

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (24/20)

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Justin Chadwick 3 July 2020



"A ship is always safe at shore but that is not what it was built for" Albert Einstein

CGA INCREASES ITS LEADERSHIP GROUP

In the first week of June, the CGA Board held a videoconference Board meeting. At this meeting it was resolved to increase the size of the Executive Committee to six. Piet Engelbrecht (Senwes) joins Cornel van der Merwe (Chairman), Ben Vorster (Vice Chairman), Hannes de Waal (Vice Chairman), George Hall and Gerrit van der Merwe on the Executive Committee of the CGA.

DONATIONS

To date citrus growers have donated in excess of 1 400 tonnes to needy communities around the country, with promises of more to come. The photos, video's and stories come in on a weekly basis – and the gratitude of needy families is palpable. Well done to all those who have donated – you are special people. If you would like to be part of the action please contact Sive (sive@citrusacademy.co.za) or Portia (portia@cga.co.za); or give me a shout.

DON'T GET COMPLACENT; DON'T GET FATIGUED

This COVID thing is a marathon, not a sprint – and we are at the start. As predicted the virus is spreading rapidly in Gauteng and Eastern Cape, with KZN next. We need to learn from those in the Western Cape: we all need to assume that EVERYBODY else is COVID positive and protect ourselves; and management needs to make sure that the WORKPLACE is the SAFEST place. All businesses must have done a COVID Risk Assessment and appointed a COVID Compliance Officer – this person is THE most important person in the company. To assist COVID Compliance Officer the Citrus Academy has been holding Zoom training sessions – with over 50 people trained to date. This training is not confined to Compliance Officers. Register now at www.citrusacademy.org.za, enquiries to jacomien@citrusacademy.org.za

As the pandemic spreads into the Eastern Cape and KZN all workplaces will be hard pressed to keep their workers healthy and operations going. Exporters using ports in Eastern Cape and KZN need to keep abreast of transport, cold store and port operations.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The Soft Citrus Focus Group met this past week and increased their prediction slightly. Overall the predicted 2020 export volume is still tracking to exceed 140 million cartons.

Shipping data up to the end of week 26 shows a distinct interest in Europe from grapefruit (2019 44% to 2020 47%); lemons (28% to 32%) and navels (28% to 38%). Soft citrus has decreased (26% to 23%), while the UK has shown a big increase in this category (25% to 34%). Other than Europe, grapefruit shows a distribution similar to 2019 (Asia 34%, Russia 8% and UK 6%). Soft citrus exports to other markets is also similar to 2019 (Middle East 11%, North America 11%, Russia 8%) except for Asia which has declined from 16% (2019) to 11% (2020).

Lemon exports to Middle East are higher (2019 37% vs 2020 40%), UK (7% to 9%) – while Asia (12% to 6%) and North America (5% to 4%) have decreased. Russia has been steady at 9%.

Navel exports to Russia are also the same as 2019 (7%), while exports to UK (5% to 9%) and North America (11% to 12%) have increased; exports to Middle East (25% to 19%) and Asia (20% to 9%) have decreased.

Million 15 Kg Cartons to end Week 26	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AgriHub	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020	2020	2020	2019
Grapefruit	16 m	14.1 m	12.7 m	10.9 m	10.6 m	16.7 m	14.6 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	9 m	9.5 m	12.1 m	6.9 m	9.5 m	23.3 m	22.8 m	18.3 m
Lemons	13 m	13.9 m	19.5 m	10.3 m	15.4 m	26.4 m	27.4 m	22.1 m
Navels	16.5 m	13.8 m	15.3 m	8.4 m	9.6 m	26.5 m	26.4 m	24.3 m
Valencia	3.8 m	4.3 m	6.5 m	1.9 m	3 m	50.4 m	50.3 m	46.8 m
Total	58.3 m	55.6 m	66.1 m	38.4 m	48.1 m	143.3 m	141.5 m	127.5 m

THE CGA GROUP (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE SUPPORTED BY AND WORK FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS