

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (26/16) (Follow me on Twitter justchad_cga)

Justin Chadwick 15th July 2016

"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divide" J K Rowlinson

GROWER UNITY

One of the objectives identified by growers at the establishment of the CGA was to bring about grower unity. Following deregulation there was a great deal of fragmentation in the southern African citrus industry. The founding fathers of the CGA realised that a united industry would result in growth and sustainability. Recently a CGA member suffered a devastating fire where his pack house was burnt to the ground. A message was sent to CGA members to see if anybody could assist, this is the message from the affected grower: *"Following the disastrous fire and the response to our appeal for help to find some working machinery to install, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to all those who have been so generous, and have offered machinery to us, some at very low prices and some even for nothing. Some offered to pack for us, at very good rates too. Unbelievable camaraderie has been shown, and it's an absolute honour to be part of an industry where this amazing sense of being a big family is so evident. I know we fight hard and compete on all levels to do better, but my goodness, when the chips are down and we see the kind of rallying around and helping, it is a very humbling experience."*

I doubt if there is anywhere else in the world where we would see this.

My thanks to all in the industry for their help, I am very pleased to say we are up and running again....but without your help, this would not have been possible."

PROJECT TITAN CITRUS UPDATE

The South African fruit industry has been very slow in fully incorporating electronic capabilities in the industry. There are various initiatives that are underway to address this – including Phytclean, Agrihub and Titan. In order to ensure that there is no duplication and/or that there are no gaps, and to ensure maximum benefit is gained in terms of synergy, representatives from the three initiatives meet on a regular basis.

The uptake of growers and packhouses of the Titan programme has not advanced as far as it should; roleplayers are encouraged to find out more and get involved.

PPECB has sent out this information:

The PPECB's mobile technology project, Project Titan, was launched in October 2014 and since then has gained considerable momentum as a result of the support and collaboration of all stakeholders. Aimed at eliminating the manual processes involved with quality inspections and export certification the PPECB hopes to increase the number of packhouses utilising the system in order to achieve its goal of complete electronic export certification. Since its launch, Project Titan has seen the following achievements:

- Citrus packhouses live on the Titan system: 102
- Number of citrus cartons inspected to date: 12.6 million
- Number of export certificates generated on Titan for citrus: 169

For more information on Project Titan or to register please contact the PPECB on 021 930 1134 or email

titansupport@ppecb.com

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Although packed data shows 2016 ahead of last season, expectations are that there will be an early stop to the season. Whereas in previous years packing was interrupted by rain in the Eastern Cape (mostly affecting navels and lemons – with up to 15 days being lost before mid-July); the 2016 season packing has not been affected. In addition, the tempo of navel packing was increased to ensure good quality.

To end Week 8/7/16 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	13.8 m	13.9 m	11.9 m	12.1 m	10.5 m	12.4 m	12.9 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	7.1 m	6.5 m	8.1 m	5.8 m	7.1 m	11.2 m	11.4 m	10 m
Lemons	9.9 m	10.8 m	11.5 m	9.8 m	10.5 m	16.1 m	15.2 m	15.1 m
Navels	16.2 m	16.6 m	19.2 m	13.2 m	16 m	25.1 m	22.5 m	24.5 m
Valencia	6.2 m	6.1 m	7.8 m	1.7 m	2.4 m	46.4 m	46.4 m	52.7 m
Total	53.2 m	53.9 m	58.5 m	44.4 m	47.8 m	111.2 m	108.4 m	118.4 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)