FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (52/13)

Justin Chadwick (27 December 2013)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "History will be kind to me for I intend to write it" Winston Churchill

WISHING ALL CITRUS GROWERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE AND SWAZILAND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

LOOKING BACK AT 2013

- Western Cape agricultural sector **strike** ends, but minimum wage increases to R105 per day (from R69).
- CGA meets at Fruit Logistica with importers and other interested parties to discuss the issue of **CBS in the EU**.
- The **IPPC** finally facilitates bilateral consultations between the EU and RSA with respect to CBS. There is no "meeting of the minds"; EU proposes doing a Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) to determine the risk; will be open to comment before finalization (scheduled end July 2013 – still not completed by December 2013).
- **Agri-HUB** is formed as an information provider to the fruit industries.
- Fruit South Africa begins preparing a **Social Compact** to bind industry, labour and government into a sustainable plan for the fruit industries.
- The Variety Focus Groups finalise the **2013 estimate** at 107 million cartons – 48 million Valencia cartons, 25 million navels, 15 million grapefruit, 11 million lemons and 8 million soft citrus.
- **Southern hemisphere (SHAFFE) citrus estimate** for 2013 exports shows overall increase of 4% (vs. 2012).
- **Dr D J (Hoppie) Nel** resigns from the CGA Board after 16 years service. Other Board members are recognized for their long service (Antoine Rouillard (16 years); George Hall (11 years) and Jock Danckwerts, Graham Piner and Per Noddeboe (all 10 years)).
- **Bruce McEvoy** takes over from Ron Campbell as CGA representative in the USA.
- CGA makes a submission to the Port Regulator with regard to the **Port Strategy**.
- NAMC confirms that oranges are **South Africa's leading agricultural export product**.
- CGA signs agreements with **provincial governments** of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape with regard to transformation of the citrus industry.
- The CBS issue in the EU is raised at the **EU-RSA Summit** held in Pretoria; the State President addresses the issue with his EU counterpart.
- Durban port experiences **congestion** as the season peaks.
- Grapefruit are exported from South Africa to **South Korea** (for the first time), and are well received.
- PMA hold a successful **Fresh Connections** conference in the Western Cape.
- **Indonesian** requirements make it a difficult export destination; CGA joins a delegation from Fruit South Africa to Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and China to unlock some of these hindrances.
- The annual **citrus coordination meeting** is packed to the rafters; as citrus industry stakeholders meet to discuss the past season, and plan for 2014. Attending the meeting are the Agricultural Attaches from Japan, EU and China.
- Citrus Academy students **Xolani Siboza** (PhD Plant Path, UKZN) won first prize in the Best Student: Bursaries category, and **Richman Mavimbela** (Champagne Citrus, MBA, Henley Business School) was the runner-up. In the category Best Student: Graduate Placements and Internships, **Nomfundo Mpahla** (Ripplemead Packhouse) walked away with the spoils and **Asanda Mditswa** (Stellenbosch University) was runner-up (all at the AgriSETA Excellence awards).
- **Final packed citrus volumes** reaches a record 113 million cartons; Valencia 51 million; navel 25 million; grapefruit 18 million; lemon 11 million and soft citrus 8 million.
- A generally **weaker rand** assisted in better returns from most markets for most citrus categories.
- In mid December, the EU instituted a **ban** on South African citrus for the 2012/13 season.
- A **CGA delegation** visited Europe in December to discuss the past season, and determine plans for 2014.