

“Action is the foundational key to all success.” – Pablo Picasso

SMME DEVELOPMENT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR JOBS

The Citrus Growers' Development Chamber will in September host the 2025 Grower Indaba in Johannesburg. It promises to be a productive and meaningful gathering of South Africa's black citrus growers and key figures in the citrus industry who champion inclusivity. The Indaba has as its focus the need to ensure the alignment of growers, government, and industry partners around a renewed transformation strategy, set priorities for inclusive growth, and to elect new leadership to drive the next decade of progress.

The CGA Grower Development Company (GDC) will next year celebrate a decade of work. Over the past 10 years, the GDC has worked with more than 120 black citrus growers across the country, integrating them into commercial value chains and supporting their journey toward sustainability, compliance, and competitiveness. Although we sometimes take the work around transformation for granted, reports and data out of Stats SA asserts that small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs), and especially Agri-SMMEs are critical for South Africa's economic development. Recent reports have revised down South Africa's economic growth prospects to about 1% and at this rate the economy will not create enough opportunities for employment. Even though smaller enterprises make up a third of the total income earned by agricultural entities in South Africa, they employ more than half of the people who work in agriculture in South Africa.

Citrus is one of the most transformed agricultural industries in South Africa. Black-owned emerging and established enterprises — ranging from a few hectares to some with over 120 hectares — offer not just success stories for here and now but are also the future of our industry.

The goal of the CGA's Vision 260 is to export 260 million 15kg cartons to the world markets in 2032 – still achievable if all role-players come together and remove obstacles to growth. A commitment made in terms of the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) is for 19% of this export goal to come from the CGA's development initiatives driven by the GDC. This would be the CGA's contribution to ensuring inclusivity in agriculture development in South Africa. Market access is a key ingredient to the achievement of this vision and as we work with government to diversify and expand markets to which we export, we should also ensure that we provide the support needed by developing farmers to reach their export potential. If all this can be realised, we estimate that the citrus industry can contribute 100,000 new jobs and assist in addressing endemic levels of rural unemployment. Recent media reports have highlighted that unemployment in South Africa has surged upwards to 33%.

The Indaba should ignite in us all a new spirit and energy for all our growers, industry partners, government, and stakeholders to passionately pursue the transformation target we've set for ourselves. Together, we are growing more than citrus — we're growing communities, opportunities, and a shared future.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 33 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	13.5 m	13.8 m	14.6 m	13.2 m	14.2 m	15.3 m	15.1 m	14.4 m	16.8 m
Lemons	35.4 m	33.1 m	38.4 m	31.6 m	37.1 m	32.9 m	39.6 m	34.7 m	41.5 m
Mandarins	34.6 m	36.3 m	42.5 m	30.3 m	38.3 m	44.9 m	49.4 m	41.6 m	43.9 m
Navels	24.7 m	22.4 m	28.3 m	18.8 m	26.2 m	26.1 m	29.6 m	25.1 m	21.7 m
Valencia	33.4 m	27.4 m	36.0 m	19.5 m	28.9 m	52.0 m	54.6 m	48.8 m	58.0 m
Total	141.6 m	133.0 m	159.8 m	113.4 m	144.7 m	171.1 m	188.3 m	164.6 m	181.9 m