk. Deon Joubert said that we should continue to develop alternative markets.

8. Meeting dates for 2014

It was agreed that the next teleconference be another joint meeting at 14:00 on 16 July.

Appendix1: Valencia Regional Projections

			Packed at	Projection 1
CGA Region	2013	2014 Est.	2014 Week 24	19-Jun
Letsitele	11 990 829	12 500 000	481 400	12 500 000
S.R. Valley	6 741 938	6 500 000	12 720	6 500 000
Hoedspruit	4 750 967	4 900 000	110 844	4 900 000
W. Cape	4 495 376	4 500 000	13 178	4 500 000
Limpopo River	5 039 968	5 000 000	349 956	5 000 000
Senwes	7 576 956	5 750 000	16 895	5 750 000
Patensie	1 985 891	2 020 000		2 020 000
Nelspruit	2 952 239	2 905 000	280 788	2 905 000
Onderberg	2 036 196	1 850 000	8 558	1 850 000
Boland	246 290	250 000	1 619	250 000
Oranje Rivier	175 200	166 000	40 300	166 000
Nkwalini	147 974	342 000		265 000
S-KZN	230 147	150 000		150 000
Pongola	77 410	79 000		79 000
E. Cape Midlands	49 518	50 000		50 000
VaalHarts	60 007	50 000		50 000
other	4 782	0	1 615	-
SA Total	48 561 688	47 012 000	1 317 873	46 935 000
Zimbabwe	2 200 000	2 000 000	200 000	2 000 000
Swaziland*	646 000	518 000	20 000	518 000
Grand Total	51 407 688	49 530 000	1 537 873	49 453 000

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