

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (47/18)

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Justin Chadwick 23 November 2018



“The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man”
George Bernard Shaw

CARTONS – THE START OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

The South African citrus industry is fortunate to have a range of carton manufacturers who produce good quality, reliable export cartons. Those who have purchased sub-standard packaging in the past know the risks of this practice. The citrus industry is big business for carton manufacturers – the total earnings for carton manufacturers from the citrus industry is in excess of R2 billion. This illustrates the role that the citrus industry plays in driving job creation and economic development up and down the value chain. Dawid Groenewald from CRI reports that the Packaging Working Group meeting took place in Pretoria on 15 November 2018 - *As in the past we used the wonderful facilities at the Sappi Technology Centre in Pretoria. Representatives from all accredited carton manufacturers attended the meeting and once again the meeting took place in a very good spirit. During the meeting Sappi once again announced that they will continue with the testing of the cartons in 2019. The accreditation system will continue as in the past and all the procedures will stay the same. Sappi will again carry all the costs. Wonderful news indeed. South Africa has packed 135 million cartons during the 2018 season. An all-time record. From a paper- and carton supply point of view it was a difficult season. Many times, carton orders were changed at short notice. Carton manufacturers often changed their production programs just to keep the export programs and pack houses going.*

Thank you to SAPPI for continuing with the testing, and to all accredited carton manufacturers for ensuring that South African citrus starts the journey in the best possible packaging.

CITRUS ACADEMY

The Citrus Academy audio-visual modules can now be downloaded directly from the Citrus Resource Warehouse, under Direct Downloads. Go to <https://citrusresourcewarehouse.org.za/direct-downloads> for your copy, or contact angela@citrusacademy.org.za for more information.

CGA CITRUS SUMMIT

With over 150 delegates already registered, the CGA Citrus Summit is starting to gain momentum. The Summit will be facilitated by political analyst and media personality Freek Robinson. The impressive list of speakers includes Brazilian citrus value chain expert, Professor Marcos Neves; Agricultural Writers SA national agriculturist of the year, Wandile Sihlobo; CEO of Agricultural Business Chamber (AgBiz), John Purchase; General Delegate of EU importer and exporter association Freshfel, Philippe Binard, and Retha Louw, CEO of SIZA (to name a few). Full details and registration procedures are available on

www.cga.co.za

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The discrepancy between what has been packed and what has been shipped has been a cause of concern. CGA, PPECB and AgriHUB are looking at improving on the accuracy of the data. One glaring omission from the shipped figures is that AgriHUB did not include all shipped Swaziland and Zimbabwe volumes. Correcting for this immediately brings Valencia and grapefruit shipped and packed in line. Discrepancy's for soft citrus, lemon and navel is probably due to conversions to 15Kg carton equivalents, and some packed fruit that was never exported. The differences between packed and shipped is now less than 2%. The season is now over – and this will be the last packed and shipped table for the year. Thanks to John Edmonds, PPECB and AgriHUB for providing the figures for these tables.

To Week 46 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	15.7 m	18.7 m	15.4 m	18.7 m	16.8 m	18.7 m	15.7 m
Soft Citrus	12.2 m	13.4 m	16.1 m	13 m	15.9 m	14.7 m	16.1 m	13.4 m
Lemons	15 m	19 m	19.8 m	18.8 m	19.3 m	20.6 m	19.8 m	19 m
Navels	26.2 m	21.1 m	26.6 m	21.1 m	26.3 m	25.7 m	26.6 m	21.1 m
Valencia	42 m	53.8 m	54 m	52.9 m	52.2m	53.9 m	54 m	53.8 m
Total	109.2 m	123 m	135.2 m	120.9 m	132.4 m	131.7 m	135.2 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