

“Communication is not about saying what we think. Communication is about ensuring others hear what we mean” Simon Sinek

CGA GROWER ROADSHOWS MOVE NORTH

This week the two CGA teams visited the Cape provinces (Eastern, Western and Northern) with good turnouts at all six roadshow meetings. Top of growers minds are the ever increasing freight rates, port efficiency, EU phytosanitary requirements, increasing input costs and industry growth.

Next week the B Team heads to Ohrigstad – Tuesday, 1 March we will hold a meeting at 09h00 in the Ohrigstad/Burgersfort region at Hannah Game Lodge, before heading to Francines Venue and Farmhouse in Hoedspruit for the afternoon meeting at 15h00. Wednesday 2 March, 15h00 finds the B Team at Letaba Junction in Letsitele, before heading to Limpopo River region for a meeting at Tshipise Forever Resort at 15h00 on Thursday 3 March. All afternoon meetings will be followed by a braai and drinks. We then head across the border for a meeting in Zimbabwe on Friday 4 March at 14h00.

The A Team heads for Senwes with a meeting at Maroela Game Trails on Monday 28 February at 15h00, meeting at Onderberg on Tuesday 1 March at 15h00 at the Komati Board Room and then finishing off on Wednesday 2 March in Nelspruit region at CRI. All meetings will be followed by a braai and drinks. Thanks to Nedbank for sponsoring the second week of Roadshows.

Eswatini growers will join meetings in Mpumalanga, while KZN will have a meeting in Nkwalini at the Farmers Hall at 12h00 on Thursday 17 March.

This past week has been enjoyable with an opportunity to engage CGA members and spend quality time in the Cape regions, looking forward to more of the same next week.

NEW LABELLING REQUIREMENTS IN THE EU (Paula Bester)

EU has a few Directives relating to plastics and packaging which serve as guidelines to the Member States to implement their own legislation at national level. The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC) aims to harmonize national measures concerning the management of packaging and packaging waste to mitigate the impact thereof on the environment within Europe, as well as third countries. This Directive covers all packaging types, all packaging materials, across all sectors. Thus, in order to place any packaging on the EU market, it has to comply with essential requirements as outlined by this Directive (i.e., compostable).

We are seeing a divergence in how this Directive is being implemented across Member States. France and Belgium (limited to Flanders) now both have mandatory restrictions on fruit stickers/labels under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive.

The French law against waste for a circular economy, known as the AGECL law, article 80 states: “On January 1, 2022 at the latest, the affixing of labels directly to fruit or vegetables is ended, with the exception of labels that can be composted in **home composting** and made entirely or partly of biosourced materials.” We recently learnt that this law was slightly adjusted to allow for a standard food grade adhesive, so the adhesive section of the label does not have to meet composting standards for the French Market, as this is rather difficult to achieve.

Belgium, Flanders also made compostable fruit stickers mandatory, with a little more time granted to adapt to the more stringent home compostable labels. **Industrially** compostable fruit labels (according to standard EN 13432) are authorized until 31/12/2024. However, **home** compostable fruit labels are obligatory from 01/01/2025. [According to standards: AS 5810; NF T 51-800; or OK Compost Home (TÜV Austria)]. Operators are advised to abandon all non-compostable stickers from mid-2022.

We foresee Spain following the same direction as France and Flanders, limiting fruit labels to home compostable materials. They have not yet officially published legislation, but they are in their transposition period.

In summary, if fruit is destined for the French or Flanders markets and they require a direct surface sticker or label, it has to comply with the above mentioned composting standards. Other Member States are likely to follow the drive for home composting stickers in the near future.