

# CGA calls for trade and logistics support

The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) underscores the necessity for action on market access, biosecurity, and logistics as the agriculture sector anticipates the upcoming budget vote debate in parliament.

The industry is targeting an increase in exports to 260 million 15kg cartons by 2032, dependent on supportive policies. The CGA's statement emphasizes the need for collaboration to drive agricultural growth.

CGA CEO Boitshoko Ntshabele expressed confidence that the priorities addressed in the agriculture budget debate will strengthen the sector's role in job creation. This year's export season is projected to reach a record high, with volumes expected to exceed 171 million 15kg cartons by October. Ntshabele highlighted the "uncertain trade environment" and the economic pressures facing growers, calling for continued engagement from all stakeholders.

Citrus is South Africa's largest agricultural export sector, generating around US\$1.85 billion in foreign revenue per season ( R34 billion). However, the sector faces challenges from tariffs and regulatory constraints. CGA Chair Gerrit van der Merwe noted that every additional 10 million cartons exported creates roughly 10,000 jobs, benefiting rural towns such as Letsitele, Addo, and Citrusdal. Improving trade relations with the U.S., China, and India is seen as crucial, as tariffs from China and India continue to affect competitiveness.

The CGA also points to the European Union market, suggesting that access could be improved by resolving World Trade Organisation disputes related to Citrus Black Spot and False Coddling Moth trade measures.

Logistics remain a significant challenge. CGA COO Paul Hardman emphasized the importance of private sector involvement as a long-term solution to South Africa's inconsistent logistics infrastructure. Structural reforms to ports and the rail network are essential to enable growth in export agriculture. Hardman also stressed the need for greater alignment between the departments of agriculture and transport on these issues.

SAAFF CEO Juanita Maree acknowledged progress at Transnet, citing "meaningful progress and renewed operational capacity." According to a recent Busa/SAAFF cargo movement update, port operations have performed "above target."

Transnet is seeking private sector investment to refurbish and expand rail infrastructure, according to Business Day. Transport Minister Barbara Creecy confirmed that the process of involving private sector partners is nearing completion.

Source: Business Day (<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2025-07-06-citrus-industry-urges-priority-in-agriculture-budget-vote-as-exports-surge/>)

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