

"I guess I'm just feeling September-ish..." George Sheldon

CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT CHAMBER (PAUL HARDMAN)

Last week I had the opportunity to speak at the Limpopo Department of Agriculture Citrus Day held at Mabunda Citrus Farm. A number of things stood out for me. Firstly, the event was very well attended by black growers from across Limpopo province, many having travelled several hours to participate. I estimate over 150 growers or prospective growers attended. Secondly, I was surprised at how far out Mabunda Citrus Farm is - about an hour's drive North East of Letsitele and close to the Kruger National Park. It is a tough country. I admire these farmers for overcoming the challenges of distance and isolation and producing citrus in a harsh environment. It is not easy. It is also very clear how businesses like theirs depend on good provincial and national infrastructure to make it.

Finally, throughout the morning session, reference was made to CGA's VISION 260, particularly by parties outside the CGA structures. The projects under Vision 260 are clearly being adopted at various levels as a framework to tackle the most important issues facing all parts of the industry. Of course, VISION 50 (which seeks to have 50 million cartons being exported from black growers by 2032) was central to what was being discussed on the day. In this regard, the hard numbers show that while progress is being made to achieve more cartons from black growers, persistent and sure effort is required to see 50 million cartons by 2032.

Today I'm travelling again; this time to be eyes and ears in the CGA Development Chamber meeting. The Development Chamber comprises black growers from the citrus regions and is a dedicated space for black grower issues to be raised and understood. This guides CGA's thinking about transformation and how best to see Vision 50 come about.

CITRUS SUSTAINABILITY FORUM (CSF)

The next CSF takes place on the 19th of September 2023 at 09h00 to 11h00. The agenda is covering some highly relevant topics again. The EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) (i.e. "carbon tax") is coming into play and will be unpacked during the session. The cost of audits and compliance will be discussed along with the upcoming engagement with UK and EU retailers to find ways to address these concerns. CGA will also run through how to interpret the *Recommended Usage Restrictions for Plant Protection Products on Southern African Export Citrus* published by CGA and CRI – it is critical that growers use this document correctly to continue to comply with importing country MRL requirements. Ongoing matters in the CSF Issues Register will also be addressed. Please contact Paula Bester to obtain the virtual meeting link (pb@cga.co.za).

CITRUS MARKETING FORM (CMF)

Please be advised that the next CMF meeting will take place on Thursday, 28 September 2023 at 14h15 via ZOOM. To get the link please contact Portia Magwaza portia@cga.co.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	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023	2023	2023	2022
Grapefruit	20.1 m	16.5 m	14.5 m	14.5 m	13.4 m	14.4 m	14.9 m	16.7 m
Mandarins	29.2 m	30.5 m	36.3 m	28.9 m	35.1 m	34.1 m	37.4 m	31.8 m
Lemons	30.2 m	33.9 m	35.2 m	32.9 m	35.2 m	37.3 m	35.5 m	34.7 m
Navels	26.7 m	26.7 m	24.6 m	25.4 m	24.1 m	25.3 m	24.9 m	27.8 m
Valencia	44.6 m	45.6 m	46.0 m	34.3 m	36.6 m	54.5 m	48.5 m	53.8 m
Total	150.8m	153.2m	156.6m	136.0 m	144.4 m	165.6 m	161.2 m	164.8 m