

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (32/10)

Justin Chadwick (20 August 2010)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Diplomacy is the art of saying "nice doggie" until you can find a rock" Will Rogers

CRI CITRUS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

This week saw the biggest research symposium/conference in the southern hemisphere taking place in the KZN Drakensberg – and once again it was a resounding success. FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY delegates travelled to the sixth CRI Citrus Research Symposium – and were treated to three days of excellent presentations, ideal networking opportunities and a party to end all parties. Well done to the organizing committee (Hennie le Roux, Henry Skinner and Jean De Gasperi), the scientific committee (Vaughan Hattingh, Tim Grout, Paul Fourie, Stephan Verreyne and Sean Moore) and the finance committee (Andrea Vinson and Bridget Coetzee).

I am always blown away by the research that is being done at CRI, Universities and other research facilities; as well as the range of products and services available to the citrus industry. I am not a scientist but was able to understand the presentations – all incredibly relevant and some ground breaking stuff. And the range of topics was broad – a total of 67 papers and 35 posters were presented – I would imagine that every aspect of the citrus supply chain was covered. I would like to thank all presenters for their dedication to this great industry, their time in putting together world class presentations and posters, and their professional delivery of the presentations.

The exhibition area has also grown over time, as has the quality of exhibition stands. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your products and service, which was gladly taken up by the sponsors. Sponsors are essential for such an event, and it was pleasing to see many input suppliers and citrus related industries that support the industry at an event such as this. Bayer was once again the diamond sponsor, Sappi as platinum sponsor (and responsible for many sore heads on Wednesday morning), Avello, Illovo, Plaaskem and River Bioscience as emerald sponsors, with many gold, silver and bronze sponsors. Please support the sponsors as they show commitment to the industry that they serve.

The gala dinner (sponsored by Sappi) was once again an exhibition of spontaneous revelry – Mick Jager and the dancing girls had everybody on their feet and a great time was had by all. I heard of some only getting to bed at 5 a.m Wednesday morning – that's hard core networking.

The organizing committee has already started working on the 2012 symposium – and needs your input to make it EVEN BIGGER and BETTER. All delegates were given a questionnaire to assist in determining when and where the next event will be held. The organizers are aware that the venue entails a lot of travel for a lot of people – however there are a few reasons that make the present venue attractive. Firstly, its ability to accommodate such a large crowd, the exhibition hall and gala dinner all at one venue – there are few venues available of this magnitude. And secondly the cost – the organizing committee has done their homework; other venues would cost more if you add the registration fee, accommodation and average travel all together. And then the KZN Drakensberg must be one of the most beautiful regions in the country. It is far to travel – but ask any delegate and they will tell you it is worth it.

The timing of the symposium is always an issue – with many growers and packhouse managers pointing out that it falls during a very busy time for them. One must look at the main objective of the symposium to understand why it is held at this time – the objective being to relay to industry technical people results of research and recommendations for setting the next year's crop. If the symposium is held any later then they will miss out on advice based on latest results. The target audience is really technical personnel and advisors to ensure that they are equipped with the latest information, growers are appraised of the information at study group meetings held at a time and place that is more suitable.

You are encouraged to have your input to the organizing committee (mail hlr@cri.co.za) – with 480 delegates they cannot be getting the timing and venue too far wrong.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

It is interesting to note that over the past two season's week 32 is the time when Valencia packed catches up to the navel packed figure, and it is no different in 2010. It is also interesting to note that both soft citrus and lemon packed figures are tracking the 2008 figures – in 2008 7.3 m cartons of soft citrus and 9.6 m cartons of lemons were packed in total. With Valencia shipped now over the 10 m mark, it seems that Europe has an appetite for South African oranges (N Europe 2009 3.1 m; 2010 4.4 m and S Europe 2009 0.9 m; 2010 1.5m) while the Middle East has taken less volume (2009 2.3 m; 2010 1.5m). It is still fairly early in the Valencia shipping season.

To Week 32 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Final Shipped
SOURCE: PPECB	2008	2009	2010	2009	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009
Grapefruit	12.4 m	13.5 m	11.9 m	12.7 m	10.3 m	12.6m	12.2m	14.2m	13.7m
Soft Citrus	6.8 m	6.4 m	7m	5.4 m	5.7 m	7.5m	7.9m	6.8m	6m
Lemons	8.8 m	7.6 m	8.8 m	6.2 m	6.5 m	9m	9.2m	8.7m	7.7m
Navels	20.3 m	18.8 m	21.9 m	17.1 m	18.7 m	21.4m	21.9 m	19.4m	19.1m
Valencia	20.4 m	18.8 m	22.1 m	10.5 m	12.2 m	41.3m	41.5m	38.5m	35.3m
Total	68.7 m	65.1 m	71.7 m	51.9 m	53.4 m	91.8m	92.7m	87.6m	81.8m

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