

“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be” Rosalynn Carter

MINISTER DIDIZA AND MINISTER PATEL

It is a great loss for agriculture, but a great benefit for South Africa as Minister Didiza leaves her position as Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) to take up the post of Speaker of Parliament. Minister Didiza had two stints as Minister of Agriculture, in both cases contributing to some important milestones for the citrus industry. In 2004, during her first term, Minister Didiza signed the protocol that allowed South African citrus entry into the Chinese market, and in her second term, she optimised this access further by signing a revised protocol that allowed for higher-temperature shipping for lemons to China.

Last year the Minister graced the CGA by opening the CGA Citrus Summit – and her opening words – “Tough times don’t last, tough people do” – will be the theme for the CGA Citrus Summit in 2025.

Minister Didiza was always available for consultation and provided sage advice as the industry grappled with tough times over the past few years. We would like to thank her for her support of the citrus industry, and we wish her well as she serves the country during these important times.

The CGA also commits itself to supporting the Acting Minister of DALRRD, Minister Senzo Mchunu. We also look forward to working with the next Minister, once the new cabinet is announced.

Minister Patel, of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), will also be leaving his position as he retires from government service. Minister Patel has been a great supporter of the citrus industry as well. Whenever he hosts a visiting delegation, he always goes to great lengths to proudly tell them about the nutritious and delicious citrus fruit produced in South Africa. The Minister has been vociferous in his view that the EU measures relating to the import of South African citrus are unjustified, unnecessary, and discriminatory. The CGA appreciates the Minister taking the EU citrus measures to the World Trade Organisation Dispute Resolution Board in order to bring about some relief, and we wish him well in his retirement.

The exceptional growth potential of the citrus industry gives it a unique place in South African agriculture and trade. The CGA knows that our interests align with that of a government, seeking economic growth and prosperity for all.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The Grapefruit Focus Group met this past week and adjusted the predicted volume slightly lower.

End of Week 24 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Vision 260
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2022	2023	2024	2023	2024	2024	2024	2023	2024
Grapefruit	13.3 m	10.2 m	10.7 m	9.1 m	8.9 m	16.8 m	14.5 m	14.7 m	16.2 m
Mandarins	12.4 m	14.9 m	14.6 m	11.4 m	10.6 m	43.0 m	42.7 m	38.0 m	39.6 m
Lemons	20.0 m	22.3 m	19.8 m	19.9 m	16.5 m	37.9 m	35.8 m	35.6 m	39.0 m
Navels	11.0 m	10.4 m	9.1 m	6.1 m	5.2 m	25.7 m	21.9 m	24.8 m	22.3 m
Valencia	2.0 m	2.2 m	1.3 m	0.9 m	0.3 m	58.3 m	55.5 m	52.0 m	55.4 m
Total	58.7 m	60.0 m	55.5 m	47.4 m	41.5 m	181.7m	170.4 m	165.1 m	172.5 m



The Boardwalk Hotel, Summerstrand, Gqeberha

11-13 March 2025

CGA Citrus Summit

TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST, TOUGH PEOPLE DO

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