FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (01/17)

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Justin Chadwick 20 January 2017

"One of the key problems today is that politics is such a disgrace, good people don't go into government" Donald Trump

POOR QUALITY CITRUS FRUIT IN SPANISH SUPERMARKETS IN DECEMBER NOT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

South African citrus exporters were puzzled by reports in Fresh Plaza that Spanish supermarkets were still stocking South African oranges in December 2016, that the quality was very poor and that this was influencing retail prices. The South African 2016 citrus season ended very early, meaning that the retailer would have had to store the fruit for an inordinate period. It has now been established that the fruit was in fact mislabeled – and did not originate from South Africa (it was in fact Spanish fruit).

EXPORT OF ORANGES TO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION

A "zero" import duty on oranges HS code 0805 10 200 0, is introduced for the period 2 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 based on a Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EAC) № 116 of October 25, 2016. The Eurasian Economic Union includes Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Russia imports 89% of the 523 678 tons of oranges imported by the Union. The biggest suppliers are Egypt (257 678 tons), Turkey (117 610 tons) and South Africa (96 832 tons).

SEATS FOR CGA CITRUS SUMMIT GOING FAST!!

If you are planning on attending the CGA Citrus Summit in PE from 8-9 March 2017 I would suggest you get your registration in without delay (visit www.cga.co.za). Presently 2/3rds of the seats are filled!! Although the Summit venue itself can take additional delegates – provision of Summit bags and material, and attendance of the Gala Dinner are capped. Since there are limited seats on the pre-Summit tour we only have 4 places left!!

The Summit is honoured to have Ambassador Marcus Cornaro of the EU Embassy, Pretoria delivering a goodwill message on day 2 – which will be followed by a session on market access. John Bean Technologies has joined Standard Bank, The Co-op, Villa, Sunkist, PPECB, Mpact, Capespan, River Bioscience and PWC in sponsoring the Summit.

RAINS JUST IN TIME – BUT MORE IS NEEDED

John Edmonds (CGA Information Manager) has been keeping a close eye on rainfall conditions and dam levels as we enter 2017. Good rains in the north have resulted in widespread flooding, increased dam levels and improved on-farm conditions. As an example 300mm were recorded in Graskop, Mpumalanga in the week to 16/1. Over that same week Ermelo and Nelspruit also recorded over 70 mm. Limpopo regions recorded in the 20 mm range, while Patensie in the Eastern Cape recorded 33mm.

The rainfall has seen dams starting to rise – the Tzaneen dam as at 18/1 was 21.3% full (last week 17.9% and last year 37.8%). There is still some way to go and growers are still faced with water restrictions. The Blydepoort dam is overflowing – much to the delight of Hoedspruit growers. The Loskop dam has increased from 51.9% to 57% (last year 61%).

Dams in the winter rainfall region of the Western Cape continue to fall; Brandvlei from 38% to 35% and Clanwilliam dam from 61% to 57%.

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)