

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (49/21)

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Justin Chadwick 10 December 2021



“ It isn’t where you came from. It’s where you’re going that counts.” Ella Fitzgerald

SABBATICAL

After 20 years’ service the CGA Board awarded me long leave in October and November. I would like to thank the Board for allowing my wife and I to realise our lifelong dream of travelling through the southern African region. It was our first overlanding experience – travelling 12 000 km through Botswana and Namibia. I know many of you are seasoned overlanders, and I am sure you share the view that we live in a beautiful part of the world, full of beautiful people. After staring into the camp fire for many a night I come back refreshed and invigorated to get into the hot seat and take up some of the many challenges that face this industry. I would also like to thank Paul Hardman for stepping up as Acting CEO, and allowing me to take the break. The end of the season was not easy, and the different issues that arose were well handled. Indeed, thanks to all CGA staff and to CGA members for affording me this opportunity.

ROADSHOWS 2022

The fact that COVID has meant a stop in many physical engagements wears heavily on many – the ability to call a meeting, to jump on a plane and visit a client or member, the opportunity to have a chat over a cup of coffee or a dinner, has largely been impossible for most of 2020 and now in 2021. This has been particularly difficult for those in the fresh produce industry; the international marketing of fresh produce relies heavily on the relationship between buyer and seller, networks and relationships have been built up over years of visiting each other, and meeting on international trade platforms. Although we should be thankful that virtual platforms like Zoom and Teams means that we get to see each other (and it is not just a voice on the other end of the line), this cannot replace a physical meeting – the firm handshake, the hug, the pat on the back, the approving nod or the disapproving scowl. We all look forward to the day when we can all get together again.

With COVID in mind the CGA Board took a decision to postpone the popular CGA Citrus Summit from March 2022 to March 2023. As staff of CGA we value the opportunity to engage with CGA members, and a decision has been taken to continue with roadshows in March 2022, where staff of the CGA Group of companies will get out to the regions. We will communicate dates and venues as soon as they are finalized. We will monitor COVID, and should there be any untoward risk we will revert to a virtual platform.

CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Dr Mono Mashaba took up the position as Chairman of the CGA Grower Development Company when it was formed in 2016. He brought with him a wealth of knowledge in the transformation field, as well as strong government and international connections. Mono guided the CGA GDC through its initial years as it developed and implemented its strategic plan. The CGA GDC has developed into a strong company in the field of rural development and land reform, and is seen by many as a leader in this field. Dr Mono’s tenure has come to an end and he has stepped off the CGA GDC Board – thank you Mono for your leadership and wisdom.

Ronald Ramabulana replaces Mono as Chairman of CGA GDC. The company is incredibly lucky to have somebody of Ronald’s calibre to fill Mono’s (big) shoes. Ronald comes with experience in the regulatory field, strong expertise in strategic management and an excellent understanding of what needs to be done to keep CGA GDC on its present trajectory.

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