

First Electronic phytosanitary certificates delivered to the Netherlands

PAUL HARDMAN

Industry Affairs Manager, Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa
and Project Manager for the e-Certification project at Fruit South Africa

During a live demonstration on 14 September 2018 the first ever electronic phytosanitary certificates were delivered to the Netherlands from South Africa.

This took place during bilateral meetings between Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the Dutch government in The Hague, Netherlands. This achievement was a significant first step in moving toward a paperless export certification solution for all markets where "e-Phyto's" are accepted.

The successful demonstration of the system was well received by the delegates. The Netherlands manually process in excess of 35 000 paper phytosanitary certificates for the SA citrus industry each year alone. The benefits of moving towards e-Phyto's are numerous but will definitely include reducing the administrative burden associated with having to physically certify and check documents.

A great deal more work needs to be done to de-materialize (i.e. take out the paper) the entire export process leading up to product export

certification. This is the current focus of the development team.

Fruit South Africa has been creating the eCertification solution with DAFF as part of a Service Level Agreement signed earlier in 2018. The commercial use of the eCertification system is expected in 2019 for the fruit sector with various industries to follow.

Live demonstration of e-Certification solution during bilateral meeting between DAFF and the Dutch government, 14 September 2018.



THE 3RD CITRUS SUMMIT: **12 - 14 MARCH** Boardwalk Hotel, Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth
TO REGISTER NOW visit www.cga.co.za • Proudly sponsored by  Standard Bank