

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (23/14)

Justin Chadwick (20 June 2014)

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK** “Education is not the filling of a pail, it is the lighting of a fire” William B Yeats

### CBS MEETINGS

This past week has been an example of problem solving in action – as we advanced through citrus growing regions in the north, sharing the podium with DAFF and CRI; and engaging with over 250 growers and stakeholders we grappled with many interesting questions and concerns with regard to the new EU requirements. What was clear from these meetings was recognition of joint responsibility with regard to meeting these new requirements. It is recognised that there will be problems in the initial period, that capacity of all involved will be stretched and that some disruption to trade will result. The focus was on implementing the new requirements; using capacity wisely to have minimal disruptions.

**The meetings** began on Tuesday at a venue near OR Tambo International – the objective being to give stakeholders in Joburg/Pretoria area an opportunity to learn about the citrus industry, importance of the EU market, new measures that are now required, and activities with regard to CBS risk mitigation. This was followed by a whirlwind tour, Wednesday morning 09h00 Groblersdal; that evening 15h00 Wiepe; Thursday morning 10h00 Letsitele and that afternoon (15h00) Hoedspruit and Friday morning 09h00 Nelspruit. Thanks to the DAFF team who accompanied us (Tankiso Mopholo whose Afrikaans has improved over the week, Salamina Maelane whose quietly dispelled many concerns, the inspectors who fully realise the extent of the work to be done and Ernest Phoku who took time off from his leave to address the first meeting); CRI extension personnel Vaughan Hattingh, Hennie Le Roux and MC Pretorius who always have the answers to technical questions; the PPECB representatives who have a big role to play in the new requirements and my colleague Deon Joubert who has added considerably to CGA's ability to address the CBS issue.

**After giving** the meeting a quick recap on the background and how we got to the present situation; and a little more detail on what happened leading up to the decision in 2014, most of the meeting was dedicated to ensuring that all understood the procedure, roles and responsibilities with regard to the new requirements, and particularly ethephon testing. The new measures are as follows;

#### **1. Requirements concerning the specified fruits**

*1.1 The specified fruits shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate, as referred to in the first subparagraph of point (ii) of Article 13(1) of Directive 2000/29/EC, which includes under the heading 'Additional declaration' the following statements:*

- a) the specified fruits originate in a field of production which has been subjected to treatments against the specified organism carried out at the appropriate time since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation;*
  - b) an official inspection has been carried out in the field of production during the growing season and no symptoms of the specified organism have been detected in the specified fruit since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation;*
  - c) a sample has been taken along the line between arrival and packaging in the packing facilities of at least 600 fruits of each species per 30 tonnes, or part thereof, selected as much as possible on the basis of any possible symptom of the specified organism; all sampled fruits showing symptoms have been tested and found free of the specified organism;*
- 1.2 In the case of Citrus sinensis (L.) Osbeck 'Valencia', the phytosanitary certificate shall, under the heading 'Additional declaration', also include the statement that a sample per 30 tonnes, or part thereof, has been tested for latent infection and found free of the specified organism.*

At the meetings the following was agreed and/or stressed;

- In most regions one person was identified to assist in prioritising orchards for inspection, and thereby assisting the inspector in scheduling. The next two weeks are critical as the actual implementation date is uncertain (20 days after publication of the new rules – at this stage it is anticipated that fruit arriving after 21 July will require the additional declaration on the phyto). Given the ethephon test takes 14 days this means a big call on inspectors' time over the next two weeks). A spreadsheet has been developed (thanks Jan Louis) to assist in the process.
- Growers need to advise DAFF that they need testing – timeously to avoid packing disruptions.
- Growers need to have workers available to assist the inspector, this will maximise the inspectors time. Also assist with the transport of samples to the test sites – most inspectors have sedans with limited carriage capacity.

**MOST IMPORTANT – BE CALM AND PATIENT; WE NEED TO GET THROUGH THIS INITIAL PERIOD TOGETHER**

### PACKED AND SHIPPED

| To Week 26<br>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                          | 8.5 m  | 11.8 m | 10.5 m | 9.7 m   | 8.6 m   | 16.5 m            | 14.4 m            | 17.9 m       |
| Soft Citrus                         | 4.9 m  | 4.9 m  | 5.6 m  | 4.3 m   | 4.8 m   | 9.2 m             | 9.3 m             | 8.4 m        |
| Lemons                              | 4.8 m  | 6.5 m  | 7.5 m  | 5.7 m   | 6.3 m   | 12.1 m            | 12.3 m            | 10.6 m       |
| Navels                              | 11.7 m | 11 m   | 9.6 m  | 5.9 m   | 6.6 m   | 25.8 m            | 25.8 m            | 25.4 m       |
| Valencia                            | 2.2 m  | 1.8 m  | 1.3 m  | 0.5 m   | 0.4 m   | 49.5 m            | 49.5 m            | 51.4 m       |
| Total                               | 32.1 m | 36 m   | 34.5 m | 26.1 m  | 26.7 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)**