

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (36/20)

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Justin Chadwick 4 September 2020



“The future is much like the present, only longer” Dan Quisenberry

PHILIPPINES

With the signing of the work plan by Philippines Bureau of Plant and Industry (BPI), the final step to gaining access for South African citrus to Philippines is now complete. This has been a long journey, with many involved in the process. The CGA would like to thank Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for their perseverance, and particularly DDG Mooketsa Ramasodi and Counsellor Sitembele Kelembe who took us over the line. Others who played a crucial role were Citrus Research International (CRI) and Fruit South Africa. Vaughan Hattingh (he of great patience) reminded us that this protocol is eleven years in the making. Elma Carstens of CRI travelled to Manila in late 2019 in a final push for access, while Mono Mashaba (Fruit South Africa) led annual delegations to Manila – massaging the process. If there is one person who really went the extra mile it was the past South African Ambassador in Manila (Martin Slabber) – he opened his Embassy to the Fruit South Africa delegations who arrived on his doorstep every year, he attended trade shows, government meetings and seminars with the delegation; finding every way possible to advance the cause. In his Embassy he had some excellent foot soldiers in Tshire Kau and Ellen Vega. For a number of years Fruit South Africa exhibited at the Agri Link Trade Show – with excellent graphics prepared by Fresh Produce Exporters Forum. Exhibiting at this event, and seminars presented by Anton Kruger (FPEF) showed Philippines Plant Health (BPI) that South Africa is serious about the Philippines market. The Philippines market for citrus looks like this: **Mandarins** make up the biggest volumes in terms of citrus imports. The average imports per annum for 2016 to 2018 was 80 000 tonnes – the majority (60%) from China, followed by Pakistan (25%). Largest exporters from the southern hemisphere are Argentina (8 000 tonnes or 10%) and Australia (2 000 tonnes or 3%). **Oranges** are the next in line with an average for 2016 to 2018 of 28 000 tonnes. China leads the way with 22% (6 000 tonnes), followed by Australia 20 % (5 500 tonnes). Next is USA at 5 000 tonnes or 18%. Argentina provides about 1 000 tonnes per annum. **Lemon** imports are at 7 500 tonnes – but growing. USA is the predominant supplier of lemons at 33% or 2 500 tonnes, followed by China (2000 tonnes or 28%). Argentina supplies about 1 000 tonnes per annum. Philippines only imports between 1 000 and 1 500 tonnes of **grapefruit** per annum – almost all from China. There are also reshipments from Hong Kong – 4 000 tonnes of oranges, 3 000 tonnes mandarins and 2 000 tonnes lemons.

The industry and Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) will now work on getting all the preconditions sorted out for a strong campaign in 2021.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The relevant variety focus groups have made adjustments to their predicted final volumes for 2020: grapefruit edged upwards by 400 000 cartons, soft citrus and navels by 100 000 cartons each; whereas valencias were decreased by 800 000 cartons. The final volume is now predicted at 142.6 million cartons – a mere 0,48848% off the March estimate. Well done to the Citrus Marketing Forum as once again the estimate will be almost spot on.

Million 15 Kg Cartons to end Week 35	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AgriHub	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020	2020	2020	2019
Grapefruit	19.5 m	16.1 m	15.3 m	14.8 m	14.2 m	16.7 m	15.6 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	15.4 m	17.4 m	22.2 m	15.5 m	20.5 m	23.3 m	23.6 m	18.3 m
Lemons	18.7 m	21.1 m	28.1 m	18.2 m	23.2 m	26.4 m	28.2 m	22.1 m
Navels	26.2 m	23.3 m	25.5 m	20.5 m	22.4 m	26.5 m	26 m	24.3 m
Valencia	37.8 m	35.9 m	43.5 m	27.2 m	31.6 m	50.4 m	49.2 m	46.8 m
Total	117.6 m	113.8 m	134.6 m	96.2 m	111.9 m	143.3 m	142.6 m	127.5 m

THE CGA GROUP (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE SUPPORTED BY AND WORK FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS