

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (17/16)

Justin Chadwick 13 May 2016

"Progress isn't made by early risers. It's made by lazy men trying to find easier ways to do something"
Robert Heinlein

STANDARD BANK TO BE MAIN SPONSOR OF THE SECOND CGA CITRUS SUMMIT

After a very successful first CGA Citrus Summit in Phalaborwa in 2015, the CGA will hold the second Summit in Port Elizabeth at the Boardwalk Conference Centre from 8-9 March 2017. We are pleased to announce that Standard Bank have once again committed as Platinum Sponsor – thank you for your support of the citrus industry in southern Africa. The Summit committee is busy with preparations and will keep you posted on arrangements and developments. In the meantime growers are asked to save the date!!



INDONESIA

The Castrol index of the city with the worst traffic in the world ranks Jakarta as number one – the Fruit South Africa delegation can confirm from first-hand experience that this ranking is well deserved. At this last stop on the delegation's trip to South East Asia we found ourselves in a traffic jam of epic proportions – moving 10 kilometres in 2 hours and forty minutes. The time was well spent as we were travelling with Mr Willem Geerlings, Counsellor at the South African Embassy in Jakarta and the driving force in getting Indonesia to grant South Africa mutual country recognition (MCR) – decree 234 of 2016 by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia is entitled "Acknowledgement of the food safety supervision system for fresh food of plant origin from South Africa" was signed on 11 April 2016. This allows fifteen products (including all citrus fruits) access to Jakarta port, and reduces some of the testing and certification requirements. The MCR is valid for two years, and can be suspended or revoked should there be repeated non-compliance to the stipulated requirements. During the visit it was learnt that Indonesia would once again not issue permits for oranges and soft citrus for the April to September period in 2016. Permits for lemons are being issued (as was the case in 2015).

ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI) GETS A BOOST

For a number of years Paul Hardman has been singlehandedly driving the Phytclean process – a process aimed at reducing reliance on paper and spreadsheet based systems to an integrated EDI system. This has already resulted in a number of improvements in the way data is handled in the industry – most noticeably through the electronic registrations. This process has now been strengthened through the employment of Keziah Naidoo as Project Manager: Phytclean.

CITRUS ACADEMY BURSARY FUND 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Next week the Citrus Academy will be celebrating the Bursary Fund's 10th birthday. The Academy will have a special exhibition at the University of Pretoria Career Fair next Thursday and Friday, and a celebration party on Thursday evening. They will reunite most of their past students and showcase their good stories, to show that transformation in the citrus industry is diverse and sustainable. Thanks to everyone who supported the "crowd funding" effort to get the students there. If you are willing to assist further, please get in touch with Jacomien (jacomien@citrusacademy.org.za).

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The Grapefruit Focus Group met on Wednesday and reduced their projected volume (see below). Grapefruit packing lags behind previous years, while soft citrus, lemons and navels are ahead.

To end Week 6/5/16 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2014	2015	2016	2015	2016	2016	2016	2015
Grapefruit	4 m	3.4 m	2.2 m	1.4 m	1 m	12.4 m	12.3 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	2 m	2.3 m	2.8 m	1.6 m	2 m	11.2 m	11.2 m	10 m
Lemons	2.7 m	3.3 m	4.4 m	2.4 m	3.1 m	16.1 m	16.1 m	15.1 m
Navels	0.4 m	0.5 m	1.4 m	0.1 m	0.5 m	25.1 m	25.1 m	24.5 m
Valencia	-	-	-	-	-	46.4 m	46.4 m	52.7 m
Total	9.1 m	9.5 m	10.8 m	5.5 m	6.6 m	111.2 m	111.1 m	118.3 m

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS FUND THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE CGA GROUP (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND CITRUS ACADEMY)



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