



Citrus Export Supply Chain learners from Somerset West, with Citrus Academy staff

CITRUS ACADEMY - DRIVING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

One short course at a time



The Citrus Academy's short courses are aimed at providing insight into the essential components of the citrus production system. They give a good induction into the subject matter, and help with understanding how these components fit into the broader system. The courses are also a good starting point and guide in terms of choosing a suited career in the citrus production system.

The three main components of the system are covered through short courses in Citrus Production, Citrus Packing and the Citrus Export Supply Chain. These are supported by the widely applicable Citrus Business Administration short course.

Citrus production

Since the rollout of the Citrus Production short course in Fort Beaufort in October 2018, over 340 learners have been enrolled to attend the course across various citrus growing regions countrywide. Learners have mentioned, in particular, how they benefitted from the site visit held on the third day of the course, as it gave them insight and practical application in terms of what they had learnt over the first two days spent in the classroom. While

this particular short course focusses on various aspects of citrus production, it is aimed at those who are looking to obtain a high level of understanding of all aspects of citrus production within a short period of time. The feedback from learners has been very positive to date, with most commenting on the knowledge attained and skills acquired, which they feel will translate into practical knowledge about the day-to-day production practices on their farms.

The Citrus Academy secured funding that allowed for the sponsorship of approximately 60 learners from developing farms to attend this course. These learners, in turn, expressed their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to utilise their newly acquired skills in the ongoing development of their farms.

Citrus Business Administration

Citrus Academy followed on the Citrus Production short course with the implementation of the Citrus Business Administration short course. This course was also held over various citrus growing regions across the country, and was deemed highly informative by all who attended. Facilitated by Scientific Roets, this



Citrus Production short course learners in Stellenbosch, with facilitator Clive Pountney (centre), and Citrus Academy staff member, Nonhle Mbhele, front row, far left



course is ideal for anyone involved in the citrus production system who is looking to improve their skills in financial accounting (including budgeting), stock management, human resource management, production management and marketing. The course is aimed at giving attendees a solid understanding of all of these aspects. Learners attested to benefiting from the well-organised course, and were particularly pleased with the course resource pack, specifically the course learner guide, which can be used as a future reference guide.

Citrus Business Administration learners in Sunday's River Valley, with facilitator, Mpho Mazubane (centre), from Scientific Roets





CITRUS ACADEMY

Entrenching e-learning

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Citrus Export Supply Chain

Being the latest of the short courses to be implemented, this is an exciting course that offers an understanding of each aspect of the citrus value chain. Every person in the citrus production system should have an understanding of what happens to export fruit after it leaves their hands, and this short course is the ideal induction to the export supply chain.

Enthusiastic learners attending the course gained much in terms of learning about the export supply value chain, and especially from attending the site visit to the port. They were able to meet with terminal staff and even see the vessels – a rare opportunity. Thank you to Andy Connell, industry expert and facilitator of the short course, who provided valuable insight into the entire value chain and its links.

Course dates:

Date	Course	Location
22-24/01/2020	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Coega
29-31/01/2020	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Addo
29-31/01/2020	Citrus Production	Pietermaritzburg
12-14/02/2020	Citrus Production	Stellenbosch
20-21/02/2020	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Limpopo
19-21/02/2020	Citrus Packing	Fort Beaufort
26-28/02/2020	Citrus Production	Hoedspruit
04-06/03/2020	Citrus Export Supply Chain	Durban 1

Course information and registration: www.citrusacademy.org.za

Enquiries: Sive Silo at **031 765 3410** or sive@citrusacademy.org.za

E-learning is here to stay.

Internationally, there is an upward trend in the use of electronic technologies to supplement traditional teaching methods and to provide access to learning outside of the classroom. As computer ownership grows and internet connectivity speeds are becoming faster, e-learning is becoming increasingly viable and accessible. Due to its convenience and flexibility, the resources are available from anywhere and at any time. Everyone, whether part-time students or full-time employees, can take advantage of web-based learning.

The Citrus Academy is committed to both keeping up with the latest developments in skills delivery, as well as enabling the provision of training programmes to remote rural areas by supplying mobile learning resources. In keeping with these objectives, the Academy has been refining and expanding its e-learning platform. The aim is to provide an interactive multimedia learning experience to everyone in the industry.

Currently, learners who attend the Citrus Academy short courses, such as the Citrus Production and Citrus Export Excellence, are given access to the e-learning platform, which includes all the learning material as well as audio-visual clips and links to external resources. Learners also complete the competence assessment activities online.

The initial response has been so positive that the Academy intends to make more e-learning programmes available this year, starting with the Citrus Business Management Programme. This programme is based on the New Venture Creation NQF4 qualification (US66249) registered with Services SETA, and will be delivered as 10 modules over a period of 10 months.

Learners will study the modules and complete the portfolio of evidence entirely online. The Academy will provide user support and learners will be assessed by a qualified and experienced assessor.

On successful completion of the programme learners will be awarded the Further Education and Training Certificate: New Venture Creation (NQF4). ❀

For further information regarding costs and schedules of courses, please contact Desiree at desiree@citrusacademy.org.za or **031 765 3410**.