SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS HAVE INVESTED IN THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTINUED FUNDING OF CGA, XSIT, CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, CGACC AND CITRUS ACADEMY

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (28/15)

justchad_cga

Justin Chadwick (24 July 2015)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Any man who afflicts the human race with ideas must be prepared to see them misunderstood" H L Mencken

SOUTH AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY TO BOOST TRANSFORMATION WITH CITRUS GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) of South Africa this week established a Grower Development Company with a view to significantly improving transformation in the citrus industry - and providing sustainable support for developing black citrus growers.

It is an unfortunate fact that many well-intended land redistribution and restitution initiatives have resulted in degenerating farms due to a lack of skills, inadequate funding and governance knowledge amongst beneficiaries. Also, emerging growers face untold difficulties in their efforts to successfully export citrus, for example. An absence of key financial and management skills among growers is also a hindrance to growers' ability to access credit, negotiate better business deals and remain competitive.

CGA's Grower Development Company will support the establishment and growth of sustainable and profitable black citrus growers with market linkages to ensure food security, jobs and wealth creation.

The not for profit company will initially receive grant funding from the CGA for 4 years commencing in 2015. The R6 million earmarked for 2015 will escalate at 5% per annum for the following three years.

In line with its vision to support the development of black growers, the company's core focus areas of support will be: Production infrastructure and technical support; Business management support; Facilitation of access to funding; Facilitation of market access; Project governance through social facilitation.

The company will also focus on promoting the involvement of women, youth and disabled persons in citrus production.

CITRUS BLACK SPOT – SOUTH AFRICA SUSPENDS TRADE OF ORGANIC LEMONS TO EU

The South African citrus industry has, after meeting organic lemon growers yesterday, decided to recommend proactively suspending packing for export of organic lemons to the European Union (EU). This proposed suspension – made with immediate effect - excludes growers from pest free areas.

This decision arises after the EU notified the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) of 3 consignments of South African organic lemons with Citrus Black Spot (CBS).

Today's decision to ring-fence the (category?) commodity and remove any possible risk stemming from it was not an easy one. Moreover, it comes with a hefty price tag and financial loss for organic lemon growers. The South African industry commends these growers for demonstrating this sort of responsible behaviour and leadership.

CITRUS BLACK SPOT – SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERTS VISIT TO EU

At the same time, this week, South African citrus experts are in Europe to inspect the procedures used to identify CBS, and to understand how they are applied. The delegation was invited by DG Sante (The EU Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety), as well as by Spain, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and Portugal.

The delegation aims to further understand the background leading to interceptions with a view to assisting in our continuing processes of mitigating risk. The invitation was extended inter alia to give the local South African industry confidence in the methodology used for EU inspections and interceptions. The South African team is a DAFF-led delegation and includes representation from the Agricultural Research Council and Citrus Research International.

We expect that this visit will shed light on how South Africa can potentially improve our already comprehensive CBS risk management programme. In addition, the trip will also be an opportunity to engage in important discussions around the risk imposed by unviable CBS as part of the EU inspection and interception process.

The underlying issue: The South African citrus industry has gone to great lengths and enormous cost to ensure compliance with, and a commitment to meeting the EU's requirements. This has included new testing regimes, as well as a comprehensive CBS risk management programme. Ultimately the underlying issue with CBS is that, despite the substantial efforts made by the South African citrus industry as a whole, no agreement has been reached with the EU since 1992 on the risk of CBS being transmitted by fruit to citrus orchards in the EU. The CGA, together with its partners in the South African government, remain committed to working with the EU authorities towards a long-term resolution that will ensure the continued viability of this important export market for the SA citrus industry.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To end Week 29 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2014**	**2015**	**2015**	**2015**	**2014**
Grapefruit	16.4 m	14.1 m	14.4 m	13.1m	13.5 m	15.3 m	14.6 m	15.6 m
Soft Citrus	6.2 m	7.6 m	7.3 m	7.0 m	6.7 m	10.0 m	9.6 m	10.0 m
Lemons	8.8 m	11.5 m	12.4 m	10.0 m	10.9 m	13.6 m	13.8 m	13.2 m
Navels	20.8 m	19.7 m	19.5 m	16.7 m	16.8 m	25.1 m	**23.0 m**	26.0 m
Valencia	12.2 m	12.0 m	12.2 m	6.2 m	6.7 m	49.1 m	49.1 m	50.9 m
Total	64.4 m	64.9 m	65.7 m	53.0 m	54.6 m	113.1 m	110.1 m	115.7 m