

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

"The most interesting thing about a postage stamp is the persistence with which it sticks to its job." (Napoleon Hill)

TEN YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION AT THE CGA'S GDC

This week the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) celebrates ten years of the CGA's Grower Development Company (GDC). This milestone reflects people, partnerships, and perseverance that have shaped our successful transformation journey. The story of this transformation, and the role played by the GDC, is about the individuals whose determination continues to drive transformation across South Africa.

Industry leadership and communities work together, every day, to build an industry that is globally competitive but rooted in local development. And their efforts are recognised. It is widely acknowledged that the citrus industry is one of the most transformed agricultural industries in the country.

Since its establishment in 2016, the GDC has embodied the citrus industry's belief that inclusivity is not an obligation, but a commitment. This commitment is funded directly by growers through a portion of their levies. Meaningful change must be sustainable – and generational. Today, around 120 black citrus growers farm about 7,760 hectares of citrus orchards across the country. More than 6,800 hectares are already in production, with a further 936 hectares coming into bearing – a clear proof of growth that has been made possible through partnerships with various stakeholders.

In 2025 alone, the GDC invested R37.6 million through the Enterprise Development Fund, supporting 69 farms across six provinces. Beyond the funding of black growers, the GDC continues to provide mentorship, data, technical expertise, skills development, and governance support, ensuring that emerging growers are equipped to compete.

As the GDC starts its next decade, the mission remains clear: to strengthen the citrus sector through inclusive growth. With deeper collaboration, innovative finance, and commitment, the future of South Africa's citrus industry can be more competitive and impactful. By investing in citrus transformation, we are investing in people – families, communities, and vibrant rural economies.

Transformation is not just part of the CGA's strategy, it is its story. And that story can only grow, orchard by orchard, grower by grower, year after year.

DR ANDRÉ SCHREUDER

It is with heavy hearts that we share the sad news that Dr André Schreuder passed away earlier this week. André served on the River Bioscience (RB) Board for the last seven years and was instrumental in guiding RB over this time. He had a wealth of experience, having been active in the crop protection industry both locally and abroad over many years. Always enthusiastic and willing to engage, he sought solutions to growers' needs and contributed significantly to our industry. We will miss his friendly smile and big ideas. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF)

Please take note of the upcoming **Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF)** that will be taking place on **24 March 2026** at **Protea Hotel Technopark, Stellenbosch** starting at **10h00**. Those who are unable to attend in person can still register for the hybrid option by contacting **Portia Magwaza** (portia@cga.co.za) for the link. In-person registration has now closed.

INTERESTING FACTS

Essential citrus oils have many uses. People use them to boost their mood and ease stress through aromatherapy. Citrus oils are ingredients in a variety of cleaning products to eliminate germs and odours. Your skincare shelf may also benefit from a citrus boost: citrus oils are often used in skincare products. Furthermore, citrus oils are sometimes used to repel insects naturally. Their strong scents are offered as an alternative for keeping bugs at bay.

CGA GROUP INFO

CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF)

Date: Tuesday, 24 March

Time: 10h00

Venue: Protea Hotel, Technopark, Stellenbosch (In-person) – RSVP to Claudia Walklett (claudia@fpf.co.za)

Hybrid option: Contact Portia Magwaza (portia@cga.co.za) for the link