

CITRUS COURSES for high school learners



There is a growing need for training for young people who want to enter the citrus industry, especially in the Eastern Cape.
By Candice Burgin



The Eastern Cape is one of the largest citrus exporting regions in the country, and SA is the second largest citrus exporter in the world and the largest in the southern hemisphere.

Citrus Academy and schools work together

The Citrus Academy now offers, in collaboration with Nico Malan High School in Humansdorp and Kirkwood High School in the Sunday's River Valley, an online citrus course that is conducted at the respective schools. The course was launched at the beginning of 2023 and the programme consists of modules that cover all aspects of citrus production, including technical production knowledge and skills and financial and administrative management.

The programme content is available on the Citrus Academy's e-learning platform, and is presented in collaboration with the applicable high school in the relevant citrus product region. The school recruits the learners, provides the space, computers and a facilitator, and arranges the practical activities.

They also contract a local training provider to do the programme assessments. Learners will obtain an NQF2 Plant Production certificate on completion of the course.

The course, which should ideally be implemented over two years for learners in grades 10 and 11, consists of 24 weekly modules per year over four quarters in a calendar year.

We are grateful to expert farmers in the area who are willing to be involved in the practical activities that form part of the course. However, their support will also be needed to give learners further experience in citrus production, so that they are able to apply their theoretical knowledge.

For more information on:

- the course, please contact Jacomien de Klerk at jacomien@citrusacademy.org.za
- this and other e-learning courses, please visit the Citrus Academy website on www.citrusacademy.org.za.

The support of farmers who have kindly committed to assisting learners, will also be needed to give them further experience in citrus production.



moving forward

To ensure that black growers are properly represented, the CGA established the Citrus Growers Development Chamber in 2011 as a platform for engagement. By Sive Silo



Sive Silo

The Citrus Growers Development Chamber (CGDC) is made up of representatives from technical study groups that have been established for emergent growers around the country. The CGDC focuses on identifying the challenges faced by emerging growers and finding ways to address them.

Recently, members of the CGDC took part in a two-day leadership and development training programme. The programme aimed to equip them accordingly as leaders, and to give them essential tools to better serve their constituents and emerging growers. The training also focused on the CGDC members' roles on various boards. Overall, the attendees found the programme to be highly beneficial.



GDC members attending leadership training



The CGDC seeks solutions for the challenges faced by emerging growers.