



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (10/09)

Justin Chadwick (13 March 2009)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "One drink is enough. Two drinks are never enough" Sam Knott (Thanks Johnny)

CELEBRATE SUCCESS: During this week I had the privilege of seeing the 2010 soccer stadiums in both Durban and PE – what fantastic sporting facilities which will be ready well in time for the soccer world cup.

Congratulations to all those who completed an arduous Argus – I am sure there were many citrus industry representatives at the race – the ones I know of are Johnny, Louis, Malcolm, Vaughan and his son Dillon. I am sure your experience of being literally blasted off your bikes by gale force winds will stand you in good stead as we enter what could be a challenging citrus season.

LOGISTICS

We are really pleased to announce that Mitchell Brooke is joining CGA from the beginning of April as our Logistics Coordinator. Mitchell comes with a wealth of experience in the field of logistics, and has spent a lot of time in the ports. During 2008 growers decided to get extra resources to look into efficiencies in the field of logistics, infrastructure and port operations. Six initial projects have been identified **#1** To support the Tonnage off Tar project initiated by the Fresh Produce Exporters Forum (FPEF) – ensuring that any rail opportunities that may exist for the citrus industry are fully researched and exploited. **#2** Monitoring of pallet dwell time in port during 2008 revealed that there are problems – excessive dwell times are not only costly, but also impact on fruit quality. Growers will be informed when their pallets have not been dispatched within a reasonable period. **#3** Working with port authorities, container companies and others to improve on infrastructure in the ports. Ensuring that the citrus voice is heard in debates about infrastructure. **#4** Doing a cost benefit analysis on high cube pallets. **#5** Working with those involved in Maputo and Coega to see what benefits the citrus industry may gain by sending more fruit to these ports. **#6** Providing relevant information to the industry so as to improve efficiencies in this field.

The objective of CGA involvement is to "identify and rectify" (thanks Malcolm) – we will not get involved in commercial arrangements with growers, and growers must not drop their present activities in this field. However – if there is a lot of "identifying" going on, and not much "rectifying" then we would have to take appropriate action.

TREE CENSUS

The tree census conducted by John Edmonds is an essential element of CGA's information database. It is used for a number of purposes, which includes being an important building block in the long term model. Thanks to all growers who have updated their information to date, and to those who have not **PLEASE** get it done before end of next week; we have to cut it off at some point so that the Statistics booklet can be updated. The updating procedure has been made very simple using the Internet. You can follow this link: <http://iwebhost.ion.co.za/cga/treecensus/treecensus.php>. You will be prompted to enter a PUC number, choose a password and enter your mail address where we will send you a digital key in about 1 minute. When you enter these codes you will find information as it now appears on our database. Please update it by following the instructions on the screen. If you encounter any problems please e-mail (johne@cga.co.za) or contact John by telephone (031 7652514). For those who prefer the paper and pen method please get hold of John and he will fax your present figures for updating, or if you have them available then fax them to 031 765 8029 or e-mail them to John Edmonds.

GROWER ROADSHOWS

This last week John Edmonds, Hannes Bester and I were in Settler country as we presented roadshows to Patensie, Sundays River and E Cape Midlands. The meetings were well attended and there was good information exchanged. These Eastern Cape regions are looking forward to availability of good volumes of export citrus – with initial indications of good sizing and quality. They have already begun picking Satsuma's, while lemons have been on the go for a week or so. The domestic lemon market has shown good returns to date – and so exports have been minimal. Sundays River had two nominations for Board representation, necessitating an election. I would like to welcome **Phillip du Plessis** to the CGA Board – I am sure Phillip will bring new experience onto our governance structure. I would also like to thank **Pieter Nortje** for his informed leadership over the past two years. Also in that area I would like to welcome the new head of Sundays River Citrus Company, Ken Nieuwenhuizen, to the citrus industry. I am sure he will fill the void left by Johan Stumpf adequately, and as always CGA is keen to work closely with the SRCC. There was one change made to Variety Focus Group membership; Blikkies Blignaut replaces Ian Grieb as Valencia representative for Patensie. Next week my team (Hennie Le Roux and John Edmonds) heads north. Monday afternoon (16/3@14h00@Mvutshini) we will be in Pongola, then across the border into Swaziland (17/3@10h00@United Plantations), back across the border to Nelspruit (18/3@10h00@CRI) and Onderberg (18/3@15h00@MSK). We look forward to our international travels. Paul and his team (Jacomien de Klerk and Vaughan Hattingh) head south to Boland (18/3@08h30@Ashton Buiteklub) and Western Cape (18/3@14h00@Goedehoop) then north to the Vaalharts region (19/3@14h00@Pokwane pakhuis). All details are available at www.cga.co.za. In another change **Peter Nicholson** has stood down as CGA director for Limpopo River, being replaced by **J D Nel**. Peter has been a stalwart of CGA, being a founder member and Chairman of CGA during its formative years – thanks for your wise council over the years Peter.

YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA, CRI AND THE CITRUS ACADEMY