

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (4/13)

Justin Chadwick (25 January 2013)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK *There are people who, instead of listening to what is being said to them, are already listening to what they are going to say themselves*” Albert Guinon

CITRUS BLACK SPOT (CBS)

The failure of the International Plant Protection (IPPC) secretariat and management to do their job is now putting countries with CBS at risk of losing important markets. The only Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) prepared for CBS concludes that CBS cannot establish in the EU. This conclusion was challenged by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) assessment of the PRA who concluded that there is a risk (albeit to a small area in some of the southern member states) and that the present measures are appropriate. This conclusion is being challenged by South Africa.

Due to this stalemate the South African government asked the IPPC to intervene and mediate on the issue. This was done at the beginning of 2010 – we are now in the beginning of 2013 and no action from the IPPC. Given the failure of the IPPC mechanism it may now be necessary to engage the WTO on dispute resolution. At least that process has defined time lines.

In the meantime countries with CBS need to comply with the relevant CBS Directives. South Africa has a good record in terms of phytosanitary controls, and in 2013 it is going to be important that we keep vigilant and apply all the recommended CBS controls.

CGA has kept the industry advised on the EU-CBS issue through Grower Advisory's circulated on 6 and 30 November 2012, 21 December 2012 and the latest on 24 January 2013. If there are any South African citrus industry stakeholders who would like a copy of these circulars please contact justchad@iafrica.com.

DAFF is busy finalizing the CBS Risk Management System (RMS). It is important that growers are aware of their obligations with respect to the RMS. In particular, spray programmes and orchard management for CBS are essential. DAFF will be conducting orchard inspections, and those that are determined to be high risk will not be registered for the EU market. If you are packing for EU, or will start packing before week 12 (end March); please contact Paul Hardman (ph@cga.co.za) so that orchard inspections can be organized.

If you believe that there is a possibility that you may have CBS infected fruit, then stay away from CBS sensitive markets.

LABOUR UNREST

Mohammed Karaan is Dean of Agriculture at Stellenbosch University and a Commissioner on Trevor Manuel's National Planning Commission. He is now assisting industry in looking at our role in ending the dispute, and preventing such problems in the future. He is quoted in the press (with reference to the grape industry) “with the right leadership, the current crisis could become an opportunity to develop a more competitive industry that would enjoy strong growth prospects over the long term”.

Leadership is about showing people the future, and taking them there. With many disillusioned by the violence and destruction of property, this leadership has the difficult task of defining how this “more competitive” industry will look, and how it can be achieved. In the CGA Board the citrus growers have capable leaders; growers are encouraged to contact their Board representatives in defining the way forward; and to support them in determining a solution that encompasses the needs and objectives of industry, government and labour.

The downside (according to Karaan with reference to the grape industry) is that “without the right leadership the current turmoil could see a shrinking of the industry”.

PACKHOUSE WORKSHOPS AND CGA ROADSHOWS

Next week the first Packhouse Workshops take place on **29 & 30 January** in Limpopo at The Ranch in Polokwane. Dates, times and venues, as well as the agenda for this meeting and all the other Packhouse Workshops are available on www.cga.co.za. For further information contact HannesBester@cri.co.za.

The CGA Road Shows are also being finalized with dates, times and venues also available at www.cga.co.za. These road shows kick off with **Nkwalini** on Monday 18 Feb at 10h00 (Nkwalini Farmers Club); **Pongola** 19 Feb at 09h00 (Mvutshini Estates); on the same day **Swaziland** at 14h30 (Tambuti Estates); 20 Feb **Nelspruit** at 14h00 (CRI) and finishing that week off at **Onderberg**, (MSK) at 10h00 on Thursday 21 Feb.

Paul Hardman's group visits **Zimbabwe** at 16h00, Monday 18 Feb (Paul Bristow's farm); **Limpopo River**, 19 Feb at 10h00 at Noordgrens Lapa; **Letsitele** at 10h00 at The Junction on 20 Feb; **Hoedspruit** at 15h00 on 20 Feb, at Die Hengel Klub, ending the week at **Senwes** at 15h00, 21 Feb at Lookout Lodge, Groblersdal.