FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (40/25)

Boitshoko Ntshabele, 3 October 2025

"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." – Viktor E. Frankl

RESHAPING SOUTH AFRICA'S PESTICIDE POLICY

The Department of Agriculture arranged a first of its kind colloquium focussed on South Africa's Pesticide Policy on the 21st and 22nd of August in Stellenbosch. This event brought together government officials from the Departments of Agriculture (DOA), Health, Employment and Labour, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, growers and grower associations, farm workers, the agricultural chemistry industry, academia and civil society members, amongst others.

The purpose of the colloquium was to facilitate an exchange of views, and collect inputs from various stakeholders, clarify responsibilities in pesticide management amongst the different role players, and ultimately develop proposals for updating the pesticide regulatory framework within a one health approach - integrating human, animal and environmental health.

The DOA reiterated their commitment to working with all stakeholders during the regulatory framework development and intends to enable faster registrations of lower risk agrochemical solutions and more transparent tracking of applications. Such stakeholder engagement is necessary to close the gap between policy objectives and finding practical solutions that work at the ground level. This is particularly relevant for an industry supplying the local market and over 100 global destinations – each with different requirements for pest control and specifications with imported fruit.

The new policy direction places emphasis on wider Integrated Pest Management (IPM) adoption in the agricultural sector and less dependence on synthetic chemistry, or at least the most hazardous plant protection products. The phase out of certain plant protection products is imminent, and CGA welcomes an enabling environment and opportunity for modern technology to enter the South African agricultural industry. After all, this is very much aligned to the mandate given to RiverBioscience, a separate entity under the CGA established over 20 years ago, to provide effective IPM compatible solutions.

Finding effective alternatives to conventional chemistry is very challenging and it takes time to bring products to market. A predictable and timeous regulatory environment is critical for the agricultural sector and will encourage investment in South Africa's agrochemical industry. New solutions will help South African agriculture remains competitive and continue to grow through exports and earn the much-needed foreign currency to facilitate economic growth.

The citrus industry is committed to ongoing collaboration between the various stakeholders and participating in the new regulatory framework – we thank DOA for further opportunities to get into discussions on the practical implementation of the policies.

PACKED AND SHIPPED VOLUMES

End of Week 39 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	14.0 m	15.0 m*	15.3 m	15.4 m	14.4 m	16.8 m
Lemons	36.7 m	34.7 m	41.2 m	34.5 m	40.6 m	32.9 m	41.3 m	34.7 m	41.5 m
Mandarins	39.8 m	41.6 m	53.1 m	40.7 m	50.9 m	44.9 m	53.3 m	41.6 m	43.9 m
Navels	26.1 m	25.1 m	31.5 m	24.4 m	30.7 m	26.1 m	31.6 m	25.1 m	21.7 m
Valencia	52.5 m	48.1 m	59.8 m	43.8 m	56.0 m	52.0 m	60.6 m	48.8 m	58.0 m
Total	**169.3 m**	**163.9 m**	**200.9 m**	**157.4 m**	**193.2 m**	**171.2 m**	**202.2 m**	**164.6 m**	**181.9 m**

*Latest figure unavailable due to technical issues.