

“The expert in anything was once a beginner” (Helen Hayes)

CGA ROADSHOWS 2022

Please note that some changes have been made to the schedule of roadshow meetings – these amendments are due to changes in flight schedules and/or COVID related testing when travelling in the southern African region. The changes are highlighted below.

As usual Paul Hardman will head up one group. His group will have meetings as follows – **Patensie:** Tuesday 22 February, 15h00 @ Suurvelder; **Sundays River Valley:** Wednesday 23 February, 15h00 @ Africanos; **East Cape Midlands:** Thursday 24 February, 15h00 @ Kat River Board Room; **Senwes:** Monday 28 February, 15h00 @ Maroela Game Trails; **Onderberg:** Wednesday 1 March, 15h00 @ **Komati Board Room**; **Nelspruit:** Tuesday 2 March, 15h00 @ CRI; **Eswatini:** Wednesday 16 March, 15h00 @ Tambuti; **Nkwalini:** Thursday 17 March, 12h00 @ Nkwalini Farmers Hall.

Justin Chadwick will head up the second group with meetings as follows – **Boland:** Monday 21 February, 15h00 @ Excelsior Manor; **Citrusdal:** Tuesday 22 February, 14h30 @ Piekenierskloof; **Oranje Rivier:** Thursday 24 February, 15h00 @ Lake Grappa; **Burgersfort/Ohrigstad:** Tuesday 1 March, 09h00 @ Hanna Lodge; **Hoedspruit:** Tuesday 1 March, 15h00 @ Francines; **Letsitele:** Wednesday 2 March, 15h00 @ Letaba Junction; **Limpopo River:** Thursday 3 March, 15h00 @ Tshipise Forever Resort; **Zimbabwe:** Friday 4 March, 14h00 @ Nottingham Estate.

An agenda will follow. Looking forward to meeting up with CGA members in person again.

CITRUS SUSTAINABILITY FORUM OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The buzzword “sustainability” has been with us for some time, and has gained traction as the need to protect the people and the planet is prioritised by government and business. The southern African citrus industry has intensified its focus on sustainable production with many initiatives and tools to assist growers in this space. This is highlighted by the work of the Citrus Sustainability Forum which meets (virtually) again on 10 February 2022 from 10h00 to 12h00. This Forum is open to all with an interest or a role to play in ensuring that the southern African citrus industry remains an environmental steward and an employer of choice. To get more information on the agenda and to register for the next meeting please contact Paula Bester at pb@cga.co.za.

However, there is one element of sustainability that, in my view, needs more attention and that is economic sustainability (or the third P – profit). There has been a consistent rise in input and service costs which is putting the sustainability of many citrus farms at risk – and indications are that this is set to continue. This has included increases in shipping costs that can only be described as alarming. While it is debatable whether this element belongs in the Forum - which has been created to focus on people and planet - it will need attention. This because the citrus industry has a crucial role to play in rural development, job security and food security. As the biggest employer in agriculture many families depend on the industry, and entire rural towns and villages exist to support it along with its input and service providers. Food security is not just about availability of food, but also the means to afford the food, which citrus farms provide to employees. The circular economy is very evident in agriculture – in regions where the prominent agricultural commodity is doing well, the spinoff in terms of infrastructure, thriving towns/villages, crèches, schools and clinics is evident. However, the opposite is true where commodities are under strain.