

CITRUS

R10 million expansion for Coega cold storage facility

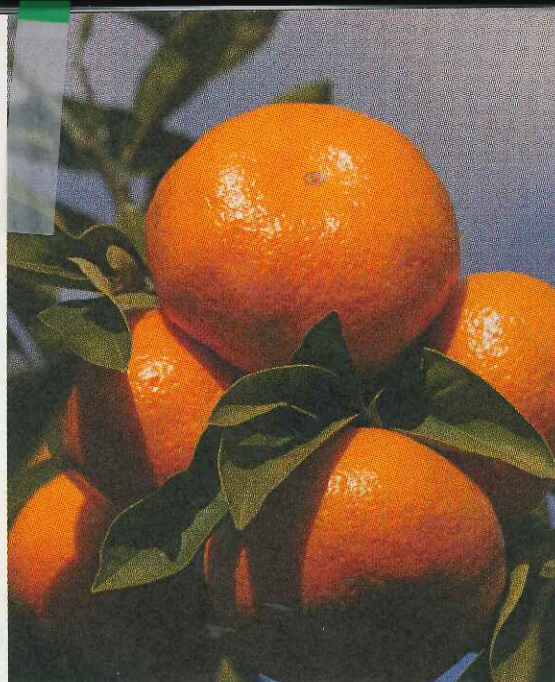
The PE Cold Storage plant has made a further R10 million investment in its facility at the Coega Special Economic Zone in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, following the R100 million expansion programme that was completed last year.

The latest expansion will double the facility's storage capacity from a total of 7 500 pallets to about 15 000 pallets.

George Efstratiou, director of PE Cold Storage, said that due to the expansion of the storage facility, greater volumes of citrus could be handled to accommodate the increasing production of this fruit in the province.

According to a recent report by the Citrus Growers' Association, producers in the Eastern Cape exported 29 million cartons of 15kg each in 2017, while exports for 2018 were estimated at 35 million cartons.

It was expected that total citrus exports for 2018 for Southern Africa, including



Swaziland and Zimbabwe, would be 133 million cartons, up from 122 million cartons in 2017, the report said.

Efstratiou said that the Coega project, which had been set for completion by the end of April, "will see the company play a critical role in the refrigeration and short-term storage of citrus products before distribution to markets around the world".

"Currently, we have over 100 people employed at PE Cold Storage facilities. As a result of the expansion, we have managed to create an additional five permanent jobs and a further 25 construction jobs," he said. – *Siyanda Sishuba*

ABOVE:
An increase in citrus production destined for the export market has placed pressure on cold storage facilities at ports around South Africa.
FW ARCHIVE

MOHAIR

Record price for mohair clip

The fourth summer mohair sale not only built on the good performance of the previous three sales of the season, but produced a new record-high average price for a complete mohair clip. The EGT-tested clip of the CF Conradie Trust, Murraysburg, sold for an average price of R358,42/kg.

"Mohair prices have continued to climb since November, underlining the strong demand for the fibre," said Pierre van der Vyver, manager of mohair at the OVK/CMW Group.

Harry Hobson from the Pearston/Graaff-Reinet area achieved the highest

price of the day of R448,10/kg for a bale of good-style, B-length 24-micron summer kids' mohair with a clean yield of 88,8%.

The quality of the offering was still surprisingly good, despite the drought, said Van der Vyver.

A total of 146 719kg was on offer, and a 100% sales clearance was achieved, resulting in the market indicator increasing 5,2% to close at R269,25/kg.

Although kids' outsorts mohair traded slightly lower, the demand for good-quality kids' mohair was strong, resulting in the indicator for this class increasing 8,6%. – *Roelof Bezuidenhout*