



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (28/09)

Justin Chadwick (17 July 2009)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject" Winston Churchill

CERTIFIED NURSERIES

Most growers will tell you that the most important aspect of their farming is starting their orchards with a healthy, disease free, true to type certified citrus tree. The Citrus Improvement Scheme (CIS) aims to ensure just that – from shoot tip grafting, through the activities of the Citrus Foundation Block (CFB) and finally to the certified nurseries, all play their role in ensuring that the grower gets just what he expects from a certified tree. The process of getting the CIS compulsory (statutory) has been frustrating for those involved, but will continue until it is in place – as there can be no room for the introduction of new pests and diseases into southern Africa (we have enough of our own thank you very much!).

In a recent Cutting Edge (86a of July 2009 – available on the CGA website), Thys du Toit, the ever reliable head of CFB and Manager of the CIS outlines the reasons for starting with certified trees from certified nurseries. These nurseries contact details are available from the Cutting Edge article (www.cga.co.za) – but I would like to list them and urge growers only to source propagation material from these nurseries:

Apapanzi, Kirkwood; Casmar, Mooiooi; Cederburg Citrusdal, Simondium; Du Roi, Letsetele; Esselen, Malelane; B F Joubert, Kirkwood; H J Joubert, Montagu; Letsitele Nursery, Letsitele; Mistkraal, Kirkwood; Ngwenya, Malelane; Oranjerivier, Kakamas; Paksaam, Patensie; Stargrow, Citrusdal; Sondagsrivier, Kirkwood; Tweeling, Kirkwood; Tulbagh nursery, Tulbagh; Vaalharts, Hartswater; Waterfall, Adelaide; Westfalia, Modjadiskloof and Witkrans, Boshoeck.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Another year has flown by and the Board and staff of CGA are busy preparing for this year's AGM. Under the watchful eye of Gloria Weare the Annual Report has been finalized and is getting printed for final distribution. All growers will receive the report in the post, if you do not get a copy please phone Gloria on 031 7652514 so that we can update your contact details.

The Annual Financial Statements (AFS) have been completed. They have been scrutinized by the Audit Committee (Flip Smit, Gerhard Uys and Antoine Rouillard) and recommended for approval by the CGA Board, who in turn have been given an opportunity to look through them before distribution to members. All members for whom CGA has e-mail addresses will be sent copies of the CGA AFS. The balance will be sent a letter with the notice of AGM and Annual Report notifying them of the availability of the AFS's and directing them to phone CGA should they require a copy. The AGM itself will take place at **Willow Park Conference Centre at 17h00 on Tuesday 18 August 2009**. All growers are invited to attend, and the notice will be circulated along with the Annual Report. Willow Park is 15 minutes from O R Tambo International Airport – shuttles are available by prior arrangement. Should you need further information about the AGM, Annual Report or Annual Financial Statements please do not hesitate to give me or Gloria a call.

TONNAGE OFF TAR (ToT)

Moving freight off the road and onto rail is driven by the need to relieve congestion on roads and in the port, the benefit of reducing carbon emissions, and finally should result in decreased costs. Already this year five routes are being used for the transport of citrus to the ports – Reefers from Tzaneen to Durban (being the largest volume), and break bulk from Letsitele to Durban, Letsitele to Maputo, Sundays River to PE and Hoedspruit to Maputo. There are other routes in the planning phase. All in all up to 3 July over 12 000 pallets (840 000 cartons) had been transported by rail. This volume, if transported by road, would have required 430 lorries. The switch to rail is estimated to save 2/3rds of the emissions from road haulage trucks.

Those involved in this initiative – spearheaded by Sandra Baetsen with amazing support from Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) – in particular Suria Singh and Elvin Harris, have done an excellent job in getting the job started; but I am sure they will agree that we have just scratched the surface – there are huge opportunities to move more citrus volumes onto rail. Mitchell Brooke (CGA Logistics) is now working with ToT to look at the costs involved with the various alternatives – so that we can give growers some meaningful information in making their transport choice.

PACKED AND SHIPPED 2009

Will be updated next week.

p.s. The Valencia Focus Group met this week and revised their projected export crop down from 43 million cartons to 40,5 million cartons.

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