

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (36/16) (Follow me on Twitter justchad_cga)

Justin Chadwick 23 September 2016

"Science is more than a body of knowledge. It's a way of thinking, a way of sceptically interrogating the universe" Carl Sagan

CRI TECHNICAL MERIT AWARDS

CRI gives recognition to individuals who have made outstanding technical contributions to the industry. Awards are known as "CRI Technical Merit Award". CRI traditionally recognises one or more recipients of the award at the two-yearly CRI Citrus Research Symposium. At the 2016 CRI Citrus Research Symposium 3 recipients received the award:

Tian Schutte: He is very well-known by citrus growers in South Africa and his innovative and effective control programmes are at the cutting edge of CBS control. He is particularly well known for his insightful combinations of various active ingredients in the development of highly effective CBS control strategies. In addition to having developed disease management techniques for Alternaria Brown Rot, when Phytophthora Branch Canker started killing off trees in the southern Cape, he was quick to link the causal organism (an algae) to the active ingredient in his swimming pool 'muti'. This resulted in a spray mixture, proving to be an effective control measure for a potentially tree-killing-disease.

Those who know him, will all agree, he thinks like no other researcher: *"beyond the box"*. This quirky style, as well as his remarkable sense of humour, has made him a well-liked, if eccentric at times, extremely valuable industry team member, always coming up with new and innovative ideas. In recognition for having undoubtedly afforded South Africa the best CBS control programmes in the world, he is a worthy recipient of this award.

Dassie Smith: During his career with SACCE, and later Outspan, he worked in the Eastern Cape, Northern, Eastern, and Central & Western Transvaal. As Area Manager, he would not tolerate laziness or shirking responsibilities among colleagues. He was one of those dedicated people who, through commitment to the industry, never stopped working when he retired, continuing to serve citrus growers as a consultant.

He demonstrated a remarkably broad and in-depth knowledge of all aspects of citrus production. His work ethic was an inspiration to all around him and he was totally motivated to ensure the success of the growers he advised. He was one of the most well-known and respected extension officers within the southern African citrus industry.

He left behind a legacy of having training more extension officers than anyone else in the history of the southern African Citrus Industry. These graduates of his training went on to add value to the industry in many new roles.

Mike Holtzhausen: He is an accomplished and respected plant pathologist. He demonstrated an amazing ability to quickly master an understanding of new and complex technical situations, especially those that entailed an intimate human interface. He never pretended to have all the answers, but had an uncanny ability to engage groups of people to extract solutions for complex problems. He was especially good at helping people to accept an uncomfortable, but necessary way forward, when it was necessary for the individuals to put the greater good of an industry before their own interests. He will be remembered for his role as a remarkable official in the Department of Agriculture. He built an exceptional knowledge and understanding of international technical trade regulation. The combination of his integrity, keen understanding of complex technical issues and the realities of human interests in the commercial trade environment, ensured that he built an amazing international reputation, a huge network of contacts and commanded tremendous respect. When he gave an undertaking to international trading partners, his assurances were received with a high level of confident assurance.

He capitalised on this remarkable level of trust he enjoyed with his official counterparts around the world, to the benefit of South Africa and its agricultural sector. If there is one of his many good characteristics that the citrus industry especially benefited from, it was that he recognised the intrinsic value of industries that had invested in science and technical support. He added massive value to such industries by enthusiastically enabling them to use their technical expertise to gain access to new markets. This was strongly the case with the citrus industry and he was central to facilitate opening a large number of major export market destinations on which this industry's success has been built.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The Valencia Focus Group met this past week and upped their prediction by ½ million cartons – the total crop will still be 20% short of the 2015 record crop, and 10% off the initial estimate. The Lemon Focus Group also met and adjusted their prediction up to 15.1 million cartons – meaning that there is less than ½ million cartons still to be packed. The grapefruit and soft citrus packed figures continue to challenge the predicted levels; meaning slight upward adjustments. The predicted total southern hemisphere export volume is now less than 2% lower than the March estimate.

To end Week 16/9/16 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	15.5 m	16 m	13.8 m	14.6 m	13.1 m	12.4 m	13.8 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	9.8 m	9.8 m	12.1 m	9.1 m	11.1 m	11.2 m	12.1 m	10 m
Lemons	13 m	14.6 m	14.7 m	14.3 m	14.4 m	16.1 m	15.1 m	15.1 m
Navels	25.9 m	24.4 m	26.2 m	23.2 m	25.4 m	25.1 m	26.2 m	24.5 m
Valencia	42.9 m	44.1 m	39.5 m	39.3 m	36.1 m	46.4 m	41.9 m	52.7 m
Total	107.1 m	108.9 m	106.2 m	100.5 m	100.1 m	111.2 m	109.1 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)