

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (2/19)

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Justin Chadwick 11 January 2019



“I am a slow walker, but I never walk back” Abraham Lincoln

REVISED CITRUS FMS

The FMS for the EU citrus market has been updated for 2019. There are a number of important operational changes that will directly impact on stakeholders throughout the supply chain. The latest FMS, adopted by DAFF on the 18th December 2018, is available in the Help section on PhytClean. Stakeholders are also encouraged to read a summary of the changes (summarized in Cutting Edge 261) which is also available in the Help section.

The most important thing growers should be doing now is initiating fruit infestation monitoring, particularly for early fruit, and continuing with orchard sanitation.

Number of data sets required per orchard: The number of data sets required for FCM monitoring in the orchards were refreshed on PhytClean on Monday 7th January 2019. Growers should check the database again to make sure they have the correct number of data sets.

Timelines for FMS changes on PhytClean: One consequence of modifications to the FMS is a large number of programming changes are required on PhytClean. FSA developers were on leave but are now hard at work to make the appropriate adjustments – rolling out the most urgent aspects first. The team is well aware of the need to be ready for the first fruit in February 2019 and the lead time it will take for all stakeholders to be able to integrate with their own system. Please follow the FMS Bulletins over the next few weeks to see how the team is progressing on development. Right now growers will only be able to upload fruit infestation monitoring data and make GAP declarations on PhytClean.

User Interpretation Guide: An updated USER INTERPRETATION GUIDE is expected to be published on PhytClean soon to describe what the new statuses under the FMS will mean.

PUC FMS Dashboard: The FMS PUC Dashboard is currently being updated, but expected to be available from next week Monday (14th Jan) at the latest. The Dashboard will include all the FMS changes for 2019 even if initially it contains only the requirements similar to that of 2018.

EU COMMISSION REVIEW OF IMAZALIL AS POST-HARVEST TREATMENT

Growers and packhouse managers were notified at the end of 2018 about the fact that the key post-harvest treatment, Imazalil, is under review in the EU. The loss of Imazalil, which is used against moulds on the fruit, will have a significant impact on all citrus industries globally that supply the EU market. CGA and CRI are engaging with the Commission and stakeholders on developments and will provide updates to the industry in due course. This topic will be covered at the CRI Post-harvest workshops (see last week's newsletter for the CRI workshop details).

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