

“Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people” Eleanor Roosevelt

CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL (CRI) BIENNIAL CITRUS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

After a four-year hiatus the popular CRI Research Symposium returned to Champagne Sports in the KZN Drakensberg – and it was clear that delegates had missed the event. This must be one of the biggest agricultural conferences in South Africa with 847 delegates for the three-day event. Over those three days the delegates were exposed to eighty well prepared and interesting presentations bringing them up to speed with the latest citrus research results. In addition, research results were presented in 40 posters exhibited in the adjacent halls.

Social events such as the UPL Welcome and Dinner, the River Bioscience Happy Hour and Remoon Street Food Festival, the MBFI Dinner and the SAPPI Gala Dinner and King Price Entertainment ensured that delegates networked hard, and were well fed and watered. Believe me – researchers can dance.

Congratulations to the organising committee – while I do not have insights I would imagine that Liezl van der Linde and Catherine Savage brought the glitz and glamour to the event, while Hannes Bester, MC Pretorius, Dawid Groenewald and Wayne Mommsen ensured the sharing of research was of the highest standard.

Without sponsors such events could not be possible – Winfield United South Africa as diamond sponsor allowed CRI to go the extra mile, while the other sponsors all played their part in ensuring that delegates had a fantastic experience.

Alongside the main hall were exhibitors' halls where delegates could engage on the latest technology, products and services available to the citrus industry.

I cannot wait for the next event – let's hope that it will be in 2024.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The grapefruit season is all but over, with just 100 000 cartons of the predicted 16.2 million cartons (15Kg) left to pack; just 4% off the original March 2022 estimate. This is also the case for lemons – with just 200 000 cartons of the latest prediction left to pack; the prediction now 4% above initial estimate.

Navels have just 1.5 million cartons to go – with the prediction 6% off the original estimate.

With late mandarins in full swing, there are 5.5 million cartons to go to reach the latest prediction, this prediction is now just 1% below the March estimate. The big ticket item is valencia oranges with 21.6 million cartons to be packed – with the prediction now 3% off the original estimate.

End of Week 34 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2020	2021	2022	2021	2022	2022	2022	2021
Grapefruit PP (17kg)		2.7 m	2.5 m	2.2 m	2.0 m			
Grapefruit Class1&2 (17kg)		12.5 m	11.7 m	12.3 m	10.6 m			
Grapefruit	15.7 m	17.2 m	16.1 m	16.4 m	14.3 m	16.8 m	16.2 m	17.5 m
Mandarins	21.4 m	27.4 m	28.6 m	23.2 m	27.5 m	34.5 m	34.1 m	30.9 m
Lemons	26.5 m	28.9 m	33.4 m	26.8 m	31.8 m	32.3 m	33.6 m	31.0 m
Navels	24.8 m	25.7 m	25.4 m	22.6 m	24.6 m	28.7 m	26.9 m	27.2 m
Valencia	34.4 m	34.7 m	34.8 m	21.0 m	28.3 m	58.2 m	56.4 m	55.0 m
Total	122.8 m	133.9 m	138.3 m	110.0 m	126.5 m	170.5 m	167.2 m	161.6 m