



ED'S NOTE

As we head into the peak of the 2020 citrus season, the Covid-19 outbreak has created significant challenges for our industry and the rest of the country.

While the pandemic has brought great uncertainty for many sectors, it has demonstrated the resilience of the citrus industry and its ability to adapt during difficult times. As a result, we are on track to achieve a record breaking export season over the coming months.

In March, CEO of the CGA Justin Chadwick announced that the Southern Africa citrus industry was expected to export a record 143.3 million cartons of citrus fruit to over 100 countries in 2020. This is a 13% increase when compared to 2019, which saw 126.7 million cartons being exported, generating R20 billion in export revenue and creating 120 000 jobs.

The citrus industry is also expected to continue to grow by a further 500 000 tons over the next three to five years, with continued efforts on opening and expanding market access in key markets including China, USA, India, Philippines, Japan, Vietnam and the EU.

This increase should translate into more job opportunities, foreign exchange revenue and will contribute towards national government's goal of increased agricultural exports over the next few years.

Under normal circumstances, this would be a great accomplishment. However, within the Covid-19 context, this will be a truly extraordinary feat only made possible by the hard work and determination of citrus growers across the country and the support provided by the CGA.

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Note

Message from the CGA CEO – Justin Chadwick

New appointments at the CGA
Grower Development Company

Economic Transformation of Black Citrus
Growers Programme launched

Citrus Academy Bursary Applications
open for 2021

Launch of the World Citrus Organisation

I am also pleased to share further good news during these unprecedented times, which is the launch of the R307 million Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers Programme. This project aimed at providing on-farm development and technical support to black citrus growers will help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and help boost transformation in the industry. Find out more about this exciting project and how to apply for funding below.

Finally, the CGA Grower Development Company has also made a number of new appointments, so we can expand the services we can provide to black citrus growers across the country. Meet our new team members below.

We hope you all stay healthy and safe over the coming months and find comfort and strength in the resilience and achievements of our industry.

Lukhanyo Nkombisa
General Manager
of the CGA Grower
Development
Company





MESSAGE FROM THE

CGA CEO

With South Africa having been in a national lockdown since 26 March, the citrus industry

has focused on ensuring consumers have access to fresh citrus fruit while safeguarding the health of its workers during the pandemic.

While the citrus season has kicked off to a good start, with an increase in demand for citrus from overseas markets, we also recognise that Covid-19 will continue to pose a threat to business continuity and the 2020 season.

This is why the CGA has established a Covid-19 Response Committee (CRC), which is focused on identifying risks and opportunities arising from the pandemic and national lockdown and develop plans to address these issues going forward.

The CRC meets on a weekly basis and has identified a number of risks that could affect the current export season including: operational and efficiency issues at ports; ensuring the health and safety of workers; transporting of workers to farms and citrus to ports; ensuring business continuity of supporting industries; obtaining necessary documentation for exports (e.g. phytosanitary certificates, shipping cargo

receipts); the continuation of fruit inspection services and finally, the cost and availability of ships and equipment.

The CGA is working closely with various stakeholders including government departments, organised agriculture and the National Joint Command Centre to mitigate these risks. However, challenges at some ports remain the biggest threat to the current citrus season.

In particular, Covid-19 has seen major disruptions at the Cape Town port over the past few weeks. We continue to engage closely with the management of Transnet to address the problems and ensure ports are operating at full capacity as we move into the peak of the citrus season.

The CGA will continue providing support to citrus growers to ensure we overcome the challenges posed by pandemic so that the industry comes out of the lockdown stronger than when it went in.

In this regard, there are a number of learnings we will take from this crisis, which will ensure a more efficient, resilient industry that works even more closely with government to achieve its objectives.

Justin Chadwick
CEO of the Citrus Growers Association

CGA COVID-19 BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

This CGA has curated a set of guidelines to provide information and recommendations for best practice in workplaces in the citrus industry. This includes a series of Covid-19 educational posters and pamphlets that can be shared with workers.

Citrus growers can download the material here:

<http://www.citrusresourcewarehouse.org.za/home/document-home/covid-19/covid-19-workplace-resources>



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

prevention



Stay away from other people



Don't touch your face



Wear a mask



Cough & sneeze into your elbow or a tissue



Keep surfaces clean & sanitary



Wash your hands



Call the Covid-19 hotline: 0800 029 995
Send 'Hi' to WhatsApp Support Line: 060 012 3456
Visit the website: www.sacoronavirus.co.za





NEW APPOINTMENTS

AT THE CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The CGA Grower Development Company has made a number of new appointments over the past few months in order to strengthen and expand the

services we offer to black citrus growers.

Meet the new team members:

ZAMAZIMA NJILI (ZAMA)

APPOINTED IN THE EXTENSION OFFICE SOUTH REGION - EASTERN CAPE, WESTERN CAPE AND KWAZULU NATAL

Zama is a graduate of Nelson Mandela University and her studies were funded and supported by the Citrus Academy. She completed her Diploma in Agricultural Management in 2017 and during her third year of undergraduate studies, also worked as an intern at Citrus Research International, IPM division assisting Entomologists in conducting field and laboratory experiments. In 2018, she studied a Bachelor of Technology in Agricultural Management, and simultaneously worked at PPECB as an inspector trainee. Thereafter, she completed an MSc: Botany (Horticulture) focussing on citrus fruit physiology.



NOMONDE NTLOKO

APPOINTED AS A BUSINESS SUPPORT ASSISTANT FOR THE SOUTH REGION - EASTERN CAPE, WESTERN CAPE AND KWAZULU NATAL

Nomdonde, who was born and raised in Gauteng, has vast experience in the Agriculture sector and having mostly worked with new era farmers. She holds an Agribusiness Degree and an Honours Degree with majors in Financial Management and Economics and has worked in both Gauteng and Limpopo in different sectors in the industry.



PRINCESS MOGALE

APPOINTED AS A BUSINESS SUPPORT ASSISTANT FOR THE NORTH REGION - LIMPOPO, NORTH WEST PROVINCE, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG

Princess hails from a village just outside Polokwane in Limpopo and holds a BCom Financial Management Sciences degree from the University of Pretoria. After a stint in the Financial Services Industry with the Thebe Group of Companies, Princess joined agricultural conglomerate ZZ2. She has served as a volunteer for the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) in South Africa for the past 5 years, which has provided her with an opportunity to interact with role players across the world and present some of her work internationally.



We welcome Zama, Nomonde and Princess to the CGA Grower Development Company. We are confident their vast experience and expertise will further strengthen the dedicated support we provide to black citrus growers as we focus on transforming the industry.



ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF BLACK CITRUS GROWERS PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

Last month the CGA issued a call for applications for an Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers Programme that has been launched.

The R307 million programme will make funding and technical support available to black citrus growers for orchard establishment, expansion and rehabilitation, as well as on-farm development of various infrastructure including packhouses, bulk-water supply and irrigation systems.

The project is also expected to create an additional 1 726 permanent and seasonal jobs in the citrus industry.

The CGA has partnered with a number of stakeholders on the project: the Jobs Fund has committed R118 million with the Land Bank agreeing to contribute an additional R116 million in loan funding. The CGA has contributed R24 million, while the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and AGRISETA have pledged R34 million and R12 million respectively.

The CGA is the lead partner with the Jobs Fund on the programme and has appointed Lima Rural Development as the programme manager. The Citrus Academy will provide skills development support (which is compulsory for all programme

beneficiaries), while the CGA Grower Development Company will be the implementation agent for the programme.

The programme will be implemented over three years across South Africa, with a specific focus on the Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, North West, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

To qualify for funding growers have to have a minimum of 60% black ownership (of both assets and operations) as defined by the B-BBEE Act of 2013, while priority will be given to enterprises with 100% black ownership. Other criteria that need to be met include: producing or packing citrus that is exported, having appropriate management structures, relationships with external service providers (financial auditors, legal services, logistics, fruit exports etc), human resource development plans, security of land tenure and sufficient water supply. Most importantly, applicants must also demonstrate that they will create permanent and seasonal job opportunities with the development funding.

Black citrus farmers interested in applying for funding can visit <https://cga-gdc.org.za/jobs-fund-application> (or call 012 003 4209) for more information and submit their application electronically.



CITRUS ACADEMY

BURSARY APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2021

Applications for the Citrus Academy Bursary Fund for the 2021 academic year have opened!

Are you, a family or staff member:

- A South African citizen / Zimbabwean citizen / Eswatini citizen
- Have completed Matric
- Are studying towards an agricultural qualification in the list below.
- Are entering your 2nd or higher year of study; and
- Have a strong academic record?

Bursaries will be provided in the following fields of study: Plant Pathology; Plant Production, Microbiology; Soil Science; Entomology; Horticulture; Crop Production; Agricultural Production Management; Agricultural Management; Agricultural Economics; Agricultural Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Industrial Engineering.

The bursary will cover tuition fees, prescribed books, stationery, accommodation on campus and research costs (for postgraduate students).

Please note that undergraduate, diploma and certificate students are required to undertake vacation work each year, for a minimum period of 4 weeks. Students will be assisted with finding suitable vacation work in relation to their studies.

On completion of their studies, students will also be required to take up employment within the citrus industry, for a period of time equal to their bursary award.

Applications can be submitted online at: <https://www.citrusacademy.co.za/bursary-fund/apply-online>

CLOSING DATE: 15 September 2020





LAUNCH OF THE

World Citrus Organisation

In February this year, the World Citrus Organisation (WCO) was officially founded at the international fresh produce trade show Fruit Logistica in Berlin. The WCO is the first global platform aimed at increasing coordination, dialogue and action between citrus producing countries across the world.

The founding members of the organisation represent 70% of citrus growers worldwide: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and USA.

The ultimate aim of the WCO is to claw back market share taken by other organised fresh produce sectors and to get more people to consume citrus across the world.

Members of the WCO have agreed It will focus on:

- Discussing common issues affecting citrus producing countries;
- Exchanging information on production and market trends to prepare for the next decade - 2030;
- Fostering dialogue on policy issues of common concern;
- Identifying and promoting Research and Innovation projects specific to the citrus sector;
- Liaising with public and private stakeholders on citrus-related matters to highlight the importance

of citrus producers and the need for a fair return; and

- Promoting the global consumption of citrus.

At its founding meeting, the WCO unanimously appointed the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa and the Spanish Lemon and Grapefruit Interbranch Association, AILIMPO, as WCO co-chairpersons for a period of two years.

South Africa has played a leading role in the formation of the WCO, and through its co-chairmanship, will continue spearheading a new path for the sector where citrus producing countries work together to promote the industry.

It is envisaged that South Africa's membership of the WCO will contribute towards further exports to the rest of the world, and as a result, help create local jobs and increased economic growth in our agricultural sector.

An official website for the WCO has also been launched and can be visited at:

<https://worldcitrusorganisation.org>.

The website provides a detailed overview of member states, citrus market trends, public reports and other useful facts and figures for South African citrus growers.