

“Life is a sum of all your choices. So, what are you doing today?” Albert Camus

BOTSWANA CITRUS GROWERS JOIN THE CITRUS GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) is proud to announce that citrus growers in Botswana have become members of our organisation, joining over 1400 from South Africa, Eswatini and Zimbabwe. With the addition of Botswana, the CGA now represents just over 1564 citrus growers in Southern Africa.

The CGA hopes to help maximise the long-term profitability and sustainability of Botswana growers, by providing them with increased access to global markets, assisting them to optimise the cost effective production of high quality fruit from their region and making industry resources available to them including the latest research from globally recognised Citrus Research International (CRI).

There are currently 164 citrus growers in Botswana, with 94% of these being small-scale farmers that produce citrus in under 5 hectares and the remaining 6% falling into the category of medium to large scale farmers. The sector currently supports just over 1000 jobs, with 75% of employees being female.

We are thrilled to welcome Botswana citrus growers to our association. Supporting small-scale growers is one of the main focus areas of the CGA and its Grower Development Company - we look forward to sharing our knowledge and expertise with Botswana growers. Southern African growers have become renowned for their excellent quality fruit, which is the result of a major investment in research and innovation over the past few years and we look forward to continue expanding the CGA footprint to other African countries.

Johan van Vuuren, the Operational Manager at Selebi Phikwe Citrus, one of the biggest citrus farms in Botswana states that “Joining the CGA is a great achievement when it comes to unlocking opportunities for citrus growers in our country. Our farmers and labour force face several challenges when it comes to accessing critical industry resources to improve and grow the sector. By becoming members of the CGA, Botswana citrus growers will now be able to unlock increased access to these critical resources and support structures to ensure the continued growth of the industry, farms and businesses. We look forward to using the CGA as a platform to share and absorb knowledge from others who have more experience in this line of work.” The CGA remains committed to representing and furthering the interests of citrus growers across Southern Africa so they remain key economic contributors in their respective countries.

CITRUS PHYTOSANITARY MARKET REGISTRATION AND TREE CENSUS

South African citrus growers are required to register with DALRRD citrus orchard being prepared for export markets each year. The following registration dates have now been released by DALRRD for the 2023 export season. **Refresher Webinar for PhytClean users:** 20 October 2022. **Registration Start Date:** 31 October 2022. **Registration Closing Date:** 18 November 2022. **Correction/amendments by growers/packing houses:** 24 November to 02 December 2022. CGA will also be using this data to gather Tree Census information. This is particularly important information right now given the shifts in tree planting patterns and areas under citrus. Growers are urged to record this data accurately as the consolidated data will provide a picture of the direction the citrus is moving in and will help the industry make better decisions about infrastructure needs etc.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 38 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2020	2021	2022	2021	2022	2022	2022	2021
Grapefruit PP (17kg)		2.7 m	2.6 m	2.3 m	2.0 m			
Grapefruit Class1&2 (17kg)		12.8 m	12.1 m	12.8 m	11.0 m			
Grapefruit	16.0 m	17.5 m	16.7 m	17.2 m	14.8 m	16.8 m	16.8 m	17.5 m
Mandarins	23.4 m	30.6 m	31.5 m	28.2 m	31.3 m	34.5 m	33.8 m	30.9 m
Lemons	28.0 m	30.6 m	34.4 m	28.9 m	33.2 m	32.3 m	34.6 m	31.0 m
Navels	26.0 m	27.0 m	27.5 m	26.7 m	26.5 m	28.7 m	27.6 m	27.2 m
Valencia	47.2 m	51.9 m	51.4 m	43.0 m	45.6 m	58.2 m	53.9 m	55.0 m
Total	140.7 m	157.6 m	161.5 m	144.0 m	151.4 m	170.5 m	166.7 m	161.6 m