

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (19/16) follow me on twitter: justchad_cga

Justin Chadwick 27 May 2016

"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people" Chinese Proverb

CITRUS ACADEMY CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY

In true #goteamcitrus style the Citrus Academy celebrated its tenth anniversary with a function at University of Pretoria last week. It is easy for South Africans to be a bit despondent when they read the papers or watch the news – mix with the youth and tomorrow's leaders and your view changes. Wouldn't it be fantastic if our so-called leaders left ordinary (extraordinary?) South Africans to carry on with nation building? Spend time with the Citrus Academy present and past students and their enthusiasm and drive rub off on you. I hope that some of their radiance will ignite all of us who hold the citrus industry in southern Africa – and indeed South Africa and our neighbours Zimbabwe and Swaziland – dear. The enigmatic Sam Louw was MC for the evening; after announcing that there would not be long speeches he quite confusingly handed the mic to Jacomien de Klerk (Madame Citrus Academy). Jacomien was uncharacteristically brief – but what she said was powerful. Over ten years the citrus industry has supported 211 students to gain a tertiary education through 500 bursaries at a cost of R12 million – a true testimony to citrus growers commitment to ensuring that human capital development is central to sustained competitiveness. What was equally heart-warming was the demographics of the students who have been nurtured by the Citrus Academy. The future of the industry is bright if one considers the big contingent of black students who have now qualified in fields essential to the citrus industry. Many of these students have come from humble backgrounds – I salute every one of them for their commitment and dedication to make a difference to their own future; there are too many South Africans standing back waiting for handouts and freebies – you Citrus Academy students have worked hard and against all odds achieved your qualifications. Well done to Jacomien, Citrus Academy staff (Desire (Denise), Candice, Angela, Londiwe, Sive); CGA staff coerced to do Citrus Academy work (Portia) and all those who have played a role in this success.

I would also like to challenge ALL growers to take advantage of what the Citrus Academy has to offer. Take a look at those who have graduated and those due to graduate, to see how your staffing needs can be filled right now and in the years to come. You do not need to spend money on expensive recruitment agencies; you have already invested in the Citrus Academy so get hold of them to benefit from this investment. And you can also look to the future – if you know that you are going to need additional expertise (due to expansion, retirements or whatever) in the future, contact the Citrus Academy and they will dedicate bursaries with this in mind – prospective employees could then do vacation work while at University / College to ensure a good fit in terms of culture, ethics and other dynamics; by the time they graduate they are part of your team. This also assists the Academy in creating careers rather than churning out students with degrees and no definite job, and in ensuring that the industry has the skilled people it needs into the future.

So this is an **instruction to growers** (if I may be so bold) to contact the Citrus Academy and speak to any of their staff about your human resource needs and how you can either assist or benefit from the Academy's activities. You can contact them on 031 765 3410 or jacomien@citrusacademy.org.za

While I am at it well done to the PMA and Marianne van der Laarse on a successful Pretoria University Career Fair. It was heartening to see the number of scholars and students taking an interest in agriculture as a career; and the fruit industry was well represented at the Fair. Walking around Tukkies (Pretoria University) campus one feels the energy and enthusiasm that permeates the place; there were groups of young children doing some activities, and students from all cultures and creeds buzzing around. Our youth are our future and they can teach the older generation a thing or two about tolerance, leadership and nation building.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To end Week 20/5/16 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	7.3 m	6.4 m	4.5 m	3.7 m	2.8 m	12.4 m	12.3 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	3 m	3.3 m	4.3 m	2.5 m	3.2 m	11.2 m	11.3 m	10 m
Lemons	4.5 m	5.3 m	6.2 m	4.1 m	5.1 m	16.1 m	16.1 m	15.1 m
Navels	1.9 m	2.4 m	4.1 m	0.9 m	2.3 m	25.1 m	25 m	24.5 m
Valencia	0.1 m	0.1 m	0.1 m	-	-	46.4 m	46.4 m	52.7 m
Total	16.8 m	17.5 m	19.2 m	11.2 m	13.4 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)