

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (18/18)

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Justin Chadwick 4 May 2018



“Computers are incredibly fast, accurate and stupid; humans are incredibly slow, inaccurate and brilliant; together they are brilliant beyond imagination” Albert Einstein

PHYTCLEAN

We South Africans are used to looking on in envy as those with burgundy, black and blue passports make their ways to the short queues at passport control, while we join the untouchables (mostly from the “developing” continents of Africa and Asia) in the long queues. What a pleasure to land in India and follow the e-visas signs to find not one person in front of me at the queue. E-visas for India cost ZERO and can be done on-line; what a pleasure. Can you imagine the advantages if the same had to happen with trade – if all documentation necessary to clear fruit at the port of discharge could be electronically transferred to the officials at the entry point. This dream is not far from becoming a reality. A few years ago Paul Hardman (CGA Industry Affairs Manager) started on a very ambitious project to “go paperless” in the citrus industry – initially it only involved on-line registrations. As the need for electronic management of information pertaining to CBS and EU requirements increased, Paul encouraged the CGA Board to employ two software programmers – and so PhytClean was started. DAFF become involved in development from an early stage, and are in fact custodians of the programme. The development of PhytClean was a Godsend when faced with the need to develop and implement a FCM Management System. As Phytclean was rolled out its application for other fruit sectors was recognized, and Fruit South Africa became involved. In March this year DAFF and FSA entered into a Service Level Agreement whereby FSA would extend the Phytclean platform to generate electronic phytosanitary certificates for ALL agricultural products. From June stakeholders will be engaged as the design of the electronic certification process takes shape. As a pioneer in the development of Phytclean, Paul can be rightly proud in seeing his dream making strides to being a reality; the CGA Board must be congratulated for their vision in seeing the long-term benefits of supporting the initiative; seed funding via the CRI and DST is recognized and DAFF must be applauded for supporting the progress. Phytclean also has an international flavor - the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is developing standards for e-phyto's – and Phytclean is being developed to seamlessly interact with the international platforms. In the near future, the need for paper certificates and other documents for exports to certain participating countries (which should include USA, EU, South Korea and China – plus others) will be outdated. This will speed up delivery times, do away with human error and streamline processes for releasing fruit. Soon South African fresh produce could also bypass the queues waiting at the borders.

GROWERS HAVE YOUR SAY

The CGA is owned and directed by citrus growers in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland. With an industry as widely spread (geographically) as the citrus industry, it is difficult to glean the opinions and thoughts of growers from across southern Africa. The CGA has started doing short surveys to get such information – using Survey Monkey the CGA can reach a number of growers and get their input. The surveys are kept very short and succinct – it should not take more than 15 to 20 minutes to complete. The questions asked are either yes/no, ranking or agree/disagree type questions. Obviously, additional comments and input are welcomed should a grower wish to expand on the theme of the question.

If you are a citrus grower member of CGA, and are prepared to assist us in getting inputs to various issues of interest – please send a mail to Portia@cga.co.za with the wording “opinion survey” in the subject line.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To Week 17 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2018	2018	2017
Grapefruit	1.3 m	2.2 m	1.7 m	0.8 m	0.6 m	16.8 m	16.8 m	15.7 m
Soft Citrus	2 m	1.5 m	1.7 m	1.5 m	1.3 m	14.7 m	16.2 m	13.4 m
Lemons	3.8 m	3.9 m	4.2 m	2.8 m	2.9 m	20.6 m	20.6 m	19 m
Navels	0.8 m	0.4 m	0.3 m	-	0.1 m	25.7 m	25.7 m	21.1 m
Valencia	-	-	-	-	-	53.9 m	53.9 m	53.8 m
Total	7.9 m	8 m	8.2 m	5.1 m	4.9 m	131.7 m	133.2 m	123 m

CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS