

"There's always an easy solution to every human problem – neat, plausible and wrong" HL Mencken

Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers (ETBCG) Programme (Robert Miller)

The ETBCG programme was officially launched in April 2020 and has now reached the halfway stage in its three-year term. The programme has committed to provide funding to 30 farmers, to create 329 permanent jobs, 1397 permanent seasonal jobs and will provide 2006 skills development opportunities to citrus industry workers and people in surrounding communities. The programme also aims to significantly contribute to the further development and economic sustainability of black citrus growers in South Africa.

In order to accomplish this, the ETBCG programme funds orchard establishment, rehabilitation and improvements, production funding for new and replanted orchards, infrastructure projects (packhouses, irrigation and fencing), and skills development (learnerships, bursaries and skills programmes). The total value of the programme is R307 million, which is funded from various sources. The programme funders are the CGA, DALRRD, AgriSETA, First National Bank and the Jobs Fund (National Treasury). The CGA would like to thank all the funders for their contributions and commitment to the programme.

Funding is made available to beneficiaries as a combination of grant and loan funding. The loan portion is offered on favourable terms to qualifying growers. In order to qualify for funding, applicants have to meet the following criteria: at least 50% black-owned as defined by the B-BBEE Act of 2013, appropriate operational and management structures are in place, the business is commercially viable, financially sustainable and actively involved in commercial citrus production, and both permanent and permanent seasonal jobs will be created through the funding. Applications must also meet FNB transformation loan funding requirements. Technical assessments are conducted on all applications, that address security of tender, water, environmental and food safety matters.

Since the start of the project, 17 applications have been received and are in various stages of the approval process. As the goal of the project is to assist 30 farmers, further applications for funding from the project are encouraged. The online application can be accessed through the CGA Grower Development Company website www.cga-gdc.org.za. Alternatively, should you require any further details, information or assistance in making an application, please contact the CGA Grower Development Company directly on 012 003 4209.

New Appointment at CGA

Welcome to Tanya Ungerer who joined the CGA at the beginning of October. Tanya will take over the reins from Gloria Weare, executive assistant to CEO, Justin Chadwick. Gloria retires at the end of the year.

Agri's Got Talent

Agri's Got Talent is a singing competition arranged by Hortgro for agricultural workers in the fruit and wine industries. This year, the citrus industry was proudly represented by Jack Jonas, from the Citrus Foundation Block in Uitenhage. Jack did us proud by securing a place as second runner up with a riveting performance. Well done, Jack!

CGA's landlines are back up and running – 031-7652514

COVID 19 Vaccinations

Administered in last 24 hours = 215 438; total administered = 19 899 964; Individual vaccinated = 13 803 993 (= 34.68% of adult population). Source: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/latest-vaccine-statistics/>

Packed and Shipped * Using a combination of PPECB and Agrihub data to account for shipping timing

End of Week 40	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
Million 15kg Cartons								
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2020
Grapefruit (17kg)			15.5 m		14.3 m			
Grapefruit	16.8 m	15.0 m	17.5 m	14.1 m	16.2 m	18.0 m	17.6 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	18.2 m	23.7 m	30.8 m	23.2 m	29.1 m	30.5 m	30.8 m	23.6 m
Lemons	22.0 m	28.4 m	30.9 m	26.3 m	29.2 m	30.2 m	30.9 m	29.6 m
Navels	24.3 m	26.0 m	27.2 m	25.1 m	27.2 m*	26.3 m	27.2 m	26.2 m
Valencia	43.8 m	48.1 m	54.4 m	43.5 m	48.4 m*	58.0 m	55.1 m	55.1 m
Total	125.1m	141.2m	160.8m	132.3 m	150.1 m*	163.0 m	161.6 m	150 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