

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (2/12)

Justin Chadwick (20 January 2012)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK *"Punctuality is the virtue of the bored"* Evelyn Waugh

CYCLONE DANDO

The sun is shining today in Hoedspruit after Cyclone Dando dumped the equivalent of the regions annual rainfall in one day – 380 mm in a day (annual rainfall 420). Although this would have disrupted farming operations and damaged infrastructure, and impacted on some services, it is not expected to be a major influence on the regions 2012 citrus crop. Most growers have planted on ridges and the orchards are well drained. In fact some would say that the trees have been well watered!!

Heavy rains also fell in the Onderberg region, cutting off the Crocodile River bridge access to the Kruger Park. The Onderberg region received a third of their rainfall in one day – with 200 mm recorded. As in the case of Hoedspruit there is anticipated to be little impact on the crop with the probable advantage of better sizing.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012 CALENDAR

Tuesday (31 January) will be the date for the first Citrus Growers' Development Chamber meeting of 2012, which also sees the launch of the "Fruits of Success" publication which highlights transformation in the citrus industry. As we head for the start of the 2012 citrus season February and March are full of preparation meetings. The **packhouse workshops** organized by CRI will be held as follows: 14-15/2 Limpopo, Forever Resorts, Tshipise; 16-17/2 Mpumalanga, Forever Resorts, Loskop Dam; 21-22/2 KZN/Swaziland, Shakaland, Eshowe; 23-24/2 Eastern Cape, Summerstrand Hotel, PE; 28-29/2 Western Cape, Villa Via Hotel, Gordon's Bay. For more information on how to register and the agenda etc. please contact HannesBester@cri.co.za.

The **CGA Road Show's** are starting to take shape (there may still be some minor changes – and venues will be confirmed by next week) – 13/2 14h00 Nkwalini; 14/2 08h30 Pongola; 14/2 14h00 KZN Midlands; 14/2 14h30 Swaziland; 15/2 10h00 Nelspruit **; 15/2 15h00 Onderberg; 20/2 14h00 Patensie **; 20/2 14h00 Senwes; 21/2 14h00 Sundays River; 21/2 14h00 Hoedspruit; 22/2 14h00 East Cape Midlands**; 22/2/ 14h00 Letsitele; 23/2 15h00 Zimbabwe; 24/2 08h30 Limpopo River; 27/2 14h00 Western Cape; 28/2 09h00 Boland; 29/2 16h30 Oranje Rivier; 1/3 14h00 Vaalharts. [** changes from original].

The first CGA Board meeting is planned for 13 March, followed by the Variety Focus Group meetings on 14 March and the first Citrus marketing Forum meeting on 15 March.

CITRUS LEVY ADMINISTERED BY CGA

The present levy period ends on 31 December 2012, which gives an opportunity for growers to provide guidance to the CGA Board as they prepare for a new levy application. A proposal was prepared and sent to all growers in mid December – and thank you to the handful of growers who have responded to the request for feedback. There is still time for growers to have their say, with this subject anticipated to take up most of the discussion at the roadshows. A copy of the proposal is available on www.cga.co.za, or mail justchad@cga.co.za and a copy will be sent to you. It is important that the CGA Board is guided by grower members in finalizing the levy application.

DEPARTMENT AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY (DAFF)

The CGA has worked closely with agricultural attaches stationed in Beijing, Washington and Brussels – and therefore it was pleasing to hear that DAFF are in the final stages of placing new attaches in Japan, India, Russia and Brazil. Japan and Russia are important markets for citrus, while India has huge potential. A dedicated agricultural person at these Embassies will make a huge difference in advancing our interests in these markets. In addition, DAFF have allocated senior personnel to act as contact people for the different commodity organizations. So CGA now has a dedicated person who will act as a link between the Association and DAFF personnel. The terms and reference and operational procedures are still being developed.

**GROWER FUNDED ACTIVITIES OF THE CGA, CRI AND CITRUS ACADEMY
ENSURE A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY**