

`FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (7/11)

Justin Chadwick (25 February 2011)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK *"What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do."* John Ruskin

THE 2011 SEASON HAS BEGUN!!

In Patensie this last week we heard the news that the first Satsuma's for 2011 from South Africa are on the water on their way to the UK. According to growers in the region this is the earliest that we have been able to export that they can remember – week 8 and the season has begun. Expect big things from Patensie in the future – although this region has experienced a drought and faced water restrictions, there is evidence of considerable plantings of navels in the valley. As one drives from Patensie to the Baviaanskloof young orchards are seen on both sides of the road. And our arrival coincided with the river coming down in flood from heavy rains experienced in the Karoo catchment area. Although this did little to the levels of the main irrigation dam (as it is on a different catchment) predictions are for rain in the coming weeks.

LETSITELE CITRUS RAIL WORKSHOP

Rail developments are considered a strategic priority for the greater Limpopo citrus producing region given the limitations of road transportation to provide a service to the area during peak season as well as the heightened cost of road transportation. Citrus rail transportation in South Africa is faced with challenges, but these challenges can be resolved if members of the industry combine efforts to resolve these; allowing rail to become a sustainable solution to the region.

Who should attend? Citrus producers and packhouse managers within the greater Tzaneen and Letsitele area, citrus exporters and logistics agents, rail operators, container lines, Durban cold store operators, Limpopo Department of Roads and Transport, Limpopo Trade and Investment, Limpopo Department of Agriculture and anyone with an interest in citrus rail activities.

Date: 10th March, **Time:** 10h30am, **Venue:** The Junction, Letsitele. **RSVP:** Leone Vorster by 8th March. For more information contact Mitchell Brooke at the CGA.

CITRUS CULTIVAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Over the past few years growers have requested that CGA get involved in the procurement and management of citrus cultivars. This has been a repetitive theme at previous roadshows and has been debated at length at both CRI and CGA Board meetings. A decision has been made to form a CGA company to procure and manage citrus cultivars. An advert has been circulated for a suitably experienced and qualified person to take up the challenging position of General Manager of this company. CGA's decision to undertake this venture was not taken lightly, and it was reassuring that all grower meetings in the Eastern Cape gave it a resounding "thumbs up". Please contact me justchad@iafrica.com should you be interested in getting a copy of the advert.

GROWER ROADSHOWS AND PACKHOUSE WORKSHOPS

This week my team ventured to frontier country, and experienced the warm hospitality, warm weather and informed debate from the Eastern Cape citrus growing fraternity. All meetings were well attended, and confirmed that CGA is attending to the most pressing issues concerning growers. Paul Hardman ventured north with his team, and for the first time crossed the mighty Limpopo river to visit the Zimbabwean farmers – a visit that was much appreciated. Listed below are the remaining meetings particulars, agenda's can be found on www.cga.co.za. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE FOR THE WESTERN CAPE MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED.**

Paul Hardman's Group: 8/3 Western Cape – 14h30: GHS Saal.

Justin Chadwick's Group: 28/2 Nkwalini – 10h00: Farmers Hall; **1/3 Pongola** – 09h00: Mvutshini Estates; **1/3 Swaziland** – 14h00: United Plantations Tambuti; **2/3 Onderberg** – 14h00: MSK; **3/3 Nelspruit** – 10h00 CRI; **10/3 Southern KZN** – 14h00: Victoria Club.

**GROWERS LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND CGA, CRI AND CITRUS ACADEMY ACTIVITIES.
ENSURING A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY**