

according to new government regulations that came into play, and when the lockdown levels applied throughout the country, they were adjusted accordingly.

Last year, the government roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines was a key focus area for the CRC. The vaccination programme got off to a slow start, with a limited amount of vaccines. However, once that constraint was overcome, it was pleasing to see CGA members stepping up to ensure farm workers had access to the vaccine. High-volume vaccination days were arranged on numerous farms.

The Orange Heart vaccination drive helped to get information to decision-makers and their efforts are much appreciated

The Orange Heart fruit drive was set up in 2020 to help communities that were particularly affected by COVID-19 and the related restrictions introduced to prevent its spread. Unfortunately, the volume of fruit donated in 2021 (49 tonnes) was less than in 2020, partly due to considerable



Citrus sponsored through the Orange Heart Fruit Drive

uncertainty and challenges with matching supply and requirements, not to mention logistics problems. The CGA hopes that this initiative will gain momentum in 2022, and thanks the growers who donated fruit despite these challenges.

Overall impact of COVID-19 on citrus exports

All in all, the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the performance of the citrus industry in 2021 was well contained. It was also against the backdrop of the pandemic that the industry faced the highly disruptive events in July (i.e. the KZN and Gauteng civil unrest and the Transnet cyber attack). And lockdown



restrictions made it particularly difficult to address these problems. Yet, having had to collectively tackle the COVID-19 pandemic as an industry, much of the institutional arrangements were now in place to ensure that industry stakeholders could weather the effects of these new challenges.

Furthermore, prevailing consequences triggered by pandemic-related problems on logistics chains continue to be reported. Worldwide, shipping has been gravely impacted and South African exporters have faced shortages of containers and in some cases, delays in access to ports to discharge fruit. These challenges are expected to persist into the new season.

Vote of thanks

The CGA would like to thank all stakeholders in the citrus industry for all their efforts to keep the citrus industry operational during these trying times last year. Without them, supply chains would have simply come to a halt. Finally, CGA would also like to thank the participants in the CRC for sacrificing their personal time to engage in these meetings. Your contribution is valued. 🍊

The third wave of COVID-19 coincided with the main citrus export months (June, July and August 2021). But fortunately, much of the preparation and groundwork had been done during the previous year.

Citrus Academy short courses

Citrus Academy short courses are aimed at providing a short, sharp insight into the essential components of the citrus production system. By Sive Silo

Citrus Production Short Course:



Learn about all aspects of citrus production including the history of the industry, the roles of industry organisations, citrus production practices and the citrus export value chain.

Citrus Packing Short Course:



Learn about citrus packhouse practices, including receiving, fruit treatments, sorting and packing, meeting market requirements, and maintaining traceability and food safety.

Citrus Export Supply Chain Short Course:



Learn about what happens to citrus export fruit after it leaves the packhouse until it arrives in the overseas market, including all about service providers, market requirements, special markets, inspections, documentation, and best practices.

Citrus Short Course Schedule

Dates	Workshop name	Location
February		
2-4 Feb '22	Citrus Production Short Course	Nelspruit
16-18 Feb '22	Citrus Production Short Course	Groblersdal
16-18 Feb '22	Citrus Packing Short Course	KZN
24-25 Feb '22	Citrus Export Supply Chain Course	Nelspruit
23-25 Feb '22	Citrus Packing Short Course	Zimbabwe
March		
2-4 Mar '22	Citrus Export Supply Chain Course	Cape Town
9-11 Mar '22	Citrus Packing Short Course	Letsitele
7-9 Mar '22	Citrus Production Short Course	Zimbabwe 1
10-12 March '22	Citrus Production Short Course	Zimbabwe 2
16-18 March '22	Citrus Packing Short Course	Hoedspruit
30 Mar – 1 Apr '22	Citrus Production Short Course	Citrusdal
April		
6-9 April '22	Citrus Export Supply Chain Short Course	Fort Beaufort
20-22 April '22	Citrus Export Supply Chain Short Course	Addo

For more information and to register online, visit www.citrusacademy.org.za
Email your queries to Nonhle at nonhle@citrusacademy.org.za