

“Care about what other people think and you will always be their prisoner” Lao Tzu

NEW FACILITY CELEBRATED IN COEGA

This past week Lona and KHold celebrated their new facility in Coega – the Coega Fruit Terminal. What makes this facility unique is that it consists of a packhouse, cold store, and container depot all in one. The layout of the packing area and the offices are excellent with a bird’s eye view of the packing area from the first floor. The cold stores have been well designed, feeding straight into the containers, which can then be plugged in at the adjacent container depot; just a stone’s throw from the container terminal.

This type of development is essential if the industry is to realise Vision 260 (the sustainable export of 260 million cartons by 2032). With Eastern Cape orchards maturing (many lemon and mandarin orchards are under five years old) in the next five-year period it is the Coega/PE corridor that is going to come under immense capacity pressure in the near future. This type of investment will alleviate this pressure.

Lona and KHold have always been industry players, with Lona personnel always willing to share their expertise and thoughts within the various citrus industry representative bodies and platforms. Maydon Wharf Fruit Terminals (MFT) is often called on to assist when Ministers visit or media require a facility in the port to cover citrus stories – despite the disruption, the MFT team is always ready and willing to host these occasions. Congratulations on this exciting new development.

TOP TWENTY FRUIT PRODUCERS IN THE WORLD

An article on the top twenty fruit-producing countries in the world makes for interesting reading. South Africa just makes the list at number 20 – with 7.5 million tons of fruit.

Although India (1,428 billion people) recently overtook China (1,425 billion people) as the world’s most populous country, China is still the number one fruit producer at 243 million tonnes (with India second at 106 million tonnes). What makes China interesting is despite producing more than twice the fruit of any other country, they also import significant volumes from across the globe.

South America features at number 3 with Brazil producing 39.8 million t. The only other South American countries in the top 20 are Colombia (at 15 with 10.5 million t) and Ecuador with 7.7 million t (at 19).

Turkey is the number one Middle Eastern fruit producer and number 4 on the global list with 24.2 million t. Other Middle Eastern countries in the top twenty include Iran (number 9 with 19 million t).

In North America Mexico and SA dominate at number 5 and 6 with 238 million and 237 million tonnes respectively.

There are five countries in Asia in the top twenty – with Indonesia at number 7 (22.7 million t), the Philippines at number 11 (16.5 million t), Vietnam at number 14 (10.6 million t), Thailand at 16 (10.1 million t) and Pakistan at 17 with 9.8 million tonnes).

Europe weighs in with Spain at 8 (19.5 million t), Italy at 10 (17.8 million t) and France at 18 with 8.9 million t.

Other African countries in the top 20 are Egypt at 12 with 14.7 million t and Nigeria at 13 with 11.5 million t.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

PPECB has advised that they have been doing some system changes during August which could impact the reliability of the data shared in the table.

End of Week 35 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	20.1 m	16.4 m	14.4 m	14.3 m	13.1 m	14.4 m	14.5 m	16.7 m
Mandarins	28.3 m	29.7 m	35.4 m	27.4 m	33.5 m	34.1 m	36.0 m	31.8 m
Lemons	29.7 m	33.7 m	34.9 m	32.3 m	34.8 m	37.3 m	35.5 m	34.7 m
Navels	26.3 m	26.2 m	24.4 m	24.6 m	23.7 m	25.3 m	24.5 m	27.8 m
Valencia	39.9 m	41.2 m	42.5 m	28.7 m	31.6 m	54.5 m	48.5 m	53.8 m
Total	144.3m	147.2m	151.6m	127.3 m	136.7 m	165.6 m	159.0 m	164.8 m