

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (10/10)

Justin Chadwick (12 March 2010)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK “I have found out that there is no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them” Mark Twain

GROWER ROADSHOWS

The heat followed us from the northern Cape to the northern regions – which augers well for a good, high quality fruit as ample rain has fallen in most areas and the dams and rivers are full. In the Senwes region (Marble Hall and Groblersdal) there is a lot of planting taking place, with growers looking forward to a good crop. The turn out at the grower roadshow in Groblersdal was fantastic, showing renewed interest by growers for their industry and activities of the CGA. The positive comments at all roadshows as to CGA/CRI/Citrus Academy and RB activities are truly inspiring – yes we have lots to do, but it seems that we are on the right track. Traveling to Weipie we took the border road and saw the Limpopo River flowing well – with double razor wired and electric fences trying to keep the few remaining Zimbabweans out of South Africa. The Limpopo River meeting was held in hot conditions with a very good turnout, including many new growers to the industry.

Letsitele presented a challenge as the electricity was out for the first half of the presentations. Once again a well attended meeting with a noticeable number of younger members of the industry. The crop is looking good in Letsitele – with good crops on the trees. And finally to Hoedspruit – with an air conditioned board room shielding us from the heat outside. The orchards around Hoedspruit are looking exceptional and the crop is developing nicely – although the region is in need of some good rain. The presentations will be available on the members section of the CGA website from next week (www.cga.co.za). Thanks to Jacomien, Hennie, Keith, Mitchell, Lukhanyo and Andrew for their presentations, and for those who organized or provided venues and accommodation. Once again traveling the length of the country shows why we are so competitive as a global citrus exporter. The vast range of climates means a citrus basket second to none, and the ability of growers and the technology developed and adopted over time keeps Southern African citrus growers ahead of the curve.

Paul's group still has the following meetings: **16 March** Nelspruit 14H00 [CRI Board Room]; and **17 March** Onderberg 09H00 [Golden Frontiers], Swaziland 14H00 [Ngonini].

MAPUTO

Mitchell Brooke presented to growers in the north a thorough overview of the rationale behind using Maputo port. In 2009 60 000 pallets of citrus went through Maputo – the potential is in the region of 120 000 to 140 000 pallets. We need to use this capacity fully in order to take pressure of Durban. To be successful it is important that using Maputo is cost competitive and that fruit is well handled in the port. CGA would like to assist by coordinating volumes through Maputo. By getting information from growers, packhouses and exporters of the amounts scheduled to go through Maputo, the weeks that this would be delivered and the destination markets; it is possible to advise all role-players of peak times, of times when the port may be oversupplied, when it may be undersupplied and to monitor the flow of fruit so that efficiencies are achieved. If you wish to find out more contact Mitchell at Mitchell@cga.co.za. CGA has also been in contact with a resource in Maputo who could assist with this exercise and be a presence in the port, at the same time as supplying other services such as looking at fruit quality, dwell time and fruit handling in the port (on a user pays basis).

**GROWERS' FUND THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CITRUS
GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, CITRUS ACADEMY AND CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL**