

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." (Henry Ford)

SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY AMID THE CHALLENGES

South Africa's agricultural exports reached R268.7 billion in the fourth quarter of 2025, as pointed out by Minister Steenhuisen in his budget speech delivered last week, on 15 May 2026. Work on market access has progressed somewhat, with protocol improvement and tariff-free market access to China. The first set of tariff free consignments are reportedly beginning to arrive in China. These exports came amid turbulence in the global market and with many countries adopting restrictive trade policies. At the beginning of this year, we saw a further deterioration in the environment, with the war in the Middle East as well as the unnecessary strengthening of food safety policy in the European Union.

The Minister also spoke about inclusivity and how growth in agricultural exports can facilitate inclusive growth, particularly for smallholder and subsistence farmers. The war in the Middle East has led to costs that are beginning to filter through the value chains and affect all of us. Challenges in the trade environment, whether increased input costs, tariffs, or other related compliance costs, are a burden to farmers, but are even more onerous for small and emerging farmers, which may push them out of the sector, effectively making these burdens a barrier to entry. Growth in agriculture is essential to any real economic improvement in our country. It will contribute to job creation across the country, but rural areas in particular are the biggest beneficiaries.

This also comes amid challenges posed by diseases and biosecurity. We are also having to contend with climate-related issues impacting growers in the north of the country, the Eastern Cape, and the Western Cape. These regions have experienced varying degrees of damage related to flooding. Having spent time on the ground in some affected regions these past two weeks and having spoken to some who experienced the damage - especially those in the Gamtoos Valley - what remains clear is the extraordinary resilience of our farming community. As an association, we stand firmly alongside every affected grower, making sure no one faces this challenge alone.

Smallholder and emerging farmers are especially vulnerable to climate events such as these, and it is here that support has also to be expedited. However, support alone is not enough. In many instances, these farmers are also unable to raise capital on their own as a result of the lack of title deeds. Whilst this does not fall under the Ministry of Agriculture, it is here that government policy needs strengthening, in my view, as these farmers would then improve their resilience to external shocks, including droughts and floods, because they could access capital markets and source financial solutions appropriate to their circumstances.

CGA WHATSAPP COMMUNITIES

The CGA will be establishing a new WhatsApp Community as an informal yet official communication channel to complement existing email communication, not replace it. The community will initially include a single group, "From the Desk of the CEO," with the intention to expand into additional, purpose-specific groups over the coming weeks. Communication within the platform will be kept to a minimum, focused, and professional at all times. To ensure the integrity and privacy of information shared, only designated administrators will be able to post messages, maintaining a controlled and secure communication environment for all members. Stakeholders can join the community [here](#).

CITRUS MARKETING FORUM

The next Citrus Marketing Forum (CMF) meeting will be held on **Friday, 29 May at 10:00 AM** via **MS Teams**. Please contact Portia Magwaza at portia.co.za to receive the registration link.

PACKED AND SHIPPED VOLUMES

End of week 20 million 15 kg cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Vision 260
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2024	2025	2026	2025	2026	2026	2026	2025	2026
Grapefruit	7.6 m	7.7 m	7.5 m	5.5 m	5 m	17.8 m	17.8 m	15.3 m	15.5 m
Lemons	13.8 m	14.4 m	18.7 m	11.7 m	14.7 m	45.9 m	46 m	41.6 m	43.4 m
Mandarins	8 m	7 m	9.7 m	4.3 m	4.1 m	52.7 m	52.7 m	53.5 m	50 m
Navels	2.4 m	1.5 m	1.8 m	0.5 m	0.2 m	30 m	30 m	31.6 m	32.3 m
Valencia	-	-	-	-	-	63 m	63 m	62 m	67.8 m
Total	31.8 m	30.6 m	37.7 m	22 m	24 m	209.4 m	209.5 m	204 m	209 m

INTERESTING FACTS

The port that received the most South African citrus in the 2025 season was the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The port is also the largest in Europe. The total number of pallets received there last year from South Africa was 666,056.

CGA GROUP INFO CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF)

Date: 29 May 2026

Time: 10:00am

Venue: MS Teams

Link: [Contact portia@cga.co.za](mailto:portia@cga.co.za)