

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (10/24)

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Justin Chadwick 8 March 2024



“We can ignore reality, but we cannot ignore the consequences of reality” Ayn Rand

CGA GROWER ROADSHOWS ARE A WRAP

Paul’s Final Report: One clear benefit of traveling end to end across South Africa on CGA Roadshows, all within two weeks, is the heightened appreciation for the diversity and beauty of the South African landscape. We live in an amazing corner of the world. And excellent citrus is grown here – in Ashton, in Citrusdal and in Kakamas. Team B travelled to these small towns to conclude Week 2 of the CGA Roadshows. The interaction with growers was enjoyed and valuable. This was the first time on roadshows for Precious Kunota (Data Analyst) and Albert Coetzee (Industry Affairs Manager), whereas for Paul Hardman, Vaughan Hattingh (CRI), Sive Silo (Citrus Academy), Dave Watts (Logistics Consultant), Sean Thackarey (RBX) and Jonny Roberts (CGA Cultivar Company) it was about connecting with familiar growers and meeting new ones. Paul would like to thank this team for all their inputs over the two weeks, and thank you to all the growers that participated to shape YOUR organization to create a brighter citrus industry future. Thanks also to Tanya for making it all work.

And from the A Team: Nkwalini was the last call for the A Team and we had a great turnout from the KZN region with growers travelling from Pongola and the Midlands. Thanks to Mike Woodburn (CGA Director KZN) for making the trip and your leadership. There were good discussions followed by another excellent braai and drinks.

VISION 260 – MSC INVESTS IN COLD STORE FACILITIES IN DURBAN REGION

On Thursday evening there was great fanfare as MSC celebrated the opening of the very impressive MEDLOG cold store facility – the first such facility that MSC has built in the world. Managing Director Rosario Sarno addressed the guests and stressed the importance of South Africa to MSC – reminding guests of the long history and close ties that MSC has to shipping in the country. Team work and relationships were the core theme of his address. MSC South Africa Chairman, Captain Salvatore Sarno, and his wife Sandra, cut the ribbon to mark the opening. One element of Vision 260 (growth in local citrus exports to 260 million cartons by 2032) is the availability of cold stores to handle the future volume. This R350 million cold store is a significant development in ensuring this future capacity as it can accommodate 10 000 pallets and is less than 10 km from the Port of Durban.

To mark the event Soren Toft (CEO of MSC) travelled to South Africa to take part in the celebrations and address the guests. He reminded everyone that the first MSC vessel sailed to Durban in 1971. A large part of the growth of the southern African citrus industry is due to MSC shipping services, ensuring that good quality citrus was delivered timeously to all corners of the globe. The company calls at 520 ports in 150 countries – allowing a good spread of our citrus.

The importance of this investment to the province was recognised by the guest of honour, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube who addressed the guests and welcomed the improvement in the supply chain and support for perishable, time sensitive and temperature sensitive cargo.

PORT INDABA

Thank you to all the growers, presenters, value chain partners, stakeholders and role-players who attended the CGA Port Indaba on Friday. In particular, Krish Reddy, who presented on behalf of Business For South Africa on the National Logistics Crisis Committee, AJ Griesel who gave the view of the table grape industry (and their plans), Theo Boshoff (Agbiz) covering legal aspects and Mitchell Brooke (CGA) who assessed the readiness of the ports for the 2024 citrus season. This Indaba will be covered in more detail next week.

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’ ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA