

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (28/12)

Justin Chadwick (20 July 2012)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK “A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination”
Nelson Mandela

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION (IPPC) SECRETARIAT

The secretariat of the IPPC has failed in its goal of enhancing trade, and owes an apology to both the EU and South Africa. In March 2010 South Africa requested intervention with regard to Citrus Black Spot (CBS). This request was made following a deadlock in discussions between the EU and South Africa. The EU is owed an apology because growers in citrus growing member states have continued to feel threatened by introduction of CBS – which the world authorities on CBS have proven is not feasible in the only official pest risk assessment ever conducted on the risk from CBS on citrus imported into the EU (way back in 2000). Growers in these EU states could have slept comfortably in the knowledge that there is nothing to fear if the IPPC had done their job and convened an independent panel to consider the relevant information when so requested. South Africa is owed an apology as growers and exporters have had to introduce costly and time consuming measures to mitigate against a threat that does not even exist. Two years after the South African request (in March 2012) the IPPC acknowledged that this issue was way overdue, citing lack of resources as an excuse – and promising to get on to it. Now we sit four months later, with no tangible evidence that anything is being done. What is the use of belonging to the WTO or signing the IPPC if the organs of these institutions fail to operate? How do these officials justify drawing salaries when they do not do their jobs? We have shrugged our shoulders at this incompetency for over two years – but feel that it is now time for the South African and EU authorities to ask some serious questions regarding the operations and abilities of the IPPC secretariat.

INDONESIAN IMPORT PERMITS

Exporters sending fruit to Indonesia have been required to apply for an Import Permit from the Indonesian authorities. A recent notice sent out by the Indonesian authorities indicates that provided that 1) the consignment is issued with a Phytosanitary certificate, 2) a food safety certificate is issued and 3) prior notice is given regarding the export of that consignment then an import permit is no longer required. See Indonesian notice and SOP for the food safety certificate on the CGA website.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL (NAMC) CALLS FOR COMMENTS

The NAMC has circulated a call for comments from Directly Affected Groups in the citrus industry in regard to the request from CGA for the implementation of a new term of statutory measures. The NAMC paper has been posted on the CGA website www.cga.co.za and is also available from CGA (e-mail gloria@cga.co.za). All comments must reach the NAMC before 27 July 2012. Comments should be addressed to Mathilda van der Walt mathilda@namc.co.za; telephone 012 341 1115; fax 012 341 1911.

UPDATE ON THE QUATERNARY AMMONIUM COMPOUND (QAC) SITUATION IN THE EU

The risk of detections of QACs residues at levels above the MRL when the QAC was used as a packhouse sanitizer has affected the entire fresh produce industry in the EU, resulting in considerable disruptions to trade. Fortunately sense has prevailed and the European Commission agreed on the 13th July 2012 to set a temporary tolerance to cover the possible transfer of DDAC residues from the packing line onto the fruit at 0.5mg/kg. The tolerance currently applies to DDAC only and no other QACs. Compliant fruit and vegetables are being placed onto the market. With this ruling packhouse managers have the opportunity to maintain hygiene in the packhouse with continued use of DDAC products when used appropriately. CGA worked with SHAFTE and FRESHFEL to provide the Commission with relevant data which has obviously been favourably received.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To Week 29 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Final Shipped
SOURCE: PPECB	2010	2011	2012	2011	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011
Grapefruit	11.2 m	14.8 m	11.4 m	14.1 m	10.8 m	15.2 m	12.4 m	16.2 m	15.3 m
Soft Citrus	6.2 m	5.7 m	5.7 m	5.7 m	5.5 m	7.6 m	7.6 m	6.9 m	6.7 m
Lemons	7.8 m	8 m	7.1 m	6.9 m	5.7 m	11.1 m	9.9 m	10.8 m	10.2 m
Navels	19.1 m	17.1 m	18.7 m	22 m *	22 m *	22.9 m	22.8 m	21.2 m	61.7 m*
Valencia	9.2 m	8.1 m	9 m			46.1 m	45.6 m	44.2 m	
	53.5 m	53.7 m	51.9 m	48.7 m	44.2 m	102.9 m	98.3 m	99.3 m	93.9 m

** All oranges

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