

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (13/14)

Justin Chadwick (11 April 2014)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "No matter how good you get you can always get better, and that's the exciting part."

Tiger Woods

CITRUS IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (CIS)

If ever I have seen grower unity and unanimity it was at the CIS workshop held this past Wednesday. All the growers attending the workshop made it very clear to the Registrar of Plant Breeders Rights, DAFF, the NAMC and other roleplayers that the future biosecurity of the South African citrus industry was not to be placed at risk and that the only acceptable outcome is a compulsory statutory system with CGA as the assignee and CRI as scheme operator. The workshop was facilitated by Ronald Ramabulana (CEO of NAMC) who did an excellent job in guiding us through the day – giving all parties the opportunity to air their views and trying to find consensus on the way forward. Ronald's scene setting where he expressed the view that an industry of 60 000 hectares, second largest global exporter by volume, employing 100 000 agricultural workers and earning R6 billion per annum in export earnings was greater than any individual; requesting that workshop participants put aside their own personal interests and look at solutions in terms of what is best for the industry as a whole.

It was stated that one of the leading competitive advantages that the South African citrus industry has is that it is particularly clean in terms of plant health; this is in no small part due to the CIS which has been operating since the early '80's. The system has been voluntary; and fortunately all role-players have acted responsibly and within the scheme. The risk is that this may not always be the case – a competitive edge is also gained through the quick adoption and establishment of new varieties; it could be that short cuts are taken in the individual interests of being first to market with a new variety. The only way to ensure EVERYBODY follows the rules is by making them compulsory.

A number of concerns were raised by the private cultivar owners – most of which can be addressed through adjustments to the procedural guidelines or advisory committee composition and terms of reference.

The Citrus Foundation Block (CFB) was praised for its excellent service and for affordability of products and services. Those who visit the CFB will know that Thys du Toit runs a highly professional outfit – it is a prized citrus industry asset.

The issue of a compulsory statutory scheme has been on the CGA Board's agenda for some time – and needs to be finalised. Consultation is important with any envisaged change – let's just not rue the chances of securing our plant health status while trying to appease all parties.

CBS – GROWER ADVISORY

A grower advisory has been distributed to all grower members of CGA. The advisory covers latest information on the risk management system, communication strategy with respect to CBS, the dispute resolution process, feedback on Pieter Nortje (CGA Chairman) and Deon Joubert (CGA Special Envoy: Market Access) March trip to the EU, CBS Disaster Management Committee, CBS Stakeholders Forum, briefing of EU Ambassador and Ambassador's from Spain and Italy, EFSA report, the EU process since January 2014 and the BFAP socio economic study. **If you are a South African citrus grower and you have not received the advisory please contact justchad@iafrica.com.**

UPDATE ON THE CITRUS INSPECTION PLANNING TOOL (CIPT)

Paul Hardman has distributed a document regarding the CIPT. Please contact paul (ph@cga.co.za) if you have not received the document. The following message was sent with the document:

This is an important announcement regarding updates to the CIPT. The details are in the attachment but the topics covered are: 1) Indicating a harvest date using the CIPT; 2) New options for withdrawing orchards using the CIPT; 3) Hit system - DAFF using CIPT as an early warning system a. Electronic updates on hourly schedule; b. Exporter updates of CBS hits and orchards withdrawn; 4) How to register and create a password? 5) Retrieving forgotten passwords; 6) How to correct information that is incorrect on the CIPT.

CGA is aware that some of the orchards that have been inspected have not had their status updated by DAFF from "not inspected" to "Approved" or "Not Approved" on the CIPT. CGA is working with DAFF to rectify this delay and backlog. Growers can contact CGA if your specific information is not yet been updated and you have a field inspection report.

PACKED AND SHIPPED [Source PPECB]

Before most people have ordered their packing material **Satsuma** growers are already well into their season – to date 510 000 cartons of the estimated 1.73 million (almost 30%) Satsuma's have been packed and passed for export; with 320 000 cartons already shipped. The UK has received 71% of the fruit, and northern Europe 25%.

Lemon packing is also in full swing with 730 000 cartons packed and 540 000 cartons shipped. **Grapefruit** is a little later than 2013 – 80 000 cartons packed as against 2013 comparable year to date of 200 000 cartons.

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