

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (46/17)

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Justin Chadwick 1 December 2017

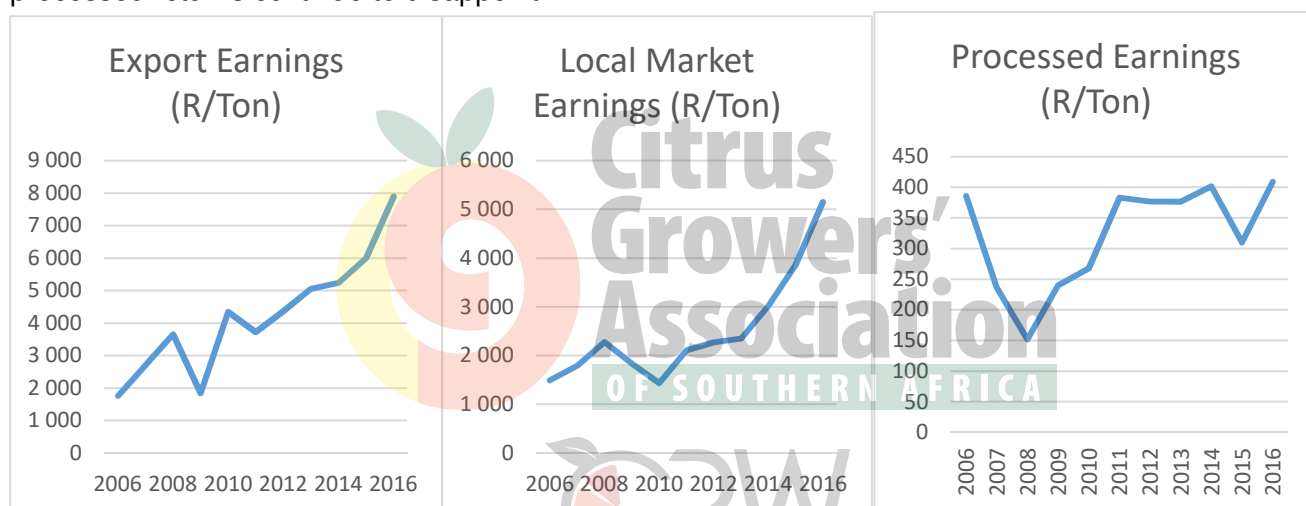


“Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts”

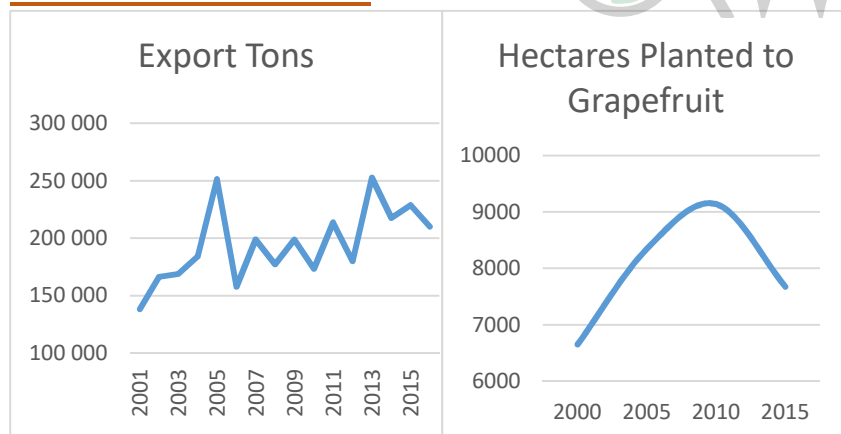
Winston Churchill

GRAPEFRUIT REVIEW

After lurking in the doldrums to 2012, the last 5 years have been good for the grapefruit industry. Grapefruit growers will tell you that the commodity still owes them a bit for the difficulties experienced before 2012; however, the turnaround bodes well for the future. Renewed interest in the category is confirmed through higher demand for grapefruit buds from the Citrus Foundation Black (CFB), and higher demand for nursery trees. The resurgence has not happened by chance, grapefruit growers under the guidance of the Grapefruit Focus Group have been diligent in monitoring grapefruit packed and shipped data, and passing information to growers to ensure informed decisions are made. Obviously, growers will continue to concentrate on the fresh export and local market sectors, as processed returns continue to disappoint.



LONG TERM CHANGES



The 2005 season will be one long remembered by grapefruit exporters; a huge spike in supply coupled with poor (and sometimes negative) returns has cast its shadow over subsequent seasons. Only in 2013 did volumes return to similar levels, while those with alternative crop options exited the sector.

GRAPEFRUIT SHIPPING 2017

After a low volume 2016 season, exports returned to 2015 levels; with a similar market distribution. The markets have reached some level of equilibrium – the EU is the biggest importer with 41% (5.5 million cartons); followed by Asia with 23% (3.1 m – predominantly to Japan). South East Asia is now receiving just under 2 m cartons (14%), while Russia is receiving just over 1 m cartons (8%). Smaller quantities are sent to UK and North America (both half a million cartons or 6%), and Middle East (300 000 cartons or 3%).

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

