

Executive appointments

CGA Board

GLORIA WEARE

A new executive team has been elected to lead the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) Board for a two-year term. The CGA Board comprises 20 directors, representing 15 grower regions, with two directors who represent emerging farmers in the north and south regions, a director of government relations and a director who heads up the finance and risk review committee.



Cornel van der Merwe

Cornel van der Merwe has been elected as the new CGA Chairman from April 2020. He is currently the Marketing and Packaging Director of citrus and the Sub-tropical Producer and Exporter of Komati Fruit. "Cornel brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having served in various senior management positions in the citrus sector for over 10 years. He has also served on the CGA board for eight years, and I look forward to continue working with him to represent the interest of citrus growers on the national and international stage," says CEO Justin Chadwick.

Cornel is looking forward to taking up his new role as chairman, and states that: "I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead this world-class organisation. The global health crisis caused by COVID-19 may prove to be a temporary obstacle to our growth, but I have no doubt that we will overcome it. As food producers, we have a responsibility to both our country and to international consumers to supply food – but most importantly, we have a responsibility of ensuring the job security of all our workers, especially during a period of global crisis. It will take a long time for SA to recover from the COVID-19 outbreak – and the CGA needs to ensure that it plays a leading role in ensuring we overcome this crisis successfully, and in a manner that continues to help grow our local economy. I am confident that with the leadership of our organisation, even the most difficult challenges will be conquered, and that we will maintain our competitive position in the global citrus sector."



Ben Vorster

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Ben Vorster, outgoing CGA Chairman is now Vice-chairman in order to ensure continuity. Justin also thanked Ben for his exceptional leadership: "On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment over the past two years. The industry has been blessed with record growth during your tenure. We



would also like to express our gratitude for your continued service to the industry." Reflecting on his tenure, Ben Vorster says: "It was a great privilege serving as chairman of such a huge and dynamic organisation. We faced a lot of challenges over the past two years, which we mostly managed to overcome. The industry, along with our other stakeholders, needs to work even more closely together to help our beautiful country. We need to play our part in growing the economy and also ensuring our labour force remains safe. We have great leaders in the industry and I want to congratulate the new board members who have been voted to the executive. I am confident they will bring fresh ideas on how to further grow the sector. This includes the new Chairman, Cornél van der Merwe, who has a lot of knowledge of the industry. I am confident he, along with new Vice-chairman, Hannes de Waal, will take citrus to new heights. I also want to thank Justin Chadwick and his team, who are the heartbeat of the industry. I look forward to continue working with the rest of the leadership team to build on our successes to date."

The citrus industry is a major economic contributor, employing 120 000 people and generating R20 billion in export revenue. The continued growth of the sector will translate into more jobs and revenue for SA.

Hannes de Waal, Managing Director of the Sundays River Citrus Company (SRCC), fills the second Vice-chairman position. He is expected to take over as Chairman of the board in two-years' time.

George Hall, is current Executive Committee member. George Hall and Gerrit van der Merwe have been elected to serve in the two executive member positions. Notably, George has represented the Boland citrus growers on the CGA Board for over 10 years.

Gerrit van der Merwe, new member of CGA Executive Committee. Justin congratulated all the executive members on being elected to their positions, with Gerrit van der Merwe being the only new addition. "The citrus industry is expected to export a record 143.3 million cartons in 2020 and is anticipated to grow by a further 500 000 tons over the next three years. I look forward to working with the new executive team, to maximise the long-term competitiveness of the sector, opening and expanding market access across the globe." ❀



Hannes de Waal



George Hall



Gerrit van der Merwe