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| |  | | --- | | CGA_Eng_Fax_logo_72  ***FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (17/18)***  **(Follow me on Twitter justchad\_cga)**  *Justin Chadwick 27 April 2018* | |  |   ***“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” Mahatma Gandhi***  **LEADERSHIP AT FRUIT SOUTH AFRICA**  I am really privileged to be appointed as Vice Chairman of Fruit South Africa, as Bongi Njobe takes over as Fruit South Africa Chair. Bongi was an effective DG under Minister Thoko Didisa – as DG she assisted the South African citrus industry to get access to the Chinese market back in 2004. This is the first time that FSA will be chaired by somebody other than the five founding members (CGA, HORTGRO, SATI, FPEF and SUBTROP). As such, Bongi will bring a fresh perspective and input from her experience in other industries.  **INDIA**  This past week a Fruit South Africa delegation has been in India – visiting both New Delhi and Mumbai.  Exports to India have been constrained by a requirement that does not allow in-transit cold treatment. After two successful pilot shipments of both pears and oranges, the final acceptance to allow in-transit cold treatment is imminent. Apple and grapefruit trial shipments have also been conducted, and once two such trials have been successfully cleared, they too could be granted clearance for in-transit treatment. This should promote an increase in citrus exports to India. Indian mango and table grape access to the South African market is also expected to be concluded in the near future.  The other trade inhibitor is the high tariffs charged on fruit imports into India. For years now, South Africa (and the SADEC partners) have been in discussions regarding a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). Embassy officials expressed the view that the upcoming BRICS Summit in South Africa in mid-2018 may give some impetus to these ongoing discussions.  After a poor year in 2016, largely as a result of the drought affected drop in the South African Valencia crop, 2017 bounced back to a record export volume to India, albeit a small increase on the 2015 volume.  What is noticeable is that the 2017 season included all the citrus sectors, although the volumes of all other sectors were well short of the Valencia volumes.  Given the factors that are beneficial for fruit exports to India (large population, rising middle class, vegetarian culture), the volumes are way short of the potential. Many feel that solving the in transit treatment issue will result in increased volumes.  **PACKED AND SHIPPED**  To date 6.1 million cartons have been packed – 3.4 m lemons, 1.7 m soft citrus and 1 m grapefruit. This compares to 6 million cartons in 2017, and 5.8 m in 2016. Of the packed fruit, 4.1 million cartons have been shipped – 1.6 m lemons, 1 m soft citrus and 0.5 m grapefruit.  **CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS** |