

"The best music is essentially there to provide you something to face the world with." – Bruce

Springsteen

AGRI'S GOT CITRUS TALENT!

For more than a decade, Agri's Got Talent! has been dedicated to empowering farm, packhouse, and cellar workers in the fruit and wine industries by helping them develop their singing talents. Every year the performances of the contestants are truly astounding. Recently, the 2025 finals were held in Stellenbosch. It is with a note of pride that we can say the winner was Jenedine Jantjies from Patensie. She works at Endulini Fruit - renowned for its citrus operations.

What is especially striking about Jenedine's story is that she is a caregiver for the children of the local farm workers, showing not only that our industry stretches far beyond typical farm work, but also involves creating an enabling, nurturing and safe environment for all in the community. At the award ceremony she said: "Working in agriculture means that I am part of farm life. I am very proud to be part of such a beautiful community."

Congratulations Jenedine! And congratulations Patensie!

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPORTS

Agbiz presented a very positive view of the agriculture sector for the second quarter when it recently reported a growth in exports. This was despite the year being dominated by discussions on tariffs and geopolitical issues, and disappointing GDP figures. It is very heartening to read of such a positive outcome, but it also demands that policy responds accordingly by seizing the immediate opportunities - especially by utilising the recent reconfiguration of government, where we saw the Department of Agriculture (DoA) separated from the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development (DLRRD).

Agbiz reported, quoting Trade Map, that agricultural exports totalled US\$3.71 billion in Q2, up 10% from the same period a year ago. The exports list was mainly dominated by citrus, apples and pears, maize, wine, nuts, fruit juices, dates, pineapples, avocados, grapes, and wool, among other products. In the immediate environment, the biggest risk facing exports are sanitary and phytosanitary risks. The DoA can refocus itself - as a separate, honed department - to deal with matters that would facilitate an increase in exports. We have all read about foot and mouth disease, which seems to be running amok, impeding the exports of animal-derived products. This obviously affects agri exports. We also need to be aware of any potential future risk that may enter our country for our own industry. Some investment has been made to improve the management of these risks with the installation of the Biosecurity Hub housed at the University of Pretoria. The Biosecurity Hub convened a Biosecurity Summit which provided a platform on which we can build.

With the difficulties identified, we should call on government to embrace the idea of public private partnerships (PPP) to bolster state capacity. The CGA's Citrus Research International (CRI) offers the potential to assist government in setting up risk management systems that will protect us as a country from phytosanitary threats. Additionally, they should also be called upon to assist government in fast-tracking the opening of new markets as we seek to expand exports. Following a PPP-type framework, we should champion the inclusion of participants from industry and academia in government teams sent abroad to negotiate the opening of new markets. This will allow government to benefit from existing skills in the short term while state capacity in certain sectors are being improved.

PACKED AND SHIPPED VOLUMES

End of Week 38 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	14.2 m	14.4 m	15.3 m	13.9 m	15.0 m*	15.3 m	15.4 m	14.4 m	16.8 m
Lemons	36.7 m	34.7 m	41.0 m	34 m	40.2 m	32.9 m	41.1 m	34.7 m	41.5 m
Mandarins	39.5 m	41.5 m	52.5 m	39.8 m	50.0 m	44.9 m	53.3 m	41.6 m	43.9 m
Navels	26.1 m	25.1 m	31.4 m	23.6 m	30.6 m	26.1 m	31.6 m	25.1 m	21.7 m
Valencia	51.7 m	47.1 m	58.3 m	40.5 m	53.8 m	52.0 m	58.9 m	48.8 m	58.0 m
Total	168.2 m	162.8 m	198.5 m	151.8 m	189.6 m	171.2 m	200.3 m	164.6 m	181.9 m

*Latest figure unavailable due to technical issues.