

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (25/25)

Boitshoko Ntshabele, 20 June 2025

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." — Warren Buffett



STRENGTHENING BIOSECURITY - THE NECESSITY OF OUR TIMES

Recent reports of pest incursions and disease outbreaks have brought into sharper focus the need for ever-vigilant biosecurity, not just in South Africa, but in Africa and across the globe. The Biosecurity Hub, housed at the Innovation Africa unit of the University of Pretoria, was established jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Departments of Science and Innovation in response to the need for this vigilance. It recently (10 - 11 June) convened a Biosecurity Summit for stakeholders from industry, academia and the government to exchange ideas on how to strengthen biosecurity in South Africa. The event was opened by the Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, who underscored the need for a compact between stakeholders to clarify the roles and responsibilities during disease outbreaks, the sharing of data and establishing of frameworks for coordinated and prompt responses. The summit's theme was "Collaborative Actions for Food Security and Trade."

Disease outbreaks and pests have wreaked havoc around the globe. In recent times, we have seen citrus growers in Brazil and Florida in the United States struggle with Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as Asian Citrus Greening. Our own citrus industry is concerned with the prospect of this disease reaching South Africa. It has been reported in countries north of South Africa.

Luckily, the citrus industry had the foresight decades ago to establish Citrus Research International (CRI) to secure the future of the sector through world-class research and technical support services. This also led to the establishment of a Biosecurity Division. The CRI's Biosecurity framework has as its stated mission the protection of the industry through ensuring prompt identification of threats, the development of preparedness, wide awareness, early detection, rapid responses, and impact mitigation plans - ensuring the effectivity of all associated actions.

Measures to prevent and manage biosecurity incidents are implemented pre-border, at border, and post-import. Preferably, risk is managed at pre-border stage, hence the undertaking of a pest risk analysis before any imports of a product. This process results in the signing of a protocol (between countries) which incorporates mitigation measures to facilitate safer trade. At border level, the product is inspected to ensure compliance with the signed protocol, and is accepted or rejected. At farm level, a biosecurity plan is always necessary and should be reviewed on an annual basis. This approach should be expanded to a regional, provincial, and national plan, with coordination being vital.

Sound biosecurity management requires the understanding that biosecurity is everyone's responsibility. This requires the building of trust with every citizen and the empowerment of citizens through the sharing of knowledge to avoid unnecessary risks. Awareness improves compliance.

Biosecurity is both an economic and social imperative. It ensures profitability and job creation through economic growth, but it also forms one of the cornerstones of food security.

CITRUS MARKETING FORUM

As we approach the peak of the season, note that the next CMF will take place this Thursday, 26 June, at 10:00. RSVP and request a link from portia@cga.co.za if you would like to attend.

PACKED AND SHIPPED TABLE

End of Week 24 Million 15 kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Vision 260
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2023	2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2024	2025
Grapefruit	10.2 m	10.7 m	10.9 m	9.0 m	9.8 m	15.3 m	15.0 m	14.4 m	16.8 m
Lemons	22.3 m	19.9 m	22.8 m	17.1 m	21.2 m	32.9 m	34.1 m	34.7 m	41.5 m
Mandarins	14.9 m	14.6 m	17.6 m	10.9 m	13.9 m	44.9 m	45.3 m	41.6 m	43.9 m
Navels	10.4 m	9.1 m	10.9 m	5.2 m	7.8 m	26.1 m	26.0 m	25.1 m	21.7 m
Valencia	2.2 m	1.3 m	3.5 m	0.3 m	1.9 m	52.0 m	52.0 m	48.8 m	58.0 m
Total	60.0 m	55.6 m	65.7 m	42.5 m	54.6 m	171.1 m	172.4 m	164.6 m	181.9 m

THE CGA GROUP (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE SUPPORTED BY AND WORK FOR THE CITRUS GROWERS' OF SOUTHERN AFRICA