



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (8/15)

Justin Chadwick (13 March 2015)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK “A lot of legends, a lot of people, have come before me. But this is my time.”

Usain Bolt

THE CAPE TOWN CYCLE TOUR

Congratulations to Marc Solomon and Malan Smith (Freshgro) for completing the tour – and both achieving Personal Bests (PB's). Maybe it had something to do with the course being halved!!! Can't believe that is all from the citrus family who competed – let me know how you went.

GROWERS DECIDE TO SUSPEND CITRUS EXPORTS TO SPAIN

Leading citrus growers met in Phalaborwa at the first Citrus Summit on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Obviously the present problems with marketing citrus to the EU were discussed. Growers received feedback regarding the risk management system, and ongoing research into CBS. While South Africa has a comprehensive and robust CBS risk management system, it is also important that identification of noncompliance in the EU is done correctly. During 2014 a South African expert was denied entry into facilities carrying out CBS testing in Spain; in addition the notifications from Spain included the statement that they inspected asymptomatic fruit. The methodology and ability of Spanish officials to correctly identify viable CBS is unknown – clearly a big concern for South African exporters. As a result the Summit delegates concluded that sending citrus to Spain was a risk until such time as clarity on the testing methodology is obtained and that competence to identify noncompliance is assured. The decision to suspend shipments to Spain was then discussed by the CGA Board who decided that it was in the best interests of South African citrus growers to request DAFF to stop issuing phytosanitary certification for shipments to Spain. This is not an easy decision as South Africa would like to supply all customers with the fruit they desire, but in the interests of securing the market and meeting the EU's demand of reducing interceptions it is the right decision.

CITRUS LEGENDS

The first Citrus Summit was used as an opportunity to recognise those who have contributed to the continued sustainability and competitiveness of the southern African citrus industry – and so the idea of the Citrus Legends was born.

The first three citrus legends have been selected by the staff of CGA and its affiliates. The first criterion used is that candidates are not staff of any of these entities.

The second criterion is that the person must have played a leading role in the formation and functioning of the Association and its affiliates. In the few years of its existence the CGA has grown in stature to be recognized as the peak body in the citrus industry, both in southern Africa and internationally. This does not happen by chance and the citrus legend awards allow industry to recognize those who have sacrificed considerable time, energy and enthusiasm in making it work. While all growers enjoy the benefits of their endeavours – it is the few who take leadership roles that make it happen.

The third criterion of a Citrus Legend is to recognize those who have contributed to the sustainability and competitiveness of the southern African citrus industry. To be the second highest global exporter of citrus fruit is no mean feat; and when you consider that the leading exporter is sending over 90% of their product into neighbouring countries as part of a regional block; the accomplishments of this industry are truly exemplary. Once again it is legends in the industry that have the foresight to identify challenges and opportunities – and to lead the industry in addressing challenges and harnessing opportunities.

It is also worth stating that the citrus legend is not necessarily the biggest or best citrus grower; in fact they may not even be growers. In addition this is not a popularity contest – In the words of Winston Churchill “You have enemies. Good. That means you've stood up for something; some time in your life”.

The first three Citrus Legends are **Peter Nicholson, Hoppie Nel and Jock Danckwerts.**

Once again thank you to those who sponsored the first Citrus Summit; STANDARD BANK (Platinum Sponsor), **FPT GROUP** (Gold Sponsor), **TRANSNET** (silver sponsor), **GRANOR PASSI** and **PPECB** (both bronze sponsors).

Well done to MC Pretorius for organising an enlightening field tour, to Fanie Meyer for the golf day and to Gloria Weare for putting it all together.

A huge thanks to the 220 plus growers who trekked to the north – without you the goal of having a Summit and not a Roadshow would not have been met.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS' HAVE INVESTED IN THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTINUED FUNDING OF CGA, XSIT, CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, CGACC AND CITRUS ACADEMY