

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (21/17)

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Justin Chadwick 9 June 2017



“Adversity is like a strong wind, it tears away from us all but the things that cannot be torn, so that we see ourselves as we really are” Arthur Golden

WATER : A RELEVANT RESOURCE TO FOCUS ON

Coming in to land at Cape Town International with winds gusting up to 90 km is no fun!! But if that's what it takes to bring rain to the Cape then I would do it again. Although one “moerse” storm does not mean that the drought is broken, hopefully this cold front will be the first of many more.

As part of our look at key environmental challenges/risks CGA identified water as an area that needs priority attention. With the drought fresh on our minds and while we work through the impact of the drought for some years ahead this is a good time to look at strategies and options that growers have used to survive under these conditions. What are the key water threats going forward?

CGA is working with the Institute of Natural Resources (INR), who in turn are working with a group of international experts, to try figure out how to make supply chains more resilient. How do we do that? They are focusing on the Tzaneen catchment area (including Letsitele) and the Ceres, Western Cape, areas as two study regions. They are very keen to speak to growers that have had to “box clever” over the last three years when it comes to water.

In this sense they are looking to hold some introductory meetings at the end of June in Letsitele (26/27 June). Growers are invited to meet with them, and based on that see if they want to participate in their study further. This is an opportunity to learn and see just how efficient we are about water use.

Please contact Paul Hardman (ph@cga.co.za) so that he can supply details to the INR.

COMRADES MARATHON

Although no members of the citrus family have confirmed running the Comrades Marathon, I can report that Naomi Hardman (Paul's wife) took on the challenge and completed the course – Congratulations!!

THE FRUIT INDUSTRY VALUE CHAIN ROUND TABLE (FIVCRT) - 2

In looking at the achievements of the Trade Work Group the FIVCRT reflected on the two workshops held over the past two years; the first workshop aligned priorities of government, industry, labour and other stakeholders; the second considered a trade development strategy for Africa. In determining the priority markets DAFF presented work done by North West University, while industry presented a number of studies on market potential around the globe. From this process nine priority markets were chosen. Challenges were classified under the following headings – phytosanitary, sanitary, tariffs, awareness, political and credit assurance. From each of the nine priority markets two projects were chosen. Over the past two years an additional two markets have been replaced as it was clear that tariff issues were not going to be addressed in two of the original priority markets. A significant amount of progress has been made in six of the nine markets; while some progress has been made in the remaining three.

The African Trade Development workshop has prioritised three African regions, with ten target countries. The next step is to identify the constraints, and work on actions to address the constraints.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

During this past week both the Soft Citrus and Navel Focus Groups met, and both dropped their predictions by 300 000 cartons. This means that soft citrus is back at the original estimate, and navels are 3.6 million cartons below the original estimate.

To End Week 22 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	9.2 m	7.6 m	10.1 m	6.3 m	5.2 m	15.6 m	15.3 m	13.2 m
Soft Citrus	4.7 m	6 m	5.4 m	4.8 m	3.9 m	13.2 m	13.2 m	12.2 m
Lemons	7.3 m	7.8 m	9.5 m	6.8 m	7.7 m	17.5 m	17.5 m	15 m
Navels	6.3 m	8.8 m	6.3 m	5.4 m	3.3 m	26.3 m	22.6 m	26.2 m
Valencia	0.5 m	0.7 m	1 m	0.4 m	0.2 m	50.1 m	49.4 m	41.8 m
Total	28 m	30.9 m	32.3 m	23.7 m	20.3 m	122.7 m	118 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