

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (37/13)

Justin Chadwick (14 September 2013)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "All of us need to stick to our pledge to fight back against protectionism. It is worrisome to see so many restrictive measures still being adopted and virtually none abolished. The G20 agreed a long time ago to avoid protectionist tendencies because we all know these only hurt the global recovery in the long run." Commissioner De Gucht, EU Commission

[Comment - some introspection needed methinks]

CHINA AND HONG KONG

South African citrus gained access to China in 2004, followed by table grapes two years later. The focus of the fruit industry delegation that visited China Plant Health (AQSIQ) last week was to further the application process for apples. From a citrus point of view the main goal was to explore opportunities to engage AQSIQ on alternative's to the present cold sterilisation treatment, and to discuss operational and administrative issues related to the protocol. The delegation received a warm welcome from the AQSIQ officials, and the discussions were held in a relaxed and positive spirit.

AQSIQ is open to discuss alternative arrangements to cold steri – provided that sufficient technical information is provided to satisfy them that pests of concern have been adequately dealt with. It was proposed that a technical work group be formed to take matters of mutual benefit and interest forward. The AQSIQ officials did express some concerns regarding the administration surrounding the protocol in 2013. These administrative problems added to the work load of AQSIQ officials, who already have an extensive work load. These problems will be addressed in preparation for the 2014 season.

The South African delegation also pledged support and participation for the annual China World Fruit and Vegetable Fair to be held in Beijing at the end of November 2013.

The Beijing Xinfadi Agriculture Products Wholesale market was a hive of activity when we visited – and we were made to feel at home with a South African flag flapping over the warehouses and one of the cold stores called "South Africa". There was also plenty of South African citrus in the cold stores; vendors claiming that South African citrus was good quality and reasonably priced. Most of the fruit had been trucked from Guangzhou province, with some coming in from Shanghai.

A courtesy call on the South African Ambassador in Beijing H.E. Dr Bheki W J Langa meant that we could personally thank him for the assistance from the Agricultural Attaché (Washiela Williams) and Cathy Liu (Information Assistant). We also updated him on the state of market access issues, and he pledged support from the Embassy for the fruit industry activities.

According to the organizers Asia Fruit Logistica grew by another 10% in terms of floor space. There is a much more relaxed atmosphere in Hong Kong when compared to Fruit Logistica in Berlin. Nevertheless the impressive South African stand was always buzzing – well done to Anton and Marletta from FPEF for putting the stand together and hosting visitors to the stand. This year the stand was completely industry funded – with SATI, HORTGRO, CGA and FPEF as sponsors. On the fringes of the trade show southern hemisphere delegates met at a SHAFPE gathering to discuss issues of mutual interest with respect to markets in the Asian region.

CGA BOARD

At this weeks CGA Board meeting Ben Vorster (Letsitele) was voted onto the Executive Committee (taking up the seat vacated by the 16 year veteran Dr Hoppie Nel). Hoppie was recognised for his long service to the Board, as was the only existing Board member from the inaugural Board established some 16 years ago – Antoine Rouillard. Others to receive recognition for ten years or more service to the CGA Board were George Hall, Graham Piner, Jock Danckwerts and Per Noddeboe. The Chairman thanked the award recipients, and also stressed the vital role that all Board members played in guiding the growers Association, to the benefit of ALL growers in southern Africa.

George Hall was voted onto the CGA Cultivar Company Board (replacing Jock Danckwerts); while the grower representatives on the CRI Board remained unchanged (Hoppie Nel, Louis von Broembsen, Piet Smit, Fanie Meyer, Mike Woodburn and Deon Joubert).

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To Week 37 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2011	2012	2013	2012	2013	2013	2013	2012
Grapefruit	14.4 m	12.9 m	17.6 m	11.7 m	15.5 m	15 m	17.8 m	13 m
Soft Citrus	6.9 m	7.5 m	8.1 m	7.4 m	7.9 m	8.2 m	8.1 m	7.6 m
Lemons	10.5 m	10.2 m	10.3 m	10.2 m	10.3 m	11.1 m	10.3 m	10.5 m
Navels	21.1m	24.5 m	25.3 m	24.5 m	25.3 m	24.9 m	25.3 m	24.6 m
Valencia	29.9 m	32.6 m	37.5 m	32.3 m	28.3 m	47.7 m	45.7 m	47.2 m
Total	82.8 m	87.7 m	98.8 m	86.1 m	87.3 m	106.8 m	107.2 m	103 m

Grapefruit packed includes 1 million cartons, and Valencia packed includes 2.3 million cartons from Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS' OWNED COMPANIES CGA, XSIT, CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, CGACC AND CITRUS ACADEMY ENSURE A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY