Citrus Growers' Association
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
Grower levies working for you!

Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele
6 February 2026
Week 6/26

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." - Winston Churchill

FRUIT LOGISTICA, DEALMAKING AND A COLD BERLIN

This week I am writing from a very cold Berlin, where temperatures are so low it keeps you wondering whether you've been eating enough citrus to ramp up your vitamin C levels in case you catch a cold.

The fruits and vegetables community has descended on Messe in Berlin, Germany, for Fruit Logistica. The hustle and bustle of the meetings resemble musical chairs. The CGA team is here to meet key contacts and partners. This comes amid great geopolitics uncertainty, and the dealmaking seems to be in earnest as people seek to secure new supply chains and strengthen existing relations.

Meetings held with friends and partners in the World Citrus Organization (WCO) have been very encouraging and market conditions could prove welcoming for our upcoming season. The WCO shows good signs that it is reaching maturity and will be an asset to the global citrus industry - enhancing the value and position of citrus in world trade. One key outcome is the development of a platform for information exchange, which should result in improved transparency in exports between members.

Regarding the EU, we've learned of some concerning developments regarding maximum residue limits (MRLs) for market access legislation, which makes one wonder whether food safety remains the real agenda or whether it is being used as a 'weapon of choice' in market access skirmishes. We have always been concerned with stricter MRL requirements driven by retailers. Therefore, the danger that these unnecessary requirements will be backed up by legislation, is concerning - as these make access to different EU member states cumbersome. The CGA team and partners will attend to these developments and protect our interests.

We were heartened to receive news out of the USA, where AGOA has been renewed, although only until December. Perhaps this is a positive signal that there might be a US-SA trade deal in the near future.

AGOA, currently, has limited value for us as the citrus industry, because of the effect of the US 'reciprocal tariffs'. Our mandarins were regrettably not included in the welcome tariff exemption given to oranges in November 2025. South African mandarins have proved to be popular in the US and therefore a 30% tariff on mandarins will negatively affect growers in the Western Cape and Northern Cape during the coming season.

So, recent developments regarding the EU and the US continue to generate enough complexity to keep matters suitably 'heated' for all involved - despite the CGA team experiencing Berlin's sub-zero temperatures. We will of course monitor the dynamics closely and provide updates.

EXTENDED BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE FOR THE CITRUS SECTOR

Historically, the Business Intelligence dashboards on the CGA website have been restricted to citrus growers with a valid CGA Member Number. In 2026, these dashboards, reflecting daily inspection and export data, will be visible to South African exporters. To gain visibility of these dashboards, exporters are required to send their South African Business Registration number to albert@cga.co.za for validation. Information sessions on how to navigate and interpret these dashboards will be scheduled for March 2026. For any questions, please contact Albert at albert@cga.co.za.

CGA GROWER ROADSHOWS

Week 16-19 February sees Boitshoko's team heading to Burgersfort, Hoedspruit, Letsitele, and the Limpopo River regions, while Paul's team head out to Groblersdal, Nelspruit, and the Onderberg regions.

During the week of 3-5 March, Boitshoko and his team will visit the Boland and Western Cape, and Northern Cape regions, while Paul and his team will visit Patensie, Sundays River Valley, and Eastern Cape Midlands regions. It will be KZN's turn on 11 March.

To RSVP or for further information, please contact tanya@cga.co.za.

INTERESTING FACTS

Here are some interesting logistics statistics from the 2025 export season:

- Transnet container terminals handled over 19 percent more fruit in 2025 across the ports
- 117 000 Reefer containers carrying citrus have been shipped
- Long-haul railing of citrus containers is up from 1 064 in 2024 to 1 254 in 2025

CGA GROUP INFO

CITRUS SUSTAINABILITY FORUM (CSF)

Date: Friday, 27 February
Time: 09h00 to 10h00
Registration: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39892188745794?p=K09YsBFJFSbZPSZNB9
Meeting ID: 398 921 887 457 94
Passcode: Bn9P6go7
Contact: Paula Bester (pb@cga.co.za)
Topic: Agrochemical residue analysis on citrus