

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (2/14)

Justin Chadwick (24 January 2014)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do" - John Wooden

CRYPTOGRAN – THE GROWERS' OWN SOLUTION TO FCM: WITHOUT MOLASSES

From Jacques Fouche (River Bioscience, jacques@cri.co.za): A change to the use of Cryptogran has been submitted to the registrar. The change of use includes: the use of Cryptogran without molasses, if Cryptogran is sprayed in a citrus black spot spray programme with mancozeb based products. After extensive research we have gathered sufficient information to support this claim.

Molasses is still an excellent additive to use when applying baculovirus products and must still be considered when high pest pressure occurs. Molasses stimulates the feeding of larvae and thereby increases the ingestion of viruses. We trust that this will give growers more flexibility in the use of Cryptogran.

DEON JOUBERT JOINS CGA

With the CBS issue in the EU still unresolved, South Africa enters the 2014 citrus season under a cloud of uncertainty. The EU's decision to ban citrus imports from South Africa at the end of the 2013 season sends out a strong message about what could happen in the forthcoming season. Although the EFSA pest risk assessment will guide EU plant health as they make their decisions regarding future requirements, what the previous season has uncovered is the importance of continuous engagement. The wide gap between perceptions in the EU about South Africa's lack of commitment to compliance; and the reality of an industry that is spending billions on CBS controls and monitoring is a case in point. This need to stay engaged, build relationships and continuously communicate has resulted in the CGA taking the decision to employ Deon Joubert. Deon comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge of the EU environment, having served as Agricultural Attaché in Brussels. His sixteen years employment with Capespan means that he has a good understanding of the citrus industry and the threats and opportunities that exist. Deon will work off his notice period at Capespan, but has already started to get involved in some of the planning and discussions around addressing the CBS challenge in 2014.

Capespan sent out the following in a circular;

Deon has been with Capespan South Africa for over 16 years, he joined us on 6 January 1998 as a Product Auditor and continued to make a significant contribution to the business and leaves Capespan as the General Manager of the Capespan Fruit Logistics team. Deon is highly respected by his fellow peers and staff and we know that he will continue to fly the Capespan flag in his new role with the Citrus Growers Association.

It is with great appreciation that we recognize the long and dedicated service of Deon. He will be missed and will definitely leave a gap in the logistics team. On behalf of Capespan South Africa (Pty) Ltd. We wish Deon best of luck for his future and bid him a cheerful farewell.

I would like to welcome Deon to the CGA, and thank him for taking on this challenge.

GROWER ROAD SHOWS

Growers are asked to take note of the dates for the annual CGA Road shows. These meetings are an opportunity to be informed on what YOUR Association is doing, and to feed back to CGA staff regional needs and issues. As usual the CGA regions are split, with Paul Hardman leading one group, and me the other. This year Paul will be accompanied by Vaughan Hattingh (CRI), Jacques Fouche (RB), Sam Louw (Citrus Academy) and Lukhanyo Nkombisa in his visits to **East Cape Midlands** (18 February), **Sundays River** (19 February) and **Patensie** (20 February). The team will be joined by Mitchell Brooke at meetings in **Nelspruit** (25 February am), **Onderberg** (25 February pm), **Swaziland** (26 February), **Pongola** (27 February am) and **Nkwalini** (27 February pm).

I will be accompanied by Hennie Le Roux (CRI), Andrew Mbedzi (CRI), Mitchell Brooke, Jon Roberts (CGACC), Keith Danckwerts (RB) and Jacomien de Klerk (Citrus Academy) as we visit **Limpopo River** (17 February), **Zimbabwe** (18 February), **Letsitele** (19 February am), **Hoedspruit** (19 February pm) and **Senwes** (20 February).

Hannes Bester replaces Hennie, with Jon, Jacomien, Keith and myself visiting **Western Cape** (25 February), **Boland** (26 February) and **Oranje Rivier** (27 February). **KZN Midlands** will be visited on 4 March.

Venues and times should be finalised by end next week.

GROWERS' ENSURE A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY BY FUNDING AND CONTROLLING THE CGA GROUP (CRI; CITRUS ACADEMY; CGACC; RB AND XSIT)