

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (29/19)

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Justin Chadwick 19 July 2019

"It is music and dancing that make me at peace with the world" Nelson Mandela (RIP Madiba & Johnny Clegg)

CITRUS FOUNDATION BLOCK (CFB)

Research is the foundation on which the southern African citrus industry is built. The CFB is the metal rods in the foundation making sure that it is 100% secure. Citrus trees in commercial orchards have the CFB as their birth place; whether this be the seeds for rootstocks or the bud that is grafted thereon. This last week the citrus industry celebrated the handover of the CFB from Capespan to the CGA – what a momentous occasion.

I was privileged to speak at the event – and decided to try a little humour; when the Chairman interviewed me for my job he asked what superpowers I had; my response was "hindsight"; "That's not very useful" he responded; to which I said "I can see that now". Fortunately, the superpower that the leaders and officials in the industry had in the 1970's and 1980's was FORESIGHT. At the event Louis von Broembsen gave a humorous but enlightening account of the origins of the CFB. It is frightening to hear the challenges that the industry faced in the 1970's, and the visionary leadership to purchase a farm and develop the CFB – ensuring disease free, true to type trees were planted throughout the country. And how fortunate were those leaders to have found a gold nugget like Thys du Toit to set up and run the CFB. Thys was there from the beginning – and he recounted how he broke down the previous owner's livestock camps to set the foundations for the CFB. Some thirty-nine years later Thys is still at CFB – one cannot let that experience go – and he is now imparting that knowledge to Paul Fourie, who gave us an informative tour of the facility. Along with Thys, eight additional employees were recognized for twenty years plus service – Patrick Kam-Kam, Louise Jackson, Michael Zamxaka, Monica Jonas, Linda Gelo, Mavis Mona, Michael Mona and Michael Nelani; that is truly impressive.

Jock Danckwerts unveiled a plaque to commemorate the event; which was also a blast from the past as Jock's father (Mr L A D Danckwerts) actually unveiled the plaque when the CFB was officially opened in 1984.

Abs van Rooyen praised the work of the CFB, and the work of the Citrus Improvement Scheme Advisory Committee – biosecurity being one of the most concerning risks to the citrus industry.

We were privileged to have Tonie Fuchs from Capespan officially hand over the facility to the industry.

Capespan's support of the CGA, CRI and CFB has ensured continued provision of world class research and technology development for the southern African citrus industry.

Thanks to Vaughan Hattingh who steered us through the evening, and to CRI for a most enjoyable evening.

AGRI'S GOT TALENT (AGT)

We did it! The citrus industry has a finalist in Agri's Got Talent, the singing competition supported by the fruit and wine industries. Nonkululeko Sambo is a 23-year-old from Delmas in Mpumalanga who began working at KMI Farming in Nelspruit as a general worker. She has a qualification in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, and was given an opportunity to learn about the day to day running of the farm as an intern. She comes from a family of singers and began singing at a very young age; she sings in her church and is actively involved in her community. Nonkululeko was encouraged by her friends, who were amazed by her singing voice, to enter Agri's Got Talent. She also entered because she wanted to gain more confidence. She loves all genres of music, but is especially fond of afro-pop. She will represent the citrus industry at the gala evening, where she will be competing with nine other finalists. The gala evening is on Friday, 2 August, at the Lord Charles Hotel, tickets are available at Computicket.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Million 15 Kg Cartons to end Week 28	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AgriHub	2017	2018	2019	2018	2019	2019	2019	2018
Grapefruit	14.8 m	16.5 m	14.1 m	14.3 m	12.4 m	17.1 m	15.7 m	18.8 m
Soft Citrus	8.8 m	10.4 m	11.3 m	8.8 m	8.7 m	18.3 m	18.8 m	16.2 m
Lemons	15.8 m	14.9 m	16 m	13.1 m	12.1 m	22 m	21.9 m	19.9 m
Navels	16.8 m	19.7 m	16.6 m	16.2 m	11.9 m	26.9 m	24.5 m	26.7 m
Valencia	11.7 m	8.3 m	8.7 m	4.1 m	4.2 m	52.9 m	51.5 m	54.4 m
Total	67.9 m	69.8 m	66.7 m	56.5 m	49.3 m	137.2 m	132.4 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