

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (22/19)

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Justin Chadwick 31 May 2019

“It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation” Herman Melville

CITRUS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION SHORT COURSE

Citrus Academy are rolling out the Citrus Business Administration Short Course, aimed at introducing emergent citrus growers to the principles of business management. The course will be held in 5 regions, between July and October 2019. To register, visit the Citrus Academy website at www.citrusacademy.org.za. For queries, email sive@citrusacademy.org.za

WELCOME BACK MINISTER DIDIZA

The citrus industry would like to welcome Minister Didiza back home. In her previous stint as our Minister, Minister Didiza was instrumental in gaining access to China (Sampson Qomondi (of Mariveni) and I actually accompanied the Minister on one of her visits to China), and was actively involved in market access issues.

We look forward to working with the Minister and her department in grasping the opportunities and addressing the challenges that face our sector. There is much work to be done – and together we can do it better.

The industry also welcomes Minister Patel to the new ministry that includes trade – Minister Patel expounded on the positive aspects of the citrus industry in a recent radio interview; he has been invited to visit the industry to see first-hand what is happening on the ground.

HLB – ASIAN GREENING

One question that I am often asked is “what are the threats facing the southern African citrus industry?”. Without doubt one of the biggest threats must be that of HLB or Asian Greening. Dr Vaughan Hattingh, CEO of CRI, gave the chilling news to the CGA Citrus Summit that “it is not if, it is when” HLB will arrive in southern Africa. On Wednesday this week DAFF held the first HLB Steering Committee meeting, attended by DAFF officials, CRI, CGA and nursery representatives. Jan Hendrik Venter ably chaired this meeting which covered all aspects of the HLB Action Plan. There is much to be done – and the members of the Committee are tasked with addressing issues through a number of task groups – including awareness, surveillance and rapid response, diagnostics, legislation and resources. Growers are asked to take special notice of HLB information that will be sent out in due course. Awareness, and the associated “eyes on the ground” will assist with early detection and rapid response.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

This past week the Valencia and Navel Focus Groups held a joint meeting – the NFG predictions is unchanged from the original estimate, while the VFG predicted a reduction of 0.5 million cartons from the original estimate.

Million 15 Kg Cartons to end Week 21	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AgriHub	2017	2018	2019	2018	2019	2019	2019	2018
Grapefruit	8.6 m	7.6 m	8.2 m	4.4 m	5.2 m	17.1 m	15.7 m	18.8 m
Soft Citrus	4.5 m	4.9 m	4.6 m	4.3 m	3.6 m	18.3 m	17.8 m	16.2 m
Lemons	8.2 m	8.9 m	7.8 m	7.4 m	5.5 m	22 m	21.4 m	19.9 m
Navels	4.3 m	4.3 m	3 m	2.9 m	1.5 m	26.9 m	26.9 m	26.7 m
Valencia	0.4 m	0.1 m	-	-	-	52.9 m	52.4 m	54.4 m
Total	26 m	25.8 m	23.6 m	19 m	15.8 m	137.2 m	134.1 m	136 m

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