

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (09/18)

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Justin Chadwick 2 March 2018



“For a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift it with the handle” Winston Churchill

CGA BEE RATING

The CGA has recently been through a BEE audit and verification process. This has resulted in CGA receiving a level 4 - Category A BEE certificate under the Agricultural Sector scorecard.

Growers who pay levies to the CGA may count these payments towards their own BEE score and rating. Growers will score BEE points under the Enterprise and Supplier Development section of the amended Agri BEE scorecard based on their levy payments to the CGA.

The BEE certificate is available on the CGA website under Current Affairs.

CGA ROADSHOWS 2018

To get presenters from Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Pretoria, Durban, Nelspruit and Pietermaritzburg all in one spot at the right time takes precision planning – and Gloria Weare always gets it right. The A Team of the CGA Group (Tim Grout – CRI; Lukhanyo Nkombisa – CGA GDC; Jon Roberts – CGA CC; Clint Lawson – RBX; Jacomien de Klerk – Citrus Academy; Deon Joubert – CGA and I) gathered on Monday at Cape Town International to start the first week of grower roadshows.

First visit was to the beautiful wine region of the Boland. In the past Roadshows to this region were poorly attended (at one meeting in the past CGA Group staff outnumbered growers 3 to 1; and there were only 6 CGA Group staff in attendance). This region has shown significant increases in the planting of citrus – and this was shown in the attendance – Merlot Manor in Robertson was over full capacity as the growers arrived in numbers, with over fifty growers in attendance. International fresh produce grower and media giant Chris White, who travels to everywhere on the globe, once commented that he assessed the health of an industry by the number of young people in the audience; from the attendance in Robertson one can safely say that the citrus industry in the Boland is very healthy. The Roadshow allows the CGA Group staff to discuss what activities they are busy with, get feedback from growers about their challenges and opportunities and share information and experience. The braai sponsored by Felco was an opportunity to share further.

Tuesdays Roadshow meeting in Citrusdal attracted over sixty growers. This region is well established, and the presentations were adjusted as a result. Once again, it was noticeable that amongst the experienced citrus growers, the number of young people being attracted to the industry is increasing. There was good feedback on the information presented, followed by a braai in the magnificent setting of the Piekenierskloof Hotel. Citrus growers choose to farm in some of the most beautiful places in southern Africa.

Wednesday was DRIVING day – all eight hours of it. From Citrusdal we drove north; bypassing Clanwilliam, past Vanrhynsdorp and up Van Rhyns Pass, through the heart of the flower country – Calvinia, through Kenhardt and Keimos to our final destination – Kakamas. At this time of the year it is difficult to believe that the veld bursts into colour when the rains come; may need to change the timing of our roadshows in future! Water creates wealth – and this is very evident as one approaches Keimos and crosses the mighty Orange River; the verdant green of grapes (with a smattering of citrus) supports a hustling and bustling urban development; what would happen to the rural economy of these small villages should farming be disturbed by idiotic policies or climatic disasters?

The SABC weather forecast showed that on Thursday Upington was the hottest place in the country – but growers in this part of the country are used to that. The Grower Roadshow meeting at Lake Grappa was well attended with more than fifty growers in attendance. The weather was well matched by the warm hospitality of the Oranje Rivier growers; thanks to Inteligro's sponsorship, we could “onspan” with a delicious braai and cold one.

Roadshows carry on next week; check out www.cga.co.za for more detail. All : Monday 5 March 14h30-17h30 Limpopo River/Zimbabwe Musina Hotel and Nkwalini Farmers Hall; **Tuesday 6th** 14h30-17h30 Letsitele The Junction and Swaziland Tambuti; **Wednesday 7th** 14h30-17h30 Hoedspruit Die Hengel Klub and Nelspruit CRI Board room; **Thursday 8th** 14h30-17h30 Senwes Maroela Game Trails and Onderberg Riverside Farm Board Room. Please RSVP to gloria@cga.co.za.

CGA would like to thank those who made it possible to socialize after the roadshows through their sponsorships – **Nedbank** (Sundays River and Patensie); **Felco** (Boland); **Inteligro** (Oranje Rivier); **Absa** (E Cape Midlands) **Mac Intermodal** (Limpopo River/Zimbabwe); **River Bioscience** (Letsitele); **Hoedspruit Farmers Club** (Hoedspruit); **Kaap Agri** (Nelspruit) and **Novon/Arysta** (Senwes).

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