

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (26/23)

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“Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable” Sidney J Harris

ORANGE HEART FRUIT DRIVE

As we get into the heart of the season, the CGA requests those with fruit that is surplus to their marketing programs, to consider donating that fruit to the less fortunate – we will arrange all the logistics. Through the Orange Heart Fruit Drive, forty-six tonnes of fruit have already been donated. We are also aware of others who have donated to different platforms. Please advise Sive if you have donated fruit elsewhere so that we can keep a tally (and thank you for your generosity). Growers are reminded to please contact sive@citrusacademy.org.za if they would like to make a donation towards this initiative.

SERVICE PROVIDER DATABASE

The Citrus Academy gathers information about learning providers active in citrus production regions, as an accessible reference source to employers in the industry. To see who is doing training in your area, visit the Citrus Academy website <https://citrusacademy.org.za/service-provider-registration-submission/>

COMRADES MARATHON: THE RESULTS (FINAL)

More crazy Comrades runners revealed themselves this week. PPECB had two runners in 2023 – Zaheer Hoosen completed his sixth, while Thabile Langa did his fifth. They join PPECB Comrades veteran Vijan Chetty who has run 13. FPEF Chairman Mark Jensen ran 2 back in the '90s, while CGA Hoedspruit Director, Tommie Landman, ran two back in '89 and '92. Also from the exporter sector, Kenny Beeton ran two in 2009 and 2010. Thanks for the information and well done on running the Ultimate Human Race.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

The June CMF attracted over 80 participants and was well-chaired by Paul Hardman – keeping to under one hour. Portia gave a good overview of the season to date, assisted by some of the Variety Focus Group members. Werner van Rooyen (FPEF) and Gary Britz gave some feedback from the markets.

Of particular interest was the reduction of the predicted crop from various Variety Focus Groups.

Lemon Focus Group members cite climatic conditions as impacting and reducing the anticipated volume by 1.6 million cartons – late rains in the north impacted early shipping and fruit drop; rains in the Eastern and Western Cape impacted packing choices between lemons, oranges, and mandarins, while delayed colour development also had an impact. In addition – many growers did not pack “bookend” counts or class two. Elevated freight rates also keep a brake on exports.

The Valencia Focus Group has decreased their prediction by 1.4 million cartons; navels by 500 000 cartons and grapefruit (already at a low level) by 100 000 cartons. Mandarins had a small increase of 200 000 cartons. Caution must be taken when comparing 2023 with the 2022 season (in fact it is better to use 2021 for comparison). Many factors led to an extremely slow start to the season in 2022 – Durban floods closed the port, the Russian invasion of Ukraine spread uncertainty, and labour strikes stopped packing in the Eastern Cape. The decrease in predicted crop brings the total to a level lower than achieved in 2022.

End of Week 25 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	15.9 m	13.6 m	11.2 m	10.8 m	9.1 m	14.4 m	14.3 m	16.7 m
Mandarins	13.6 m	12.8 m	15.5 m	9.5 m	11.9 m	34.1 m	34.3 m	31.8 m
Lemons	19.0 m	20.5 m	23.8 m	17.4 m	19.7 m	37.3 m	35.7 m	34.7 m
Navels	14.7 m	12.7 m	11.6 m	7.2 m	7.2 m	25.3 m	24.8 m	27.8 m
Valencia	4.6 m	3.2 m	3.7 m	1.0 m	1.5 m	54.5 m	53.1 m	53.8 m
Total	67.8 m	62.8 m	65.8 m	45.9 m	49.4 m	165.6 m	162.2 m	164.8 m

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