

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (20/17)

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Justin Chadwick 2 June 2017



“Beware of the man who works hard to learn something, learns it, and finds himself no wiser than before... He is full of murderous resentment of people who are ignorant without having come by their ignorance the hard way”
Kurt Vonnegut

WESTERN CAPE DESPERATE FOR RAIN

Residents of the Western Cape are facing severe water restrictions as reservoirs run close to dry. For citrus growers this could influence the setting of the 2018 crop (2017 crop not dramatically impacted as sufficient water available during last year's fruit set). Please pray for winter rains to set in as soon as possible.

COMRADES MARATHON

Good luck to all those running the “intercity fun run” – the Comrades Marathon; only about 90 Km! Please could those from the citrus family who are running let me know how they go.

THE FRUIT INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN ROUND TABLE (FIVCRT)

On Tuesday this week the FIVCRT met for the 13th time – the FIVCRT brings together representatives from the organised fruit industry, government, labour and other role-players to discuss issues of mutual interest. This meeting was a recap on the activities to date – since inception some four years ago. Appropriately the meeting started with a minutes silence as we remembered Billy Morokola, the co-chair who tragically passed away earlier this year. Billy will be remembered as a passionate driver of the FIVCRT, he is sadly missed.

The FIVCRT has six working groups – and each of them reported back on their activities to date. The six working groups cover trade, employment and worker welfare, research and technical, resources, transformation and local market. As Chairman of the Trade Work Group (TWG) it was my responsibility to deliver the report. The composition of the trade work group has developed as the business of the group has unfolded. Industry is represented by CGA, HORTGRO, SATI, SUBTROP, FPEF and Fruit SA. Government stakeholders include DTI, DAFF and DIRCO. Government agencies include PPECB and NAMC, while support services are represented by BFAP and Agbiz. Labour is represented by FAWU. Also invited is representation from the Wine and Brandy round table as there are many synergies in our work. All constituents are committed to the work of the TWG and attendance is good. In both 2015 and 2016 the TWG held four meetings. Two workshops have been held – in 2016 a workshop thrashed out the priorities in terms of target markets, opportunities and challenges. In 2017 a workshop was held to look at African market opportunities and challenges. These workshops assist in guiding the activities of the TWG.

A key item in the TWG's terms of reference is to improve relations and communication between industry, government and labour. There has been significant progress in this regard; a protocol/rules of engagement with regard to overseas delegations has been developed and signed off (between DAFF and FSA), as has a secondment agreement. There have been meetings to ensure that no duplication exists between the work of the TWG and other trade platforms. The FSA CEO is now part of the Steering Committee of the CEO's Forum – a key position in communication between industry and DAFF. More information on the progress of the FIVCRT to follow in later newsletters.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The Grapefruit Focus Group met this week and upped their prediction slightly – all dependent on the holding quality of the fruit as growers endeavour to hang fruit later and spread the season.

It's 1 June and 20% of the fruit is in boxes – a visit to FPT Durban yesterday was an experience: facility 97% full and everybody working hard to offload vehicles, inspect fruit, store fruit and most importantly load out to make space for incoming loads.

To End Week 21 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/Agrihub	2015	2016	2017	2016	2017	2017	2017	2016
Grapefruit	7.6 m	5.8 m	8 m	3.7 m	4.9 m	15.6 m	15.3 m	13.2 m
Soft Citrus	4 m	5.3 m	4.4 m	4.1 m	3.2 m	13.2 m	13.5 m	12.2 m
Lemons	6.3 m	7.1 m	8.2 m	6.1 m	6.3 m	17.5 m	17.5 m	15 m
Navels	4.1 m	6.3 m	4.3 m	3.7 m	2.1 m	26.3 m	22.9 m	26.2 m
Valencia	0.1 m	0.2 m	0.4 m	-	-	50.1 m	49.4 m	41.8 m
Total	22.1 m	24.7 m	25.3 m	17.6 m	16.5 m	122.7 m	118.6 m	108.4 m

THE CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS