

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (45/17)

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Justin Chadwick 24 November 2017



“Packaging can be theatre, it can create a story” Steve Jobs

CARTON INTEGRITY

Being the foremost long distance exporter of citrus fruit means that exporters of southern African citrus must ensure the integrity of the cartons used to package the fruit for these long journeys. With over a hundred years of experience carton design and construction has developed to a point where the fruit is assured to arrive in the same condition as when placed in the carton in the packhouse. As new technology evolves so packaging evolves – and the cartons need to be continuously tested to ensure that they stand up to the rigours of international travel. The citrus industry has been fortunate in having SAPPI as an active partner in the value chain. After various discussions between Dawid Groenewald (CRI) and Sappi, they have agreed to continue with the testing of citrus cartons in 2018. This was announced during the Packaging Working Group meeting last week. As in the past, the tests will again be done at Sappi's cost. All the accredited carton manufacturers are submitting cartons as per the CRI-Postharvest Technical Forum/Packaging Working Group schedule drawn up every year in February. Over and above that citrus packhouses and CRI staff are also drawing samples. The cartons are folded and glued by the Sappi SANAS accredited laboratory staff, conditioned for 24 hours at high RH and then the Box Compression Tests are conducted. That is followed by a complete report giving all the results. This is all part of the accreditation process. A lot of work and a big saving for the industry, not to mention the peace of mind that comes with knowing that you are using a tested product. Based on the 2017 Sappi SANAS accredited laboratory test results and other CRI assessments the following carton manufacturers were accredited for the 2018 citrus season. In alphabetical order: APL Cartons; Corru Seal; Houers Koöperatief; Mpact Corrugated; Neopak; New Era Packaging and Sunnypacks.

PLANNING FOR 2018

As we approach the final month of 2017, diaries for 2018 start to fill up. The CRI would like to bring to growers attention the dates and venues for the 2018 CRI Post Harvest Workshops. They kick off in the Limpopo Province on 30 and 31 January at Fairview Hotel in Tzaneen, before moving to Loskop Forever Resort on 1 and 2 February. They then move to Mpumalanga on 12 and 13 February at Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit. 15 and 16 February is KZN and Swaziland's turn with the workshop moving to Gateway Hotel in Durban. Then it is off to Western Cape for 20 and 21 February at Allee Bleue in Stellenbosch, before finishing off on 22 and 23 February at Mentorskraal, Jeffery's Bay in the Eastern Cape. For more information, please contact Liezl on 013 759 8003 or liezl@cri.co.za.

In 2018, the CGA Group will also be holding roadshows in the various regions, to cover activities of the CGA, CRI, CGACC, CGAGDC, RB, XSIT and Citrus Academy. Although the final schedule has not been concluded, these meetings will take place the week 26 February to 2 March; and 5 to 9 March 2018. Mitchell Brooke will lead one group that will cover Eastern Cape, KZN, Swaziland and Mpumalanga; while I will lead a group to Western and Northern Cape, Limpopo and Zimbabwe.

The first Citrus Marketing Forum for 2018 will be held on 14 March in the vicinity of O R Tambo airport.

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