

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (25/23)

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Justin Chadwick 23 June 2023



"The worst disease I can see among people today is called, entitlement. The belief that I deserve without having to earn. Here's the truth however – you only get what you give, you reap what you sow, you get rewarded for the value you add. This goes for money and relationships" Gideon Hanekom

WESTERN CAPE: COUNTING THE COST OF THE FLOODS

Gerrit van der Merwe (CGA Director in Citrusdal) reports that it is very difficult to put a rand value on what has been lost. In terms of crop, the whole area has lost 10% - 15% of its crop. Early navels and Clementines are affected especially. The rebuilding costs will also be significant - roads were seriously damaged and other farm infrastructure like pumphouses on the river were ruined. Whole orchards were also lost. About 60% of the early cultivars were harvested when the worst rain hit. Harvesting in the area is about two weeks behind in total now – one week's delay from rain, and one week's delay from the floods. The citrus growers in the Citrusdal area are very motivated and hopeful. They are working hard to get things back to normal.

The flood-related delays definitely add to the various challenges farmers are facing. Roads were closed, so citrus couldn't get out of the area. The citrus industry's immense potential for growth is being hampered by a number of things. This is a busy time with the export season beginning to reach a peak at the ports. Because of the extreme weather, the shipping process at the Cape Town port was also closed for periods of time. The CGA has been engaging with relevant government departments regarding assistance growers require to get their fruit to the port in the immediate term, as well as support to recover over the longer term.

CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF)

The third CMF of the year will be held at 14h15 on Thursday 29 June. These monthly CMFs are restricted to one hour (as ably managed by Werner van Rooyen at the last CMF) and will cover the season to date, market conditions, and "ask us anything" to the CGA and FPEF staff. Paul Hardman of the CGA will Chair this month's meeting. Please contact Portia Magwaza (portia@cga.co.za) should you want to attend, and send her any questions that you want to be answered.

LEMON TRACKING

The third feedback session on tracking lemon supply and demand in the EU will be held at 15h00 on 28 June 2023 – should you want to attend please contact Precious Kunota at precious@cga.co.za.

COMRADES MARATHON: THE RESULTS

I am not sure whether to be happy that there are so few crazy people in the South African citrus industry or to be surprised that so few have completed the greatest human race on earth. Thanks to those who responded by giving me a look into their Comrades experience – I will leave it open one more week to acknowledge any who may have missed last week's newsletter.

Starting closest to home within the CGA Group Rob Elfick of River Bioscience completed one Comrades (as did his wife Michelle), while Christine Stoppel-Grove of Citrus Research International has completed seven Comrades. They join CGA's Paul, Tanya, and myself and CGA Director Mike Woodburn who completed 2 each.

From the exporters' fraternity Jacques Human and Christiaan Niemand of Grapehub both completed this year's down run, while Marilyn Bull of Toro Fruits has run five Comrades. They join Gary Britz who has eleven to his name.

The logistics fraternity is represented by Tim Halle and Daryn Goodson of Bridge Shipping who also completed the 2023 race. Two growers admitted to this insanity – Bennie de Beer of Libech Farm who ran 7 Comrades before full-time farming meant no training time. Gerrie Kruger from Unifrutti Blyde River ran his third Comrades in 2000. From DALRRD we know of Khuliso Muluadzi (5) and Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele (4) who also ran in 2023.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 24 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023	2023	2023	2022
Grapefruit	15.2 m	13.1 m	10.6 m	10.1 m	8.5 m	14.4 m	14.3 m	16.7 m
Mandarins	12.1 m	11.5 m	14.1 m	7.7 m	10.9 m	34.1 m	34.3 m	31.8 m
Lemons	17.5 m	18.8 m	21.5 m	15.6 m	18.1 m	37.3 m	35.7 m	34.7 m
Navels	13.5 m	10.9 m	9.9 m	4.6 m	5.4 m	25.3 m	24.8 m	27.8 m
Valencia	3.0 m	2.0 m	2.4 m	0.4 m	0.8 m	54.5 m	53.1 m	53.8 m
Total	61.3 m	56.3 m	58.5 m	38.4 m	43.7 m	165.6 m	162.2 m	164.8 m

THE CGA GROUP (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE SUPPORTED BY AND WORK FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS'