

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (6/19)

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Justin Chadwick 8 February 2019



“The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness” Dalai Lama

RESPONSE TO TRADE MEDIA REPORTS ON THE EUROPEAN CITRUS SITUATION

The South African community of citrus growers takes no joy in seeing images of unharvested oranges spilling onto orchard floors in Valencia. We are farmers too and we know what this despair and frustration feels like. We also understand that, in times of stress and hardship, emotions run high and often scapegoats are created.

The European commission has already denied that the import of oranges and mandarins from South Africa is the reason for this price crisis and that the actual causes are weak demand, prolonged summer heat and consequential smaller fruit sizes, heavy rain and the low level of organisation of the sector.

But allow us to correct some damaging allegations currently being circulated:

SA volumes to Valencia declined last season: Valencia volumes in last 10 weeks of exports from South Africa to the EU declined last year to 1,5 m cartons - down by 1 million from 2,5m in 2017.

SA orchard practices and fruit safety is world class: South Africa invests millions each year on research and orchard practices to ensure exemplary phytosanitary compliance rated equal to the best in the world. Our accreditation's are run by EU, Japan and US auditors - and are beyond reproach.

Perhaps the most unfair categorisation made is that SA's social conditions effectively leads to dumping. Not only has the SA citrus industry raised the bar of international skills development with our Citrus Academy - we have actively sought to begin to tackle the decades of racial injustice by seeding the CGA Grower Development Company - established in 2016 with the primary objective of making a significant impact on the transformation of the citrus industry - something we are justifiably proud of.

Growers together created 10,000 new jobs in citrus last year.

South Africa remains committed to our European Union trade partners and to the regulatory system that keeps the market safe and fair - but we will not sit idly by and allow ourselves to be maliciously undermined by anyone - irrespective of their own unfortunate circumstances.

OHRIGSTAD/BURGERSFORT ELECTIONS

The almost 80% voter turnout bodes well for the new Ohrigstad/Burgersfort regions involvement in CGA activities. With the votes counted Smit Le Roux has been elected as the region's representative on the CGA Board. Congratulations Smit, we look forward to your contribution.

CITRUS ACADEMY AUDIO VISUAL SERIES

The Citrus Academy has released three new audio-visual modules on the Safe Handling of Agrochemicals and one on Citrus Rootstocks. The modules are available on its YouTube channel and will shortly be available on DVD at no cost to CGA members. Please email sive@citrusacademy.org.za if you want to order a DVD or if you require further information.

CGA CITRUS SUMMIT UPDATE: RESOURCE CENTRE

The CGA Group creates a number of resources that are made available to grower members. In particular, the Citrus Academy has developed a range of audio visual and written material that are distributed to interested growers. At the Summit there will be a Resource Centre where growers can get to see and acquire these resources. In addition, material that has been developed by DAFF will also be made available.

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