

“Only the mediocre are always at their best” Jean Giraudoux

PHILIPPINES

The final administrative document has been signed by the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in Manila and importers can now apply for permits to receive South African fruit into the Philippines. Although access was announced towards the end of 2020, this now opens the doors. Once again the CGA would like to thank those who made this possible – in particular DALRRD Plant Health department, CRI, PPECB and FPEF. And a special word of thanks to past Ambassador in Manila, Martin Slabber – he kept the pressure on throughout his tenure.

CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (CGA GDC) TO UPDATE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The work of the CGA GDC is guided by the needs of the growers – a critical part of determining what these needs are is the situational analysis – determining from each grower what it is that will assist in their sustainability and profitability. The CGA GDC is now in the process of updating this analysis – growers are encouraged to assist CGA GDC staff in getting this analysis completed.

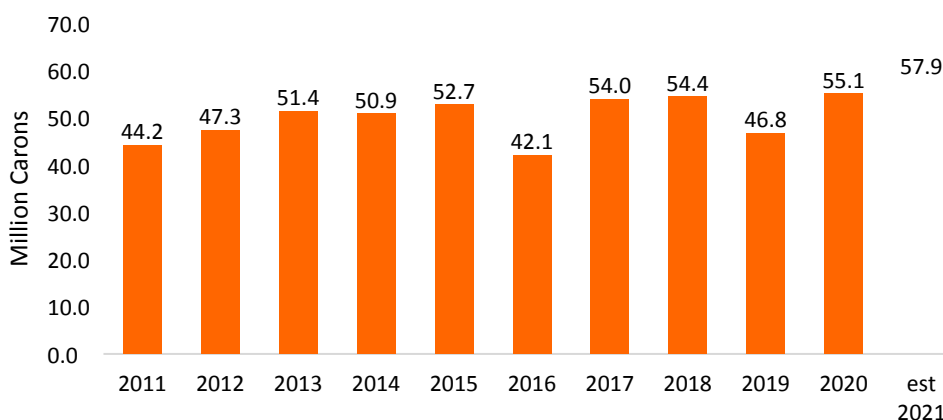
MENTAL HEALTH AND COVID 19

Just over a year ago we got sight of how life would be living during a pandemic. The hard lockdown (level 5) was due to last for three weeks; many hoped that life would then return to normal, but most knew that we were in for the long haul.

A year later we are more prepared for the inconveniences and stress caused by the reaction to the pandemic – and the tightrope that government walks to protect lives and livelihoods. An often overlooked impact of the lockdown is on mental health. A Discovery Health presentation revealed some interesting statistics – in the health fraternity income earned by orthopaedic surgeons dropped by 8% after COVID (mainly due to people delaying elective surgery); radiologists dropped by 12%; general practitioners dropped by 22% (people did not get sick and also did not want to go to doctors rooms – my wife is a pharmacist and says that the sales of antibiotics and cold and flu medicines dropped off dramatically) and paediatricians by 19%. Conversely, pathologists' income increased by 11% (more testing) and **psychologists increased by 6%**. It is important that we all become aware of the impact of COVID-19 on mental wellness; be that little bit more tolerant and understanding of others. People react differently to change; some take it in their stride while others take strain.

Business for South Africa held a very informative webinar a few weeks back. The two subjects discussed were workers' rights, and the vaccine rollout (which gives a great overview of the virus itself). Well worth the one hour to watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_imTmDWcYc

WEEKLY STATISTIC: 2021 VALENCIA ESTIMATE



The 2021 southern African Valencia estimate is marginally up on 2020's actual volume – a 5% increase. This is the highest Valencia crop to date. The Valencia sector seems now to be stabilising at around the 55 million carton mark.