

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela

US TARIFFS

Six days from today, South African citrus going into the US markets will face 30% tariffs. This tariff will have a significant impact on the citrus industry. It will be felt most acutely in rural communities in the Northern and Western Cape, the two provinces from which we export to the US. We hope that the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition will use these six days to get a mutually beneficial deal over the line. South African citrus can have duty-free entry purely based on counter-seasonality to US growers. We see that a US tariff exemption will apply for Brazilian orange juice, which is positive news for citrus in general, and hopefully points towards a potential precedent.

CITRUS ACADEMY – CITRUS SECONDARY PROGRAMME

The CGA's Citrus Academy recently celebrated a significant milestone in its groundbreaking Citrus Secondary Programme. The first two Limpopo students to complete the Programme were acknowledged at Mahwahwa High School in Tzaneen. Limpopo forms the basis of South Africa's citrus production, with 40% of all export citrus cultivated there. Lungchi Mashaba and Ricardo Tivana are the remarkable Grade 11 learners who completed the two-year programme. They are truly passionate about the citrus industry. Certificates of completion were awarded to them to celebrate their success.

Pioneered by the Citrus Academy, the unique Citrus Secondary Programme aims to increase learners' employability after they have completed school. It also provides a way for them to channel their enthusiasm for agriculture into a recognised qualification. Through the programme, learners are introduced to topics such as enterprise planning, irrigation, financial management, pest management and plant manipulation. The programme is fully curriculum-aligned and can be used as part of the school subject Agricultural Management Practices, or it can be implemented as an extramural activity through which learners can attain a valuable qualification.

South Africa struggles with a youth unemployment crisis. There are many ways to define this crisis through statistics, but even the most generous way of looking at the figures tells a shocking story: 46.1% of South Africa's youth is unemployed. The citrus industry, currently employing 140,000 people on farm level alone, has geared itself towards creating youth employment opportunities, especially over the past decade.

The Citrus Secondary Programme is the latest educational tool with which the Citrus Academy has helped contribute to the CGA's job creation goals. It can increase the career options of Limpopo's youth.

The unique Citrus Secondary Programme, only in its second year, currently has 647 learners registered in 15 schools across the country. All the schools are in citrus-growing regions. The Citrus Academy aims to expand the programme to more schools over the next few years.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 30 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	12.8 m	13.2 m	13.7 m	12.1 m	13.1 m	15.3 m	15.0 m	14.4 m	16.8 m
Lemons	33.3 m	30.6 m	35.5 m	27.5 m	33.6 m	32.9 m	36.3 m	34.7 m	41.5 m
Mandarins	28.2 m	28.3 m	33.5 m	21.5 m	29.2 m	44.9 m	47.4 m	41.6 m	43.9 m
Navels	20.8 m	18.0 m	23.7 m	14.9 m	21.5 m	26.1 m	28.2 m	25.1 m	21.7 m
Valencia	18.1 m	15.5 m	20.9 m	10.0 m	15.4 m	52.0 m	53.1 m	48.8 m	58.0 m
Total	113.2 m	105.6 m	127.3 m	86.0 m	112.8 m	171.1 m	180.0 m	164.6 m	181.9 m