

Orange Heart Fruit Drive SHARING THE BOUNTY

Orange Heart was founded by the Citrus Growers' Association in 2015 to channel funding to charitable organisations in citrus-growing regions. By Sive Silo

Since its inception right after the first-ever CGA Citrus Summit, the Orange Heart initiative has only gone from strength to strength. The initiative shows benevolence to crèches, schools, sports clubs, and many other organisations around the country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Orange Heart supported the vaccination drive in the fruit industry and established the Orange Heart Fruit Drive to support poor



households in rural communities, particularly in citrus-growing regions.

The Orange Heart Fruit Drive collects fruit donations from the industry and distributes them to charities such as foodbanks and soup kitchens, that support poor households, schools, orphanages, and individuals. The main partner of Orange Heart is FoodForwardSA, a food bank with a nationwide footprint and internal logistics resources that enable them to bring fruit from where it is to where it is needed. Fruit can be collected anywhere in the country – directly from farms, packhouses, cold stores, warehouses,

marketplaces, or fruit terminals. The Fruit Drive also works with local soup and sandwich kitchens in Durban to distribute fruit that is rejected for export at the Durban harbour.

Since 2019 more than 1 600 tonnes of fruit has been distributed to under-resourced households around SA.

To donate fruit, please contact Sive at Orange Heart with details of where and when to collect fruit. She can be contacted at sive@citrusacademy.org.za, through the Orange Heart Initiative Facebook page, Instagram or Twitter accounts (@cga_orangeheart), or through the Orange Heart Initiative LinkedIn page.

The CGA views social upliftment as critical to strengthening the industry and the country, long-term. Therefore, the promotion of rural growth and development, especially in citrus-growing regions, and the upliftment of those who are less fortunate are prioritised. The grower community is encouraged to get involved and to lend a hand through the Orange Heart initiative. 🍊



Africa Day at the South African embassy in Moscow

On 25 May Africa Day recognises the vision and milestones achieved towards “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa”. By Tanya Ungerer



The South African Embassy in the Russian Federation participated in the celebration of Africa Day, at a big reception held in Moscow. The event was organised by the Russian Association for International Cooperation, the International Charity Public Fund “Dialogue of Cultures-United World”, Roscongress Foundation, and the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum.

The occasion was attended by representatives from the diplomatic missions accredited

in the city, as well as members of the Russian public involved in the movement for friendship with Africa. National cuisine is a great way to learn about a culture. Thus, the event featured a festival of national African dishes.

The Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) was delighted to answer the call of the South African Embassy in Russia to contribute South African citrus, which the embassy used to create an authentic display. South



African Ambassador to Russia His Excellency M.J. Maqetuka was pleased to see the promotion of South African fruits in Russia. And he expressed his appreciation to the CGA for having contributed to the display of fruit and wines. 🍷

Citrus Secondary Programme

The Citrus Academy is launching a programme aimed at providing an opportunity for school learners to achieve an NQF2 plant production qualification before completing matric.

By Jacomien de Klerk



Jacomien de Klerk

The new Citrus Secondary Programme will be available for implementation at high schools in citrus-growing regions around the country in 2024. It consists of 48 weekly modules spread over two years, addressing all aspects of citrus production along with aspects of administration such as marketing and production management. Each module consists of content and assessment activities. Some of the assessment activities require learners to complete practical tasks, which they will do at nearby farms. The programme is aimed at grade 10 and 11 learners.

Module content and assessments are hosted on the Citrus Academy e-learning platform, and learner administration will be managed by the Citrus Academy. The programme coordinator will also advise schools and assist with the implementation of the programme. And the Citrus Academy provides access to the programme and all of these services at no cost.

Participating schools are responsible for marketing the programme to their learners, providing a learning room with access to computers and the internet, making available a facilitator to lead the learners through the programme, arranging practical activities, and engaging an accredited service provider to conduct assessments.

The Citrus Secondary Programme is currently being piloted at three high schools in the Eastern Cape. Feedback from the programme has been extremely positive, with learners enthusiastically participating in learning and practical activities.

The programme not only enables learners to leave school with a qualification that will significantly improve their chances of finding employment in the citrus industry, it also grows the skills pool in rural areas, promoting and supporting development in citrus-growing regions. 🍊

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