

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (30/18)

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Justin Chadwick 3 August 2018



“Treat your password like a toothbrush. Don’t let other people use it and get a new one every six months.”
Clifford Stoll

PHYTCLEAN AND E-CERTIFICATION UPDATE

The citrus industry will be aware of the signing of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in March 2018 whereby Fruit South Africa (FSA) will build online capabilities for DAFF to issue electronic certificates as a replacement for the paper phytosanitary certificates currently in use. CGA is managing this project on behalf of FSA and the project is now well underway.

It is expected that by September 2018 the first electronic phytosanitary documentation will be processed by the Netherlands. This might sound promising but in reality is only represents the final step in the official export process and much work remains over the next 18 months to improve the official systems leading up to (prior to) the point of export. In particular the focus needs to be on how to “take out the paper” (or “de-materialize”) the supply chain, and how systems can be developed to do automatic validation of the data. Together these two key factors will have the biggest impact on the efficiency of DAFF and stakeholders in the supply chain.

Since May 2018 the following activities have been undertaken: **E-Certification office:** FSA have set up dedicated space for the e-Certification platform in Hillcrest near Durban. Note the support contact number has also changed (**now 031 940 6795**) for both PhytClean and e-Certification queries. **FSA project team:** New expertise have been employed by FSA. Most of new team joined in June and some in July. **High-level stakeholder engagement:** During May and June Paul Hardman was able to attend various fruit industry associations to talk to them about the project and confirm the principles of how it should function. Visits were made to the avocado, pome and stone (Executive), table grape (SATI), and exporters (FPEF) Boards. Similar visits to the PPECB and CGA Boards will follow in the 3rd quarter of the year. **Visit by Dutch and Kenyan e-Certification experts to SA:** In June, two experts working on the Kenyan e-Certification platform (under KEPHIS), and a Dutch representative leading the Dutch e-Certification project, joined SA counterparts over four days to unpack what e-Certification best-practice might look like. Exposure to these two existing systems in operation and how they had been put together was extremely valuable and made an immediate impact on the design of the South African solution. These colleagues are indeed thanked for their time, effort and support and we hope to be able to return the goodwill shown to us soon. **Strategic Project Management Committee (SPMC):** DAFF have formed the SPMC as a Committee providing high-level support within DAFF and to provide general project oversight. **Technical Project Management Committee (TPMC):** The TPMC has also formed in June by DAFF and is intended to provide guidance to the FSA team at an operation and technical level. **Industry stakeholder engagement:** The e-Certification team has also set up e-Certification Best Practice Workshops as opportunities to raise awareness about the project and elicit inputs and recommendations from key stakeholders. Workshops have been held in Durban (19th June, 31st July) and Stellenbosch (18th July, the next on 29th August), with the same concept to be rolled out in Gauteng (details to follow). These stakeholder workshops will run in each centre approximately monthly to keep stakeholders in those regions abreast of project progress.

Looking ahead over the next few months the team will be focusing on: **Visit to the Netherlands:** Dutch counterparts will host the South African delegation in September to work on the delivery processes of export certificates. It is planned that live demonstrations of the system might be possible during the meetings. **On-going stakeholder engagement:** Routine meetings with industry stakeholders will continue. **System design:** A range of system design questions around the how to manage requests for phytosanitary documentation must be addressed. These topics will be covered in the stakeholder engagement workshops. **Building on validation concepts:** Much work is also needed to create appropriate reference points so clients will be able to standardize the data when making requests for electronic export documentation. These reference points will also provide the basis for automation of data validation and will be mostly manage by Electronic Standards Authority for the Fruit Industry (ESAFI).

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The Grapefruit Focus Group had a teleconference this week and adjusted the Southern African projection to 16.4 million cartons (17kg) compared to March’s 14.8 million cartons (17kg). The Letsitele region saw the biggest growth from 3.8 million cartons last year to 5.4 million cartons expected this year.

To Week 30 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/Agrihub	2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2018	2018	2017
Grapefruit	13 m	14.8 m	17.2 m	13 m	14.5 m	16.8 m	18.6 m	15.7 m
Soft Citrus	9.6 m	10.1 m	12.1 m	8.9 m	10.2 m	14.7 m	16.6 m	13.4 m
Lemons	13.1 m	17 m	16.4 m	15.6 m	14.9 m	20.6 m	19.9 m	19 m
Navels	23.1 m	18.7 m	22.4 m	17.2 m	19.2 m	25.7 m	25.3 m	21.1 m
Valencia	15.6 m	19.8 m	14.9 m	11.5 m	7.4 m	53.9 m	51.7 m	53.8 m
Total	74.4 m	80.4 m	83 m	66.2 m	66.2 m	131.7 m	132.1 m	123 m

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