

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (50/18)

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Justin Chadwick 14 December 2018



“If youth but had the knowledge and old age the strength” French proverb

GETTING SOUTH AFRICANS TO WORK

All South Africans are aware of the high unemployment levels in the country, and the associated social issues. It is in the interests of all that business and government do everything possible to create work for those who seek it. It must be extremely disheartening for students who graduate, and after all that hard academic work cannot find employment. Those in employment cannot understand the despair that job seekers must feel as they battle to get work.

Citrus growers are committed to being part of the solution – and many growers have taken on interns to assist job seekers to get some work experience. These internships are often made possible by using government incentives – with a top up from the grower’s business.

At the CGA Citrus Summit in 2019 we plan to get more job seekers into the work place – delegates will be asked to take on interns in 2019. A list of delegate commitments will be made, and the CGA/Citrus Academy will source candidates for the internships, as well as facilitating access to government internship funding initiatives. **So come prepared to make your commitment.**

We would also like to get an idea of already committed internships. We will be asking delegates who have already engaged interns in 2019 to share the information, so that we can tabulate the number of internships provided by the citrus sector.

The youth is our future – we need to invest in this future. CGA has committed to two interns in 2019.

CGA OFFICE CLOSURE

The CGA offices will close from midday 24 December 2018 through to 2 January 2019.

SOUTH AFRICA STILL AWAITS WIDER ACCESS TO THE USA

In June 2018 the USDA published a Federal Register that included consideration of wider access for South African citrus. The indication was that the final rule would be considered in the fall agenda, and would be finalized by September 2018. Despite repeated assurances from USDA that the matter was close to being finalized, to date the final rule remains unpublished. Given the lead time necessary to plan for exporting into a new market, it is important that the US conclude the process without further delay.

CGA DIRECTORS CONFIRMED

Directors on the CGA Board are elected for a two-year term. At the end of that period the region is approached to nominate candidates for the next term. If more than one candidate is nominated, an election (votes weighted by export volumes) is held. The following Directors were elected unopposed: George Hall from Boland, Andrew Muller from Nelspruit, Marius Bester from Oranje Rivier and Mike Woodburn from KZN.

Growers in the Ohrigstad/Burgersfort region will also be approached to put forward a candidate as Director for this new area. The candidate will attend Board meetings as an observer until the new area can be adopted at the next CGA Annual General Meeting.

CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS