



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (10/15)

Justin Chadwick (27 March 2015)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK “You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else” **Albert Einstein**

FIRST CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF) MEETING FOR 2015

A small but quality group gathered for the first CMF meeting for 2015. And quality was the talk of the day – with markets under pressure, unfavorable exchange rate swings and cost pressures the industry is advised to take a cautionary approach to exports in 2015 – ensure only good quality is exported and deliver on demand. Filling up overseas warehouses with fruit of the wrong quality will spell disaster.

The Citrus Summit held in March has resulted in a disrupted estimate collection process; and the CMF decided not to approve a preliminary estimate until all had had a chance to consider the figures. Hopefully this will be concluded by next Friday.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS STANDARDS (APS) AMENDMENT BILL

DAFF have given very late notice for public hearings on the APS Amendment Bill. The first hearing will be at the Stellenbosch Quarantine Station on Tuesday 31/3; followed by Protea Upington Hotel on 8/4; Durban Protea Hotel Edward on 13/2; PE Protea Marine Hotel on 15/4; Tzaneen Magoebaskloof Hotel on 20/4, and Harvest House (DAFF) in Pretoria on 23/4. All meetings start at 09h00. **For media enquiries please contact:** Ms Makenosi Maroo, Chief Director: Stakeholder Relations and Communications, Tel.: (012) 319 6787, Cell: 072 475 2956, E-mail: MakenosiM@daff.gov.za

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CITRUS LEGEND # 2: HOPPIE NEL

The second legend was also present at the inaugural meeting of the CGA. He was also a Board member from the inaugural meeting of the CRI; and is still a serving Board member. He is not presently a grower – but was very involved in producing, packing and distribution of citrus in the past – and remains a fountain of knowledge for the industry. Interestingly enough he was elected as treasurer at the inaugural meeting; the position of treasurer was never again mentioned in minutes of CGA meetings – so either he remains treasurer to this day, or he misappropriated funds and was summarily dismissed, or more likely the position was never again needed. From this inaugural meeting this legend served on the CGA Board for seventeen years in a row – two years as Vice Chairman and four as Chairman. Unlike his fellow legends he was not as outspoken – tending to quietly make his point, allowing extensive debate and the formulation of a consensus position. His greatest contribution to the industry was his involvement in the research activities – in addition to his CGA and CRI Board responsibilities this legend is the present CRI Chairman; a position he has held since 2012.

On the CGA Board he was always the one to make sure that an issue had been debated thoroughly. He was not prepared to just “go with the flow”, continuously questioning the decisions taken and causing the sitting Chair some consternation as he wanted to move to the next point. As a result the decisions taken tended to be the right ones!!

On a personal note this legend and I took a business trip to Singapore in the early 2000's. As always at CGA austerity measures were in place and we shared a hotel room. Not a great experience. I tried putting toilet paper in my ears, and eventually resorted to sleeping in the bath – nothing could cut out the sound of his snoring. So the next day I moved into my own room.

As in the case of Peter Nicholson this legend also furthered the objectives of the citrus growers by representing CGA at the Citrus Marketing Forum – his contribution towards market access priority setting has given the Forum direction.

Hoppie Nel is Citrus Legend number 2 for his long and dedicated involvement in the industry and willingness to serve at all levels as well as his intellect and analytical acumen in investigating pertinent issues.

SIZA VISA PROGRAM

The SIZA VISA program is a national initiative falling under the SIZA program. Through SIZA VISA, employers can provide induction training to farm and packhouse workers which is a legal requirement. After training, workers receive unique SIZA VISA cards, with a barcode and serial number, which provide proof of training and link them to the SIZA VISA database. SIZA VISA consists of a DVD with a basic introduction to the SIZA program and four stand-alone modules which include: Ethical Trade and the SIZA program; Health and Safety; Hygiene; Workplace policies and procedures, contracts and pay slips. Supporting materials include posters that identify key staff members, an informative User Guide, and SIZA VISA cards. The DVD has been developed for workers and uses plain language to provide information. It is suitable for all categories of employees and is available in four languages: English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa and Sesotho.

SIZA VISA is a resource for SIZA members that can be used in-house without any added cost.

The SIZA VISA workshops have been rolling out since February 2015 throughout South Africa. People can attend at no cost and will receive a training pack, which includes the DVD, User Guide, posters and SIZA VISA cards for their employees.

How can you participate?

Workshops are taking place throughout South Africa over the next four months:

Western Cape: Ladismith; Robertson; Paarl; Grabouw; Villiersdorp; Ceres; Stellenbosch; De Doorns ;**Eastern Cape:** Kirkwood; Hermitage; Patensie; Langkloof ; **Northern Cape:** Augrabies; Kakamas; **KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State:** Eshowe; Richmond; Bethlehem; **Limpopo and Mpumalanga:** Nelspruit; Hazyview; Burgersfort

To register & for more information, contact RSS Africa: admin@rss-africa.com / 083 265 9036 / 086 615 9685 (fax).