

**FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (03/25)**

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Justin Chadwick 17 January 2025



***“Leadership is building a team so strong that even the impossible becomes possible” Anon***

### **A NEW ERA FOR CITRUS GROWERS’ ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AS DR. BOITSHOKO NTSHABELE TAKES OFFICE AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

I have known Dr Ntshabele for many years, and I am thrilled that he has accepted the post of CEO of the CGA. His ability to calmly assess and reason, as well as his diplomacy, will be a huge asset to the CGA as the industry strives to continue on its growth path during more and more uncertain times. I wish Dr Ntshabele well as he takes the organisation forward.

Dr Ntshabele will take office on February 1, 2025 and we will work side by side in February and March in order to ensure a smooth transition.

Dr Ntshabele has extensive experience spanning the areas of academia, the private sector and the public sector. For the past five years he has been the Director Biosecurity at the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). Originally trained as a veterinarian, Dr Ntshabele has also held leadership positions at Onderstepoort Biological Products. He was the Minister Counsellor Agriculture in the South African Embassy to Belgium, Luxemburg and the Mission to the European Union from 2015 to 2019.

His successful track record in management, policy development, international engagement and negotiation positions him as a knowledgeable advocate for the interests of local citrus growers. The South African citrus industry is largely export-orientated and brings in over R30 billion a year in foreign revenue for the country.

"I am looking forward to help shape the future of the local citrus industry. This is a crucial time for the sector. We must make sure that the projected growth in citrus production is translated into increased economic opportunities. A key to achieving that is expanding market access for our growers," says Dr Ntshabele.

"Continued focus on sustainability is a priority as well. I have always believed true sustainability is of little meaning if it does not embrace inclusive growth. In this area it is important for the citrus industry to continue building on the exceptional work it has done. If all obstacles are removed, Southern African citrus can create even more significant economic opportunities for all," Dr Ntshabele continued.

Gerrit van der Merwe, the Chairperson of the CGA, says: "We are enthusiastic to start this new chapter in the CGA's history with Dr Ntshabele. He has our full confidence and support."

I have been incredibly fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity to be CEO for the past 25 years, and I have no doubt that Dr Ntshabele will take the CGA from strength to strength.

### **CGA PRE-SUMMIT TOUR ENTRIES CLOSE SOON**

Don't miss out on the highly anticipated Pre-Summit Tour on 10 & 11 March 2025 - spaces are filling up and the last date for registration, 7 February 2025, is fast approaching!

This exclusive tour offers a unique opportunity to explore key industry assets, organisations and government structures that are shaping the citrus industry in southern Africa. Everything from the Citrus Foundation Block and new Seed Farm, to orchards, juicing plants, cold stores and container terminals will be covered. Gain valuable insights from those working on the ground and connect with like-minded industry professionals. It's the perfect mix of learning, networking, and unforgettable experiences.

Register now to secure your spot and be part of this exciting journey. Learn more here:

<https://cgasummit.co.za/pre-summit-tour/>

For those who have not yet registered for the CGA Citrus Summit, please do not wait too long– the number of seats is restricted to the capacity of the venue – once we get to capacity, registrations will close.

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