

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (6/14)

Justin Chadwick (21 February 2014)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK *"The point of living and being an optimist, is to be foolish enough to believe the best is yet to come"* Peter Ustinov

GROWER ROADSHOW

Every year the grower road shows remind me how privileged we are to work in the citrus industry – for sure citrus is grown in THE most beautiful parts of southern Africa. In Zimbabwe I had to talk above the grunts of the lion a hundred metres away; while Mitchell had a warthog piglet running around his feet as he talked about logistics. In Hoedspruit I was awakened at 6 by a hissing sound and observed the beautiful sight of three hot air balloons skimming just metres over the orchards with the Blyde canyon as a backdrop.

Next week we head for the western Cape and the beauty of the Boland (10 am Tuesday 25th; Infruitec, Stellenbosch) and Citrusdal (4 p.m Tuesday 25th; Piekenierskloof (**please note change of venue**)). Then off to the wonderful hospitality and unique humour of the northern Cape (4 pm Wednesday 26th, Lake Grappa). Growers are urged to attend as we cover the most important market access issues faced by the industry. River Bioscience is sponsoring drinks and snacks in Citrusdal and Kakemas – often the real business is sorted out over a beer or a whisky (as we learnt at this week's meetings).

Pauls group head up the east coast next week; **Nelspruit** (25 February; 10h00; CRI Boardroom), **Onderberg** (25 February; 15h00 Malelane Citrus Coop Boardroom), **Swaziland and Pongola** (26 February; 10h30 Tambuti Estates), and **Nkwalini** (27 February; 13h00 Farmers Hall).

CITRUS BLACK SPOT: EFSA REPORT

The long awaited EFSA Pest Risk Assessment has finally been released and can be found at the following web address <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/3557.htm>; EFSA have released a press report: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/plh090120.htm>. CRI researchers will now go through the PRA and advise on the way forward.

A grower advisory has been distributed with some preliminary comments.

VARIETY FOCUS GROUP AND CITRUS MARKETING FORUM MEETINGS

During the roadshow meetings the variety focus group (VFG) members from each region have been confirmed. The VFG's will meet on 17th March at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre (close to O R Tambo airport). The Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF) will be held the next day (18th March) at the same venue.

POST HARVEST WORKSHOPS

I was fortunate enough to attend the first session of the Packhouse workshop in Durban last week, and was really impressed at the relevance of the information that was presented, and the way the information was presented. The post harvest workshops are firmly on the calendar and 900 people attended this year's events – a 40% increase from last year's 630. Congratulations to all those who were involved in the preparation and presentations; Hennie, Hannes, Henry, Jean, Arno and his students, Keith, Dawid, MC, Paul Cronje, Paul Hardman and Mitchell.

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