

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (31/10)

Justin Chadwick (13 August 2010)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you" Winston Churchill

CITRUS GROWER DEVELOPMENT CHAMBER (CGDC)

In 2008 CGA held a transformation workshop. One of the outcomes was a request from emerging growers to form a body within CGA that would address the unique needs of this sector. Since then there has been much deliberation on the structure of such a body, and what issues it would address. This culminated in a meeting in May 2010 where the Citrus Grower Development Chamber (CGDC) was formed. The objectives of the Chamber are to engage with other stakeholders in order to further the interests of emerging growers, to ensure that these growers are integrated into the citrus industry and to provide services and information to address their unique needs. Mzo Makhanya (citrus grower from Nkwalini in KZN) was elected as Chairman, while Thompson Mankhili (citrus grower from Limpopo) was elected as vice Chairman. The CGDC is made up of representatives from fifteen citrus growing regions around the country. The CGA is in the process of ensuring that each of the regions elects a representative onto the Chamber, and making sure that all growers within the regions are identified and informed of the Chamber and their representative.

CITRUS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Citrus Research Symposium takes place next week at Champagne Sports Resort in the KZN Drakensburg. Once again the CRI has pulled out all the stops – with a full house expected. Running parallel with the Symposium will be the board meetings of CRI, CGA and the Citrus Academy; as well as the Annual General Meetings of CGA, CRT, CRI, River Bioscience and Citrus Academy

There are also a number of stands where suppliers expose their products to symposium delegates. Citrus growers own company, **River Bioscience**, will be showcasing two new products - **Helicovir** a baculovirus for control of bollworm and **Invader-b-lok** and **Invader-Lure** for control of the African invasive fruit fly. IT IS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT RIVER BIOSCIENCE IS 100% OWNED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS – SO BY PURCHASING RB PRODUCTS (INCLUDING CRYPTOGRAN) YOU ARE SUPPORTING YOURSELF. More information is available at www.riverbioscience.co.za.

The **CITRUS ACADEMY** also has a stand – and delegates can take a look at the post harvest DVD's – now also available in Afrikaans [any player in the citrus industry who does not have a set is obviously not serious about their business- bring your cheque book].

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Valencia packing is now in full swing with many packhouses also busy on Saturdays, while other sectors start to wind down. Grapefruit is all but complete in the north, with KZN and Eastern Cape still packing; to date 8.9 million cartons of Star Ruby have been packed (estimate 8.8 million and 2009 7.9 million). This represents 75% of total grapefruit packed. For soft citrus, 1.92 million cartons of Satsuma were packed (estimate 1.88 million), and 2.83 million clementines (estimate 2.67 million). Late mandarins are now being packed.

With smoky lungs and clingy heat still a recent memory, it is interesting to note in all citrus categories exports to Russia are well ahead of volumes at the same time in 2009. Even in the case of grapefruit, where all other markets have taken less fruit, Russia has received 963 000 cartons as opposed to 2009's 731 000 cartons. Lemons have increased from 689 000 cartons (2009 year to date) to 973 000 cartons year to date 2010. Over the same period navels have increased from 1.4 m to 2 million, soft citrus from 498 000 to 645 000 and Valencia from 1 million to 1.2 million. With the possibility of another 6 million Valencia to come the market could absorb 11 million cartons of southern African citrus in 2010 – which would surpass all previous years.

To Week 31 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Final Shipped
SOURCE: PPECB	2008	2009	2010	2009	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009
Grapefruit	12.3m	13.4m	11.8m	12.2m	10.3m	12.6m	12.2m	14.2m	13.7m
Soft Citrus	6.7m	6.2m	6.7m	5.1m	5.6m	7.5m	7.9m	6.8m	6m
Lemons	8.6m	7.3m	8.6m	5.8m	6.2m	9m	8.8m	8.7m	7.7m
Navels	19.6m	18.3m	21.3m	15.9m	17.6m	21.4m	21.3m	19.4m	19.1m
Valencia	17.4m	15.8m	18.1m	8.2m	10.8m	41.3m	41.5m	38.5m	35.3m
Total	64.9m	61m	66.5m	47.2m	50.5m	91.8m	91.7m	87.6m	81.8m

GROWERS' FUND THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CITRUS GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, CITRUS ACADEMY AND CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL