

"It takes two years to learn to speak and sixty to learn to listen" Ernest Hemingway

EARLY THOUGHTS ON 2024 SEASON

Those of you who have followed my newsletter for some time, know that I am pretty useless at forecasting events for forthcoming seasons: in the initial statements for this season below, I have learnt on many more learned than me – let's see how it goes.

CROP The CGA looks forward to the year with cautious optimism. The fruit on the trees are looking very good and we expect an increased crop yield in the coming season. There certainly is a potential for another record-setting amount of cartons exported. As things stand now, our growers have, under difficult circumstances, ensured that there will be large amounts of citrus when harvesting truly ramps up starting in April, supplying consumers around the world with our sought-after fruit. We are, however, concerned about certain challenges in getting that fruit to markets. The crop estimate for 2024 will be released by the Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF). The first CMF meeting of 2024 which will take place on, Friday 22 March 2024 at 10:15 am via ZOOM. CMF members requiring the ZOOM link must contact precious@cga.co.za

LOGISTICS: The logistics situation within South Africa has yet to improve substantially. We hope that congestion at the ports will be addressed before our growers start packing. The selection last year of International Container Terminal Services (ICTSI) for the development and upgrading of the Durban Container Terminal Pier 2, is welcome and we have engaged with ICTSI on the project. Hopefully, this public-private partnership's positive effects will already be felt in the coming season. The operational success of the partnership is critical to the export economy, especially considering its potential as a new model for all national ports. It is in the interest of the country that it succeeds and in no-one's interest if extreme demands from labour unions upset the process.

PHYTOSANITARY: Another serious challenge is the EU's phytosanitary regulations regarding Citrus Black Spot (CBS) and False Codling Moth (FCM). These regulations are unscientific and discriminatory – as was proven last year through a number of false interceptions by the EU. Even though there will be a sufficient supply of high-quality citrus and a strong demand for it from European consumers, these protectionist trade measures might limit the export of especially oranges. We continue to fight the regulations and call for speedy action by the South African government at the level of the World Trade Organisation.

SHIPPING COSTS: We are also monitoring shipping costs, which have spiked after attacks on ships in the Red Sea have disrupted international trade. If the situation continues for an extended period of time, it will have consequences for our growers.

CGA ROADSHOWS

The present four-year levy cycle will be ending at the end of 2024. Growers will be asked to consider the next levy period (2025 to 2028) which will be proposed by the CGA Board and presented to growers at this year's roadshows. Please attend so that your voice can be heard.

Start Time: 14h30	CGA Roadshow: Pauls Team	CGA Roadshow: Justins Team
Monday 19/2/24	Ohrigstad/Burgersfort - Buffelsvlei	Senwes - Die Raasblaar
Tuesday 20/2/24	Hoedspruit - Blue Mountain Restaurant	Nelspruit - Mbombela Golf Club
Wednesday 21/2/24	Letsitele - Letaba Junction	Onderberg - Komati Fruit
Thursday 22/2/24	Limpopo River - Mopane Bush Lodge	
Monday 26/2/24	Boland - Excelsior Manor Guest House	
Tuesday 27/2/24	Western Cape - Piekenierskloof	Patensie - Suurvelder
Wednesday 28/2/24		Sundays River Valley - Africanos
Thursday 29/2/24	Northern Cape - Lake Grappa	E. Cape Midlands - Katco
Wednesday 6/3/24		KZN - Nkwalini Farmers Club