

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (29/18)

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Justin Chadwick 20 July 2018



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**Grow the Future,
Together**
Balancing growth and inclusivity

"I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult" Rita Rudner

CRI WORKSHOPS

The ever popular CRI Integrated Pest and Disease Management Workshops will be held during September – 4-5 /9 Die Eiland, Letsitele; 6-7 /9 Loskop Forever Resort, Groblersdal; 10-11/9 Kavinga, Nelspruit; 13-14/9 Africanos, Sundays River Valley; 18-19/9 Allee Bleue, Simondium. Please visit www.cri.co.za to get more information and to register.

STERILE INSECT TECHNOLOGY (SIT)

I am sure that when Dr Hendrik Hofmeyer and his wife Marsheille (of CRI) were working on the science that underpins the use of sterile insect technology for false codling moth (FCM) they would never have dreamt that by 2018 the company spawned from their efforts (XSIT) would be distributing 40 million moths a week over orchards in the Western and Eastern Cape. Although SIT is used all over the world, the XSIT facility is the only one that uses the technology on FCM. This meant that most of the development of rearing, sterilisation and release had to be learnt from scratch. Sampie Groenewald was there at the beginning – he was there when the radioactive source arrived in Citrusdal, and he was instrumental in the creation and advancement of XSIT. Sampie is moving on from XSIT, and on behalf of the CGA and all the growers who have benefitted from his efforts I would like to say "thank you", and good luck in your future endeavours. XSIT has not been without its challenges – but in the true South African manner of walking towards a problem rather than running away from it, Sampie has always found a solution.

With some rationalisation in mind, for governance and management purposes River Bioscience and XSIT now reside under one roof. This newly constituted RBX company continues to learn as they go – under the watchful eye of the Chairman (Dr Hoppie Nel) and newly appointed CEO Rob Elfick, the future of RBX looks good. At the Agri SRV dinner on Wednesday evening (congratulations Deon Joubert and your team at AgriSRV for a fantastic evening), Mr Anton Musgrave, international futurist, stated that technology was developing more rapidly now than it has ever before, and technology is developing more slowly now than it will ever do in the future. XSIT is an example of this developing technology – all the systems and processes that XSIT uses are new. Just think of drone technology – it seems the logical way to release moths; however, hidden behind a seemingly easy decision to shift to drone releases lies a web of requirements, legislative hurdles and operational engineering. Drones are changing the way many things are done, and it will eventually change XSIT for the better – watch this space.

The citrus growers, and indeed all in the citrus value chain, need to know how much effort the RBX Board, management and staff are doing to ensure the sustainability of this company to the ultimate benefit of the industry. We should acknowledge the Board (Hoppie, Vaughan Hattingh, Juliette du Preez, Jan Louis Pretorius, Dave Gerber, Piet Smit and Rajen Govender), the Management (Rob, Andre Moolman, Craig Chambers, Sean Thackery and Theunis) and all the staff at the Addo and Citrusdal facility for their perseverance and hard work.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

More than half of the southern African citrus for 2018 is now packed. This past week slight adjustments were made to both the grapefruit and soft citrus predictions; the end result still hovering around the 132 million carton mark. Interestingly. Week 28 shipped in 2018 is exactly the same as 2017.

To Week 28 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/Agri-Hub	2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2018	2018	2017
Grapefruit	12.5 m	14.8 m	16.4 m	12 m	13.9 m	16.8 m	17.9 m	15.7 m
Soft Citrus	8.7 m	8.8 m	10.4 m	7.9 m	8.7 m	14.7 m	16.6 m	13.4 m
Lemons	12.3 m	15.8 m	14.9 m	13.5 m	13 m	20.6 m	20.3 m	19 m
Navels	20.7 m	16.7 m	19.6 m	14.4 m	15.8 m	25.7 m	24.6 m	21.1 m
Valencia	10.1 m	11.7 m	8.3 m	6.7 m	3.1 m	53.9 m	53.1 m	53.8 m
Total	64.3 m	67.8 m	69.6 m	54.5 m	54.5 m	131.7 m	132.5 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