

"Great things in business are never done by one person ..."
(Steve Jobs)

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

The CGA has revised the export numbers to 197,9 million cartons from the 209.4million 15kg cartons at the start of the season. It has been a challenging season, as we have continued to explain, and impacted by several factors: war in the middle east, moribund markets, and port delays amongst others. Nevertheless, growers continue to show the resilience that has become synonymous with our industry.

Growers and the citrus related industries community descended upon the Champaign Sports Resorts in the Drakensberg to attend the CRI's Symposium. The vibrant spirit as well as the record attendance was on display there. It is a sign of our industry's steadfastness that, even in challenging times, we look towards the future with energy. This spirit was acknowledged by the Minister of Agriculture, Willie Aucamp, who was able to spend time with growers from Sunday afternoon. He spoke at the dinner and proceeded to give an address as part of the opening of the event on Monday. It was a privilege to have him amongst us. As a group we should be proud to have a person in his capacity set aside that much time to spend with us. It speaks volumes about his willingness to avail himself to our growers.

As regards to the current season, due to our growth trajectory we must take due cognisance of the ever-emergent challenges which define current times. This year, nearly every element of the risk framework materialised at once: a war in the Middle East that closed off routes to markets that usually absorb around 20% of our crop, severe rainfall in Limpopo and Mpumalanga early in the season, and flooding in the Western and Eastern Cape so severe that some orchards were destroyed outright. Add to that logistical bottlenecks at the ports, steep increases in shipping and input costs, and a global decrease in buying power in key markets.

Inherent with growth comes the burden of being ever more vigilant about risks that we will face in any single season.

A key and notable session at the symposium for me was one that dealt with disease prevention and biosecurity. We continue to observe the devastation visited upon our livestock industry by animal diseases — Foot and Mouth as well as African Swine Fever. What seems sometimes to be missing in their instance is integrated private-public partnerships, which we in the plant side have, as exemplified by the Director: Plant Health. We also observe the challenge that Brazil and Florida have with Huanglongbing (HLB). I do hope that all of us in the industry will take heed of the need to strengthen biosecurity controls. As an industry we must continue to work cooperatively to ensure that we are ready to deal with any disease incursion that could threaten the considerable progress that has been made.

Our quest for market access should be built on a platform where we strengthen farm biosecurity against pests and diseases that impact trade. As an export-driven industry, market access has been a North Star for our industry, and by continuing to work with government to resolve market access issues, be they tariffs or plant health related, we can look to the future with confidence in the continuation of our overall trajectory of success.

INTERESTING FACTS

South Africa's Valencia and midseason orange plantings are dominated by a single homegrown star: the Midnight. It is a South African-bred Valencia variant and accounts for about 12,500 hectares.

For the latest South African citrus packed and shipped volumes, please visit the CGA website:

[Stats 01 – Shipping & Cold](#)

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From the Desk of the CEO
WhatsApp group



CGA Logistics and Shipping
WhatsApp group



CGA Consumer Assurance
WhatsApp group



PACKED AND SHIPPED VOLUMES

End of week 33 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	14 m	14.8 m	14.9 m	14.3 m	14.1 m	17.8 m	16.1 m	15.3 m	15.5 m
Lemons	33.6 m	39.2 m	49.3 m	37.6 m	46.3 m	45.9 m	50.2 m	41.6 m	43.4 m
Mandarins	38.3 m	45.4 m	44.9 m	39.1 m	39.7 m	52.7 m	49.3 m	53.5 m	50 m
Navels	23.5 m	29.4 m	23.1 m	26.5 m	21.1 m	30 m	24.3 m	31.6 m	32.3 m
Valencia	32.4 m	42 m	36 m	31.2 m	26.5 m	63 m	58 m	62 m	67.8 m
Total	141.8 m	170.8 m	168.2 m	148.7 m	147.7 m	209.4 m	197.9 m	204 m	209 m

*Grapefruit Packed Distribution: Class 1 & 2 volumes remained relatively stable at 12 m cartons (2026) vs 13 m (2025) and 12.6 m (2024), while PP volumes increased to 2.9 m cartons from 1.8 m (2025) and 1.4 m (2024).