

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (09/17)

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“Politics is the skilled use of blunt objects” Lester B Pearson

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS EXPORT VOLUME ESTIMATE FOR 2017

On Tuesday 7 March the Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF) met to discuss the estimates prepared by the Variety Focus Groups (VFG's). The CMF decided to adopt the estimates as presented by the VFG's.

The following salient points are highlighted:

- The **total estimate** for 2017 is 122 809 304 (15 Kg) cartons (1 842 139 tons).
- South Africa (119 million) is the largest contributor, followed by Zimbabwe (3 million) and Swaziland (0.8 million).
- The **Valencia** estimate is 50 million cartons – up from the drought and hail impacted 2016 actual of 42 million; but down on the record 2015 52.7 million mark.
- The most significant Valencia rebounds are found in: Hoedspruit which almost doubles after devastating hail decimated the 2016 crop; Letsitele where hot, dry conditions impacted on 2016 (18% increase) and Nelspruit where the increase is 28%. The Onderberg (-11%) and Patensie (-4%) are the only regions to experience a drop from 2016.
- Interestingly apart from Hoedspruit, the only region to estimate a higher Valencia crop in 2017 when compared to 2015 are Senwes (and only by 4%), Swaziland (also 4%) and Zimbabwe (up 18%).
- **Navel** volumes are trading water at 26 million cartons; not dissimilar to the previous three years.
- Dry conditions in the Eastern Cape results in lower estimates in East Cape Midlands (down 10%); Patensie (down 7%) and Sundays River (down 20%).
- The north makes up for the lower Eastern Cape navels with Senwes up 21% and Nelspruit up 10%.
- Hot dry conditions prevailing in the Western Cape have not impacted on 2017 navel estimates (the effect will be felt in 2018). Western Cape is 9% up and Boland level pegging.
- Early navels will be slightly down, while later navel volumes will increase slightly.
- The **lemon** crop is set to hit a record 17.5 million cartons (up 16% from 2015 and 2016's 15 million).
- All regions show growth, most significant being Hoedspruit (37%), Senwes (29%) and Sundays River (16%).
- **Soft Citrus** also shows growth – a 16% increase from 12.1 million to a record 13.2 million carton level.
- All regions show growth with the most significant being Senwes (26%), Nelspruit (which includes Burgersfort and Ohrigstad) 16% and Sundays River (15%).
- Grapefruit volumes return to 2015 levels – 13.8 million (17Kg cartons) – up 14% from 2016's 12.1 million.
- Hoedspruit's recovery from hail adds 51% to their 2016 levels.

CHAIRMAN NORTJE RE-ELECTED TO HELM OF CGA

At last week's CGA Board meeting Pieter Nortje (Sundays River) was recognised for his guidance through a few difficult years and re-elected as CGA Chairman. In a change to the governance structure of the CGA two Vice Chairmen were elected – Ben Vorster (Letsitele) and Cornel van der Merwe (Onderberg). Both Ben and Cornel are leading citrus growers and will provide leadership as the South African citrus industry enters a period of increased volumes and challenging market access regulations. George Hall (Boland) and Fanie Meyer (Hoedspruit) make up the balance of the Executive Committee. George's region is set to increase considerably in volumes for export as growers in the region diversify out of wine grapes and into citrus. Fanie's region sees an almost doubling of export volumes after suffering from a devastating hail storm in 2016. Piet Smit (Western Cape) has resigned from the Executive after years as number 2 – the Board and management thank Piet for his guidance and ability to look at issues from all angles.

CGA CITRUS SUMMIT PRESENTATIONS

The CGA Citrus Summit Presentations have been made public (no member login access required) here:

<https://www.citrusresourcewarehouse.org.za/home/document-home/internal-citrus-industry-organisation-publications/cga-roadshows-and-summits>

On the Documents tab, click on Internal Citrus Publications, and CGA - Roadshow and Citrus Summit Presentations.

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