

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (25/17)

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**“No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change” Barack Obama**

### **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY – SERIOUS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT**

CGA was one of the founding members of the “Sustainability Initiative for Southern Africa” (SIZA) – an initiative aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the fruit industry in Southern Africa. Initially SIZA focused on the labor element of sustainability ([www.siza.co.za](http://www.siza.co.za)) – while at the same time developing an environmental pillar. In addition, the fruit and wine industry have been working on a project called “Confronting Climate Change” (CCC). Since 2008 this project has been funded by DFID, VINPRO, HORTGRO, SATI, CGA, and recently the WC Department of Agriculture. The CCC administration recently published a 2012-2016 citrus benchmark – the following is extracted from the document (available to CGA members – [ph@cga.co.za](mailto:ph@cga.co.za)):

*The 2017 Confronting Climate Change (CCC) industry benchmark process builds on 2015- 2016 datasets and provides a meaningful platform for the South African fruit and wine industries to improve their understanding of the use of fossil fuel based resources and to reduce emissions over time. This report serves to highlight the specific details from the Citrus fruit industry carbon footprint data and to highlight areas where mitigation action will have the greatest impact.*

*The four years combined season data (2012-2016) was used for the assessment and was analyzed based on the main business activities: farm, packhouse, and coldstore. All results are shown in the internationally accepted form of kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per unit. In the case of citrus it is expressed as kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of fruit (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/kg).<sup>1</sup> In addition to the carbon emission results, consumption benchmark data was gathered and analyzed for certain key indicators to add context to the regional and individual variances.*

*The data range now covers the required minimum three-year period, and therefore reflects seasonal variances.*

*However, the sample is not yet representative of the industry at large. The figures should therefore be viewed as an indicative benchmark rather than a fully representative industry benchmark. The key findings are summarized below.*

- *At farm level the kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per kg Citrus Soft is significantly higher than Citrus Hard and other sections of the supply chain due to the tonnage/input ratios.*
- *Carbon emissions intensity at farm level is driven by electricity consumption driven largely by the irrigation intensity of the crop and the pumping “head” of the farm, followed by nitrogen based synthetic fertilizer usage and diesel consumption.*
- *Carbon emissions intensity at packhouse level is driven by the packaging material used (particularly virgin cardboard packaging), followed by electricity usage of onsite machinery.*
- *Carbon emissions intensity at cold store level is a function of the amount of time spent in storage; the longer the storage time the greater the electricity consumption required to maintain the required cooling.*
- *The consumption benchmarks included in the report show more detail on the regional differences based on these main carbon emissions intensive inputs and are intended to allow an improved understanding of the carbon emissions of a particular entity and the underlying reasons for a result that lie above or below the CCC sample group average.*

For the citrus industry 101 farms, 30 packhouses and 5 cold stores have been included in the exercise. Growers are reminded that (at present) this is a free service; any grower can enter their data ([www.climatefruitandwine.co.za](http://www.climatefruitandwine.co.za)) and receive information about their estimated carbon emissions per farming activity. This is very useful as a means to identify areas to bring down input costs. Later in the year the CCC team will hold benchmarking meetings throughout citrus growing regions, with the goal of adding more farms to the exercise, and giving feedback on findings to date. Growers who wish to differentiate themselves from the rest, or learn how they can improve on their carbon footprint are encouraged to contact Anel Blignaut [anel@bluenorth.co.za](mailto:anel@bluenorth.co.za) or Paul Hardman [ph@cga.co.za](mailto:ph@cga.co.za).

### **PACKED AND SHIPPED**

The Soft Citrus Focus Group met on Tuesday and increased their prediction by 300 000 cartons; the Western Cape region have reduced their navel prediction. Half of the predicted citrus volumes are now packed – 90% of grapefruit, 58% of soft citrus, 79% of lemons, 66% of navels and just 15% of valencia's.

| To End Week 26<br>Million 15 Kg<br>Cartons | Packed | Packed | Packed | Shipped | Shipped | Original<br>Estimate | Latest<br>Prediction | Final<br>Packed |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB                      | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2016    | 2017    | 2017                 | 2017                 | 2016            |
| Grapefruit                                 | 13 m   | 11.3 m | 13.3 m | 9.9 m   | 10.1 m  | 15.6 m               | 14.8 m               | 13.2 m          |
| Soft Citrus                                | 6.2 m  | 7.7 m  | 7.8 m  | 6.7 m   | 7.2 m   | 13.2 m               | 13.5 m               | 12.2 m          |
| Lemons                                     | 10 m   | 10.8 m | 13.9 m | 9.6 m   | 11.9 m  | 17.5 m               | 17.5 m               | 15 m            |
| Navels                                     | 14.6 m | 17.6 m | 14.3 m | 14.3 m  | 11.4 m  | 26.3 m               | 21.8 m               | 26.2 m          |
| Valencia                                   | 4.6 m  | 5.6 m  | 7.2 m  | 3.1 m   | 2.7 m   | 50.1 m               | 47.9 m               | 41.8 m          |
| Total                                      | 48.4 m | 53 m   | 56.5 m | 43.6 m  | 43.3 m  | 122.7 m              | 115.5 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**