

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (22/14)

Justin Chadwick (13 June 2014)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Don' wish it were easier- wish you were better" Jim Rohn

COMMITMENT TO COMPLIANCE

Tian Schutte reports that grower Francois Dillman flew from Messina to Nelspruit with citrus samples to be tested for CBS as he was concerned about packing for the EU. He landed at 10h00 and had his samples tested and results provided by 16h30. This is real commitment to compliance!!!

Francois also had praise for the quick handling of the fruit by CRI; *Ek wil net aan Tiaan sê dat dit word baie waardeer dat hulle so vinnig aandag aan die situasie gegee het. Dit is alles goed en wel dat die produsent moeite doen, maar goed om te sien dat CRI ook hulle kant bring. Die spoedigheid waarteen hierdie resultate deurgegee was het ons instaat gestel om goed ingeligte besluite te neem en kostes aan herverpakking is tot 'n minimum gehou.*

MEETINGS WITH REGARD TO CITRUS BLACK SPOT

Deon Joubert and Vaughan Hattingh have reported back that the Eastern Cape meetings were well attended and excellent information was shared. Next week the focus moves up north with meetings on Tuesday 17 June at Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre (near OR Tambo International). This meeting is open to all South African citrus stakeholders and aims to clarify issues surrounding the CBS and exports to EU. The agenda will include some background on the industry (for those not that familiar with the South African citrus industry); the importance of the EU market; background to the CBS issue and how we got to where we are now; the South African risk management system, governments regulatory role and industry commitment to compliance; the scientific dispute, dispute resolution options and pursuit of alternative markets. Growers are welcome to invite their service providers (bankers, input suppliers, transporters etc to attend – please rsvp gloria@cga.co.za).

This meeting will be followed by meetings in the north; Wednesday 18 June at 08h00 in **Groblersdal** (Rosle Boerdery); on the same day at 17h00 at **Limpopo River** region (Noordgrens Lapa); then on Thursday 19 June at 10h00 in **Letsitele** (The Junction) and on the same day at 15h00 at **Hoedspruit** (Die Hengel Klub). The final meeting will be in **Nelspruit** on Friday 20 June at **09h00** (note change) at CRI. **PLEASE RSVP TO gloria@cga.co.za .**

ETHEPHON TESTING

DAFF is now at full speed carrying out ethephon testing in the orchards. As with any new system there are some teething problems; if growers work closely with the inspectors these can be overcome. DAFF need to inspect 8 000 orchards in the next 4 to 6 weeks – with a team of 15 inspectors working 5 days a week this equates to 16 orchards a day; a task which inspectors can achieve if given the appropriate support. A grower advisory has been distributed giving details on what is required and the process to be followed, including;

- Growers need to advise DAFF that they need testing – timeously to avoid EU packing disruptions.
- Citrus classified as "other oranges" (i.e. not navels) need to be tested.
- Growers should have as many works workers available to assist the inspector (at least 2 staff per orchard).
- There is still some concern regarding availability of storage depots – growers need to make sufficient storage space available for all orchards tested in a region.
- Assist DAFF by transporting samples from the orchard to the storage facilities.
- Assist DAFF in coordinating activities in a region – this can be done by the study groups, or by identifying a person who is familiar with the region to carry out this task. This will reduce unnecessary travel and down time.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The **Grapefruit** Focus Group further decreased the predicted volumes for 2014. With 2/3rds of grapefruit packed, half the product has been shipped to N Europe (2013 39%; 2014 34%) & Japan (2013 20%; 2014 21%). After big volumes being shipped to Russia in week 17 exporters have heeded the call to cut back as the market is well supplied (2013 13%; 2014 9%). The **lemon** markets remain strong with most being sent to Middle East (2013 44%; 2014 39%) and Russia (2013 24%; 2014 19%). Lemon shipments to Far East in the early part of the season surpassed 2013 levels (2013 5%; 2014 15%). **Navel** exports are starting to increase – as with lemons there has been an initial interest in the Far East (2013 1%; 2014 15%); at the expense of Russia (2013 25%; 2014 9%). The dominant navel markets have been Middle East (2013 27%; 2014 33%) and N Europe (2013 22%; 2014 18%). As usual **soft citrus** has been enjoyed mostly by the UK (2013 53%; 2014 44%), N Europe (2013 24%; 2014 23%) and Russia (2013 12%; 2014 10%).

To Week 24 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2012	2013	2014	2013	2014	2014	2014	2013
Grapefruit	8 m	11 m	9.7 m	8.4 m	7.6 m	16.5 m	14.4 m	17.9 m
Soft Citrus	4.5 m	4.4 m	5.1 m	3.7 m	4 m	9.2 m	9.3 m	8.4 m
Lemons	4.4 m	6 m	6.7 m	5.1 m	5.5 m	12.1 m	12.3 m	10.6 m
Navels	9.2 m	8.4 m	7.3 m	4.3 m	3.8 m	25.8 m	25.8 m	25.4 m
Valencia	1 m	0.8 m	0.6 m	0.2 m	0.2 m	49.5 m	49.5 m	51.4 m
Total	27.1 m	30.6 m	29.4 m	21.7 m	21.1 m	113.1 m	111.3 m	113.7 m

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