Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele
23 October 2026
Week 43/26

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

"Choose to be optimistic, it feels better."
(Dalai Lama)

DIESEL AND PETROL REPRIEVE

This Wednesday the Minister of Finance delivered the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement. This comes amid several challenges, with ordinary South Africans contending with high fuel prices, rising food, transport and utilities costs, and an economy struggling to create jobs. We can all agree that life has become extremely expensive! The Reserve Bank has also recently increased the repo rate by twenty-five basis points, adding a further squeeze.

Our growers, and agriculture in general, have of course also been facing these headwinds, and therefore, when the Minister announced the reduction of the general fuel levy by R3.00/litre for diesel and R1.50/litre for petrol for November through to January, this was a decision that the CGA welcomed.

We welcomed it because every bit of relief helps, especially considering the pressures our industry faced and faces due to the Middle East war. The next 4 to 5 months form the main activities on the farm to prepare the crop, and it relies heavily on tractors and various machinery, so the relief is very welcome.

Agriculture has been a beacon of hope in terms of its contribution to economic growth. It is, however, in need of some support if it is to continue this trajectory. Growers are also going to contend with an additional challenge with the weather as we are on the margins of an El Niño, which could cause further strain. The CGA also welcomes the R10 billion contingency reserve allocated in this regard and hope that it benefits our growers in how it is utilised.

AGRI'S GOT TALENT

We are delighted to announce that, once again, the winner of Agri's Got Talent, is a contestant from the citrus industry! A big and hearty congratulations to Honey Katoo who hails from Patensie and works at Endulini Fruit. This makes another proud moment for the citrus industry. This achievement highlights the incredible talent, dedication, and potential within our industry. We are proud to see the industry represented so well and hope this success continues to inspire others to participate and showcase their abilities in future competitions. Hortgro, CGA, SATI, SA Wine, and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture sponsor Agri's Got Talent. The fruit and wine industries are well known for their world-class exports, but they are also home to many talented singers whose voices are usually heard only in orchards, packhouses or on the way to work. Agri's Got Talent 2026 gave those hidden stars a chance to shine.

In the words of the organisers: every year the competition helps to discover incredible voices in agriculture, and many of the participants have never performed on stage before. The competition tests their courage. It also celebrates the people who make our agricultural industries strong.

PACKED AND SHIPPED VOLUMES

End of week 40 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**	14.4 m	15.3 m	15.3 m	15.2 m	14.9 m	17.8 m	15.4 m	15.3 m	15.5 m
Lemons	34.7 m	41.3 m	51 m	40.9 m	48.5 m	45.9 m	51 m	41.6 m	43.4 m
Mandarins	41.7 m	53.5 m	50.7 m	51.9 m	49.2 m	52.7 m	50.8 m	53.5 m	50 m
Navels	25.1 m	31.5 m	25.2 m	30.9 m	24.5 m	30 m	25.2 m	31.6 m	32.3 m
Valencia	48.7 m	61.6 m	58.7 m	58.7 m	55.1 m	63 m	58.8 m	62 m	67.8 m
Total	**164.6 m**	**203.2 m**	**200.9 m**	**197.6 m**	**192.2 m**	**209.4 m**	**201.2 m**	**204 m**	**209 m**

*** Grapefruit Packed Distribution**: Class 1 & 2 volumes remained relatively stable at 12.5 m cartons (2026) vs 13.4 m (2025) and 13 m (2024), while PP volumes increased to 2.8 m cartons from 1.8 m (2025) and 1.4 m (2024).

INTERESTING FACTS

Squeezing lemon juice over cut fruits (like apple and avocado) slows oxidation and reduces browning considerably.

For the latest South African citrus packed and shipped volumes, please visit the CGA website:
Stats 01 – Shipping & Cold Stores
Stock Statistics Dashboard | CGA

CGA CITRUS SUMMIT

Registration for the 2027 CGA Citrus Summit is now open to ***everyone!*** We encourage you to register early to secure your place at the Summit from 9-11 March 2027!

There are still some sponsorship opportunities available – should you be interested, please contact tanya@cga.co.za.

CGA GROUP INFO

FINAL CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF)
Date: 30 October 2026
Time: 10:00am
Venue: MS Teams
Link: Please contact portia@cga.co.za to receive the link

THE CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND CITRUS ACADEMY) AND THE RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL, ALL PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT TO THE CITRUS GROWERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA