

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (32/14)

Justin Chadwick (22 August 2014)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK “Everyone is entitled to my opinion” Madonna

CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL (CRI) - CITRUS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The southern African citrus research system is working like a well oiled machine – as was the organisation of this year’s CRI Citrus Research Symposium. Five hundred and fifty (550) delegates met in the majestic Drakensburg (in Currie Cup country) to get updated on research and technical developments in the industry. For an industry that has depended on research and development to stay globally competitive and sustainable the symposium was a reminder of the vast array of talented researchers that continue to keep this industry ahead of the pack. The CGA is proud to be associated with this essential biannual event.

There were seventy papers delivered and forty posters displayed over the two and a half days; the South African Citrus Nurserymen’s Association (SACNA) held their AGM, as did the South African Society of Citrus Consultants (SASCCON). The CRI and CGACC both held their Board meetings at the venue (closely followed by the Citrus Academy and CGA Board meetings just down the road in Hillcrest). On Thursday evening the AGM’s of the Citrus Industry Trust, River Bioscience, Citrus Academy, CRI, CGACC and CGA were held at Makaranga Lodge in Kloof. A heavy week for all involved!!!!

Congratulations to the organising team – **Hennie le Roux, Henry Skinner and Jean De Gasperi**; the Scientific Committee of **Vaughan Hattingh, Tim Grout, Paul Fourie, Paul Cronje and Sean Moore** (even I could understand most of what was presented); and the Finance Committee of **Henry Skinner and Bella Thulare**.

Of special significance was the attendance of the “orange team” from the Citrus Academy – easily distinguished by their colourful clothing. Six of the papers presented were from researchers who have passed through the Citrus Academy – I am sure that Jacomien and the Academy staff were rightfully proud of their protégés progress.

When I joined CGA back in 1999 my mentor was **Ian Moore** – he and his wife **Marianne** embedded in me an understanding of the citrus industry that I did not appreciate at the time. It was a real pleasure to witness Ian receiving a CRI Technical Merit Award from the CRI at the gala dinner (sponsored by Bayer and SAPPI).

Vaughan Hattingh in his usual eloquent manner also presented awards to **Dr Stephan Kamburov and Dr Sarel du Plessis**. Dr Kamburov introduced oil as a spray for red mite – removing a threat to the citrus industry. He travelled extensively throughout the industry and was known and loved by many; please keep him in your thoughts as he is suffering with ill health (and those who knew him well should give him a call to congratulate him on this award). Dok Sarel got his degree in the year that I was born!! He knows more about nutrition and fruit sizing than most – and continues to research optimum nutrition levels. These gentlemen have dedicated their lives to this industry – and show that each individual can make a lasting mark and leave a legacy.

It would not have been possible to hold a symposium on such a grand scale but for the generosity of the sponsors – Diamond sponsor **BAYER**; Platinum **SAPPI**; Sapphire **BASF**; Ruby **ARYSTA LIFESCIENCE**; Emerald **YIELD, RIVER BIOSCIENCE and XPS**; Gold **ADAMA, COMPAC, VILLA, NETAFIM, LOWVELD AGROCHEM, INSECT SCIENCE, DOW AGROSCIENCE, BUDGET, PLUSNET, CITRASHINE, HARVEST and MAF RODA**; and a host of Silver and Bronze sponsors.

Who says “Researchers Can’t Dance” – the Radio Kalahari Orkes music (a bit foreign in the foothills of the last outpost of the British Empire) got the diners at the Gala Dinner on their feet and doing some fine moves. Jonny Roberts showed that entertainment runs in the family as master of ceremonies – the lecture hall was fairly empty for the first lecture the next morning.

Looking through the attendance list shows the wide range of businesses and people (jobs) reliant on the southern African citrus industry. Apart from the many researchers and growers in attendance; there were people from the chemical industries, fertilizer industries, packaging, transport, consultants, government, PPECB, irrigation industry, packhouse machinery, nurseries, pallet manufacturers, export agents, wax people, cultivar company representatives, and students (and probably some that I have omitted).

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To Week 34 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	12.5 m	17.3 m	14.9 m	16.6 m	14.1 m	16.5 m	14.9 m	17.9 m
Soft Citrus	6.9 m	7.4 m	9.1 m	6.9 m	8.3 m	9.2 m	10.1 m	8.4 m
Lemons	9.5 m	10 m	12.8 m	9.7 m	12.4 m	12.1 m	12.8 m	10.6 m
Navels	23.8 m	24.6 m	24.2 m	23.7 m	23.1 m	25.8 m	24.5 m	25.4 m
Valencia	24.4 m	25.7 m	25.9 m	17.3 m	17.2 m	49.5 m	48.1 m	51.4 m
Total	77.1 m	85 m	86.9 m	74.2 m	75.1 m	113.1 m	110.4 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)