

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (40/18)

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Justin Chadwick 5 October 2018



“It is wise to persuade people to do things and make them think it was their own idea” Nelson Mandela

BIOSECURITY MANAGER APPOINTED AT CRI

The citrus industries in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland are vulnerable to any pest or disease that makes it way south through Africa. Likewise, the industries are vulnerable as ports and airports in South Africa are hubs for shipments and travelers into the rest of Africa. The announcement that CRI have appointed a Biosecurity Manager in the person of Dr Solomon Gebeyehu is great news. Solomon will be based in Nelspruit, and started in the position from 1 October 2018. He is an entomologist by training, having obtained an MSc in Ethiopia and then a PhD from University of Natal under Prof. Michael Samways. His working career has included stints at FABI, DAFF (PRA division), and USDA as SPS Advisor for SADC and COMESA regions. Solomon has extensive Biosecurity relevant experience and strong Africa networks that will be most relevant to CRI's industry biosecurity drive. Having met Solomon I am sure he is the man for the job – and wish him well in his new position.

CITRUS SHORT COURSE

The Citrus Academy is launching the Citrus Short course, a high-level course dealing with all aspects of citrus production. Clive Pountney, who has many years of experience in the citrus industry, will facilitate the course. The course is three days long, of which one-day will be a field visit. The cost of the course is R6,325 (including VAT). Courses have been scheduled as follows: Fort Beaufort 24-26 October; Addo 21-23 November; Stellenbosch 30 January-1 February; Letsitele 27 February-1 March; Mussina 27-29 March; Groblersdal 24-26 April; Nelspruit 29-31 May; Citrusdal 26-28 June; Kakamas 24-26 July. For more information and to register, please visit www.citrusacademy.org.za.

CRI TECHNICAL AWARD 2018: JAMES WARRINGTON

This is an extract from the **second** CRI Technical Award speech at the recent CRI Citrus Symposium:

This recipient is very well known in the Citrus Industry for the many years he has provided technical advice on citrus production. He started off in the agricultural industry with the Department of Agriculture in 1969. In 1971, he was offered a position as Technical Manager with a leading citrus cooperative in Mpumalanga, where his input transformed the producers' production practices. He was later promoted to General Manager of the same Coop, a position he served in until his retirement.

During the late 80's and early 90's he was instrumental in solving the fruit set problems of some of the midseason cultivars. He cooperated closely with researchers working on pruning and fertilisation trials, developing techniques which he fine tune over the years, giving rise to greatly improved crop production, as well as improved pest and disease control. He worked closely with Dr's John Moll and Ralph Swartz on citrus greening disease and played a pivotal role in developing successful management strategies for greening in the Lowveld, especially the Nelspruit area.

When Midnight Valencia started becoming popular as a seedless cultivar, he made a major contribution to developing strategies to improve fruit set on this cultivar in the warm and hotter production areas. This strategy was later rolled out to various other production areas and the demand for Midnight budwood is now higher than for any other Valencia cultivar.

He is still a consultant in the Citrus Industry and a prominent member of SASSCON, and his technical abilities and knowledge of all aspects of citrus production and marketing place his advice in high demand. He has travelled the world in order to broaden his knowledge on citrus production, which he shares freely with the industry. He also served on the board of directors of both Outspan International and the CGA. Even in his retirement, he has not slowed down and now serves as a consultant in both the citrus and macadamia industries.

PACKED AND SHIPPED (note PPECB system still down – week 37 and 38 packing captured manually)

To Week 39 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	13.8 m	15.6 m	18.6 m	14.6 m	17.6 m	16.8 m	18.6 m	15.7 m
Soft Citrus	12.2 m	13.4 m	15.9 m	13 m	15.7 m	14.7 m	17 m	13.4 m
Lemons	15 m	19 m	19.5 m	18.6 m	18.8 m	20.6 m	19.9 m	19 m
Navels	26.2 m	21.1 m	26.4 m	21.1 m	26.3 m	25.7 m	26.4 m	21.1 m
Valencia	41.8 m	51.6 m	45.8 m	48.5 m	45.6 m	53.9 m	51.2 m	53.8 m
Total	109 m	120.7 m	126.2 m	115.8 m	124 m	131.7 m	133.1 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