

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

BATHLAKO TEMO CO-OPERATIVE, SIGNIFICANT BLACK OWNED CITRUS EXPORTER IN THE COUNTRY

In a previous newsletter, I communicated that the CGA would be sending out a short “Transformation Survey” in order to collect information on grower transformation initiatives, so we can amplify these through our communications. We have had great feedback on the survey and I am excited to present our first industry transformation story today.

The Batlhako Temo co-operative in the North West province began its farming operations in 2012 through funding provided by the National Department of Agricultural, Land Reform and Rural Development’s Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy program (PLAS). The co-operative has also received financial support from the North West provincial government.

The 5-member co-operative began producing sunflowers at first. The farmers then diversified into citrus and are now the largest black-owned citrus farm that exports fruit to a number of markets including the Middle East, Philippines, Thailand, China and Indonesia.

The CGA, through its Grower Development Company (GDC) has been a proud partner of the co-operative for a number of years. Part of this support has been the provision of funding that has been used to purchase irrigation pipes, fertilizer and chemicals. The CGA-GDC has also provided critical technical support in order to increase production volumes and quality of their fruit destined for overseas markets. The co-operative leadership has also had ongoing access to information, training and workshops provided by the CGA and the CGA-GDC.

The co-operative employs 15 permanent workers, over 80 seasonal workers and provides in-service training to 14 students, while farming over 33 000 citrus trees. The CGA would like to congratulate the members of the co-operative, in particular its Founding Director and Financial Manager Ms Lerato Moliwa who is responsible for the overall management of the farm’s daily operations and who is a shining example of black female growers making their mark in our industry. We look forward to our continued partnership with the co-operative to ensure its future growth and profitability.

CITRUS ACADEMY SHORT COURSES

Citrus Academy short courses are aimed at providing a short, sharp insight into essential components of the citrus production system. Short courses will give you a good induction into the subject matter, and are a good starting point if you would like to enter a career in the Citrus Industry. There are two new short courses that are offered namely **Citrus Packhouse Quality Control** and **Citrus Economics**. We are pleased to announce that the Citrus Economics short course will be facilitated by Dr Louis von Broensen. The short course schedule can be viewed on the Citrus Academy website on the following link: <https://citrusacademy.org.za/contact-learning/>

For more information, please contact Nonhle Mbhele on nonhle@citrusacademy.org.za

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 36 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	2.6 m	2.3 m	2.0 m			
Grapefruit Class1&2 (17kg)		12.7 m	12.0 m	12.7 m	10.9 m			
Grapefruit	16.0 m	17.4 m	16.5 m	17.0 m	14.6 m	16.8 m	16.6 m	17.5 m
Mandarins	22.7 m	29.4 m	30.5 m	26.5 m	29.7 m	34.5 m	33.8m	30.9 m
Lemons	27.3 m	30.0 m	33.9 m	28.2 m	32.6 m	32.3 m	34.1 m	31.0 m
Navels	25.7 m	26.6 m	26.7 m	24.0 m	25.5 m	28.7 m	26.9 m	27.2 m
Valencia	40.9 m	44.0 m	45.6 m	29.1 m	37.7 m	58.2 m	54.6 m	55.0 m
Total	132.6 m	147.4 m	153.2 m	124.8 m	140.1 m	170.5 m	166.0 m	161.6 m