

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (24/23)

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Justin Chadwick 16 June 2023



"In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these" Paul Harvey

CITRUS SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

The next Citrus Sustainability Forum is scheduled for the 4th of July from 09:00; make sure to save the date. The meeting details will be shared closer to the time.

TRACKING LEMON VOLUMES AND PRICES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

During the summer citrus season in the EU, the majority of imported lemons come from Argentina and South Africa, while in-season winter lemons come mostly from Spain. In order to supply the market responsibly, the three countries are monitoring the volumes supplied into the market, and the price trends associated with this supply. This allows exporters to time their supply in accordance with consumer demand. The Lemon Focus Group has held two sessions on this subject – with a third session planned soon. It is important that all those who export lemons to the EU are exposed to this information. If you missed the last meeting, or want to attend the next one, please contact Precious precious@cga.co.za for the recording and link. Recent supplies to the EU have been high, which could impact the market; however, the data does show a slowdown in supply going forward – the heightened supply of the past few weeks could fill the gap over the next few weeks. Demand for lemons is inelastic, therefore any excess of volume has big difficulty in being quickly absorbed by the market. Safresco (ex-San Miguel Fresh) is collaborating with CGA in this analysis.

COMRADES MARATHON

A few years ago I was travelling from Joburg to Durban and happened to sit next to Khuliso Mulaudzi – DALRRD inspector. In a déjà vu experience, I sat next to Khuliso again last Friday – flying back to Durban to run his fifth Comrades Marathon – which he finished in a respectable time. Looking at the results I saw another familiar name from DALRRD – Dr Boitshoko Ntshabele who completed his fourth Comrades.

For us in KZN, the Comrades is a type of religion – if you run you have to do Comrades. This year I watched at Winston Park, just at the second cut-off mark after 60km. It is a truly amazing spectacle – 20 000 runners migrating from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. It is dubbed as The Ultimate Human Race and for good reason – there are humans of all shapes and sizes, races and nationalities. The runners stream past in various states of ecstasy and pain. And the spectators are an integral part of the race – singing and dancing, rubbing legs, and providing encouragement and nourishment. It is truly an amazing event that unites all South Africans.

I was wondering how many of the citrus family have actually completed the Comrades, I know quite a few – Gary Britz from the exporters' side has completed eleven with a best time of 8.17 in 1991; in the CGA office there are six between Tanya, Paul, and myself; while on the CGA board, Mike Woodburn has two. To acknowledge those in the citrus industry who have achieved a Comrades medal please send me your name, company name, number run, and best time achieved; send to justchad@iafrica.com so that you can get the acknowledgement you deserve.

And the citrus industry played its part in the Comrades – 4.5 tons of oranges were consumed by runners on the day; good nutritious energy that got them to the end.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 23 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023	2023	2023	2022
Grapefruit	14.7 m	12.7 m	10.1 m	8.8 m	8.1 m	14.4 m	14.3 m	16.7 m
Mandarins	10.4 m	9.9 m	12.7 m	6.0 m	9.7 m	34.1 m	34.3 m	31.8 m
Lemons	16.0 m	16.7 m	19.4 m	12.8 m	16.6 m	37.3 m	37.1 m	34.7 m
Navels	11.0 m	7.8 m	7.9 m	2.5 m	4.0 m	25.3 m	24.8 m	27.8 m
Valencia	1.5 m	0.9 m	1.5 m	0.1 m	0.6 m	54.5 m	53.1 m	53.8 m
Total	53.6 m	48.0 m	51.6 m	30.2 m	39.0 m	165.6 m	163.6 m	164.8 m

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