

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (16/23)

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“We fear things in proportion to our ignorance of them” Christian Nestell Bovee

TRANSNET GEARING UP FOR REEFER SEASON 2023 (MITCHELL BROOKE)

Transnet is pulling out all the stops to ensure a successful 2023 citrus export campaign on the back of three very trying seasons. Each port corridor region has conducted the 2023 reefer season kick off meetings in which Transnet has laid out plans that focus specifically on rectifying any shortcomings that were seen as impediments during past seasons. All the port terminals have, or are in process of augmenting reefer stack capacity and plug capacity in line with the 2023 seasons export estimates to maximize terminal efficiency and to offset power or wind disruptions. Durban port has implemented the Bayhead Road bypass lane which will assist to ease traffic congestion into DCT, traffic management will also be introduced. A strong focus on rail transportation on the Durban corridor is also being implemented from Bela Bela, City Deep, Cato Ridge and Kingsrest into DCT. Coega terminal has put in place good measures to combat the disruption from wind. The terminal will be implementing a truck booking system this season as well. We are informed that shipping services from Coega and PE ports will be well intact for the season, thus ensuring market access from the regions' ports is attainable without citrus being forced to be transported to Durban and Cape Town. It is pleasing to report that the Cape Town port has cleared the container vessel backlog and as of Tuesday 18 April, vessels will be berthing on arrival. This is a great relief for producers in the north as product needs to reach Europe and North America in the shortest time possible; ships loaded with citrus can't stand off Cape Town. The CGA Logistics Update meetings will commence from Wednesday 26 April and be held every second week unless required to be held more frequently. These will be coordinated by Hesti Botha and chaired by Dave Watts (Dave has been contracted again for the coming season and will focus on container terminal operations). To be added to the list to receive an invitation as well as the Logistics Reports, kindly email hesti@cga.co.za.

CITRUS SUMMIT: TEAM CULTURE AND DYNAMICS

Just the opening segment on the big hits meted out by rugby legend Schalk Burger, makes this video worth the watch [Team Culture and Dynamics \(Schalk Burger\) + Intro to Mpact](#) ; but there was also some serious messages that delegates took home from this session. Ably moderated by Andrew Paterson of Mpact (sponsors of this session), Schalk spoke about how he came back from serious injury, back to the world rugby stage. This is the resilience that needs to be tapped into by the citrus industry as it battles the headwinds brought about by many factors out of the control of industry players. Just like Schalk had to endure times of pain, operations and scary diagnosis; citrus growers have had to endure geopolitical events that caused havoc in global supply chains, weather events that impacted on domestic logistics, unjustified phytosanitary measures, crime, insurrection and cyberattacks; like Schalk the industry will overcome this, and run back onto the field to take up the battle once more. Grab a cup of coffee (or brandy and coke) and enjoy the 40-minute video.

CRI PRODUCTION, INTEGRATED PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Growers are encouraged to attend the CRI Production, Integrated Pest and Disease Management Workshops scheduled for Die Eiland, Letsitele (9 and 10 May); Loskop Forever Resort, Groblersdal (11 and 12 May); Alkmaar Farmstay, Nelspruit (15 and 16 May); La Montagne, Ballito (18 and 19 May); Mentorskraal, Jeffreys Bay (30 and 31 May) and Ashanti Estate, Paarl (1 and 2 June). To register follow <https://events.citrusres.com/product/cri-production-integrated-pest-disease-management-workshops-2023/> and agenda here https://events.citrusres.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Provisional-Agenda-CRI-Production-IPM-DM-Workshops-May-2023_V2.doc.pdf

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