FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (19/13)

Justin Chadwick (10 May 2013)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "The human mind treats a new idea the same way the body treats a strange protein: it rejects it" PB Medawar

FRESH PRODUCE EXPORTERS FORUM (FPEF)

Ever wondered what the friendly bunch from the FPEF look like? Go to www.cga.co.za and look at the first newsletter published by the FPEF.

DURBAN PORT

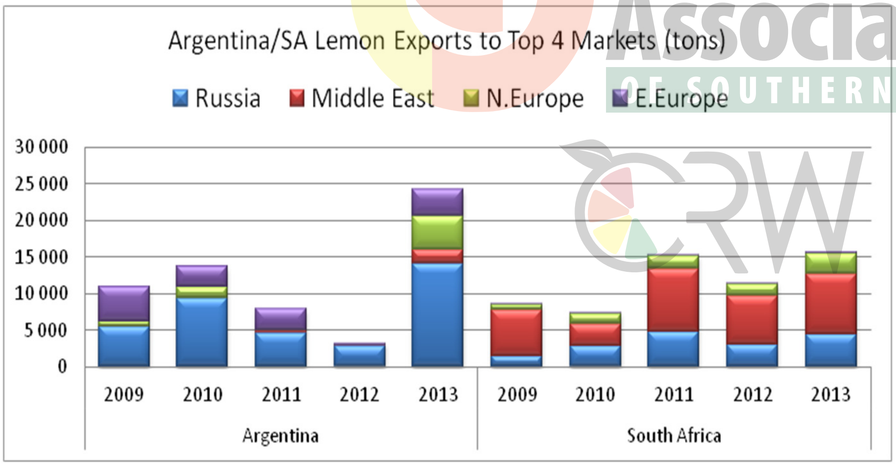
The delayed approval of the registered list for China (with resultant build up of stock for this market), system failure with Navis at the Durban Container Terminals (resulting in difficulty in exporting of containers), the need to inspect more fruit at port (due to the 4 day EU threshold being breached due to these factors) and the increased volumes of lemons and grapefruit to the port of Durban (so far total production from the north up by 900,000 cartons and citrus diverted away from Maputo is heading for Durban) has resulted in some delays and capacity issues this past week. The FPT terminal has requested that citrus railings not be delivered to FPT for the remainder of the week – but be guided by your exporter or agent. This will relieve pressure to some extent as will the fact that the China fruit will now be moving out, and loading of the first ship for Japan commenced on Thursday. Citrus volume diverted from Maputo this year will now be entering Durban increasing the number of trucks to be offloaded and containers to be packed. Understandably capacity will be put under pressure as a result of this. Growers need to check with their export agent and cold store to ensure that their fruit (and trucks) will not be unnecessarily delayed when arriving in the port. The 4 day EU threshold should be achieved as far as possible to reduce the impact and cost of unnecessary inspections at ports cold stores.

CBS ADVISORY

Yesterday growers were sent information regarding CBS. Any CGA member who did not receive the advisory should contact justchad@iafrica.com to receive a copy.

LEMONS

John Edmonds (CGA Information Manager) has extracted some interesting information with regard to the early season lemons (up to week 17) from Argentina and South Africa.



Argentina's export volumes have recovered after a few poor seasons, and South Africa's first pick exceeds last years. While Argentina has taken advantage of low Turkish volumes into Russia (in January Turkey reported a decrease of 25% in lemon export volumes), South Africa's favourite markets remain in the Middle East. Larger volumes have also been sent to northern Europe from both sources. (Source: SHAFFE)

PACKED AND SHIPPED

PPECB information indicates a high packing tempo for grapefruit and lemons. The Grapefruit Focus Group indicated earlier packing in 2013, which could lead to the season closing a couple of weeks earlier than normal. They decreased the grapefruit prediction by 300 000 cartons (15 Kg).

With 87% of Satsuma's now packed a higher percentage (65% 2013; 51% 2012) has been sent to the UK market.

To Week 19 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2011	2012	2013	2012	2013	2013	2013	2012
Grapefruit	2.9 m	3.2 m	3.8 m	1.6 m	1.7 m	15 m	14.7 m	13 m
Soft Citrus	2 m	1.8 m	1.9 m	1.5 m	1.5 m	8.2 m	8.1 m	7.6 m
Lemons	2 m	1.7 m	2.7 m	1.2 m	1.7 m	11.1 m	10.1 m	10.5 m
Navels	0.7 m	0.5 m	0.5 m	0.1 m	0.1 m	24.9 m	24.9 m	24.6 m
Valencia	0.1 m	-	-	-	-	47.7 m	47.7 m	47.2 m
	7.7 m	8.2 m	8.9 m	4.4 m	5 m	106.8 m	105.5 m	103 m

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS' FUND THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE LEVY ADMINISTERED BY THE CGA