

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (38/18)

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Justin Chadwick 21 September 2018



“Man’s mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions” Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

CRI TECHNICAL AWARD 2018

As is tradition, Dr Vaughan Hattingh recognised those who had contributed to the success of the southern African citrus industry by rewarding them with the CRI Technical Award. This is an extract from the award speech at the recent CRI Citrus Symposium:

The recipient obtained a BSc (Agric) and Honours degrees in Horticultural Science at Stellenbosch University. He started his research career as part of the cultivar development and nursery certification team. Thereafter he completed an MSc (Agric) at Pretoria University and then a Ph.D. at University of California, Riverside. Upon his return to South Africa, he was appointed as a horticultural researcher at OCC in Nelspruit, prior to being appointed Manager Production Research in 1988. In the 1990s he positioned himself at Stellenbosch University and later relocated to California.

As a horticultural scientist he achieved international recognition for his research on fruit quality and production enhancement. This included incorporation of urea in winter spray programmes to enhance flowering and fruit set under South African conditions. This was followed by developing strategies to use synthetic auxins and gibberellic acid to improve yield and fruit size. He was also instrumental in the industry implementing Open Hydroponic Systems and optimal pruning techniques.

In the early 1990's, the industry rapidly expanded its soft citrus plantings, with very few production guidelines available to producers. He led the research that produced effective cultural and management techniques for the profitable production of these cultivars. His contributions were instrumental in enabling the rapid expansion of this high-value component of the industry on a sound scientific footing.

His contributions to the industry included the development of human capital by building a citrus-focused research programme at the Department of Horticultural Science, Stellenbosch University, something which has continued to flourish long after his departure. Not only did this result in extensive scientific output, but also delivered skilled and sought after researchers and technical personnel, that themselves have made major contributions to the industry.

He is a man who has always commanded a sense of presence, who was affectionately known to some of us, as Dr Blunt. The recipient of this award, for those that don't know him by this nickname, is Etienne Rabe.

Congratulations Etienne – well deserved.

A reminder that the Citrus Growers Association will be holding their **Annual General Meeting** on **Wednesday 26th September 2018** in the Boardroom of the CRI Research Centre at 2 Baker Street, Nelspruit at 15.00. If you are a CGA member and would like to attend, kindly email gloria@cga.co.za.

PACKED AND SHIPPED*

***Please note that PPECB suffered a systems crash and cannot supply the packed data this week.**

To Week 37 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: Agri-Hub	2017	2018	2018	2018	2017
Grapefruit	14.6 m	17.4 m	16.8 m	18.6 m	15.7 m
Soft Citrus	12.7 m	15.2 m	14.7 m	17 m	13.4 m
Lemons	18.3 m	18.4 m	20.6 m	19.9 m	19 m
Navels	21.1 m	25.9 m	25.7 m	26.4 m	21.1 m
Valencia	40.7 m	38.9 m	53.9 m	52.4 m	53.8 m
Total	107.4 m	115.8 m	131.7 m	132.9 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