

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (43/23)

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Justin Chadwick 27 October 2023



"It's more purposeful when you don't do something only for yourself but when adding other people that you don't even know or have never even met, when you start playing for others" Siya Kolisi

GO BOKKE

I missed both the quarter and semi-finals of the Rugby World Cup as I was flying at the times that the games were played. It's probably a good thing as I don't think my nerves would have taken the tension of both one-point match wins. Too often I have witnessed my "kant" (side) lose in the last minute – it was good to come out on the right "kant" side. For this week, may the best "kant" (side) win – as long as that is the Bok "kant" (side).

AREND VENTER

In March this year, Arend Venter was recognized as a Citrus Legend at the CGA Citrus Summit. It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Arend this week. Arend touched the lives of many in the citrus industry – and his hard work formed the basis for a successful citrus industry. He will be missed.

USA

Next week all eyes will be on Johannesburg as South Africa hosts the AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act) Summit. Being in Washington this week allowed me the opportunity to meet with both the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

Since 1998 South Africa has exported citrus to the USA from the Northern and Western Cape, growing from 200 000 cartons (15 kg) to over 60 000 tonnes. AGOA comes up for review in 2025, and as always there is concern about renewal and continued South African inclusion. AGOA is important to existing growers who enjoy duty-free access to the US market. This puts South Africa on an equal footing with southern American competitors who also have preferential trade agreements. AGOA is not a trade agreement, which means that it needs to be renewed once the term ends (in this case ten years from 2015 to 2025). It is hoped that the renewal will be secured soon so as to ensure confidence in exports going forward. In the longer term, the citrus industry would prefer a trade agreement to be concluded as that would be more secure and could include many aspects other than just tariffs.

For the rest of the country – representing 85% of the industry – US access is awaiting the conclusion of the final rule for importation of citrus fruit from areas with CBS – a final rule that was concluded in 2016 but has yet to be signed (a process that normally takes six months). There is hope that this issue will also be discussed during the AGOA Summit deliberations. The wider access to the USA is particularly important for the mandarin sector, as plantings in Limpopo and Eastern Cape are now bearing export quality fruit. Importers of mandarins in the USA have indicated a preference for summer citrus from South Africa, which does not impact domestic US supplies and ensures consumers remain loyal to the mandarin category throughout the year.

CITRUS COORDINATING MEETING

For many years DALRRD have held a citrus coordinating meeting which allowed a post-mortem of the previous season, and planning for the following season. In a letter from DALRRD's DDG Serage, CGA has been informed that there will be no coordinating meeting in 2023. In that letter, the DDG states that "we will be arranging meetings directly with growers to provide post-season feedback". Growers who have not been contacted by DALRRD should contact DDG Serage at SerageD@Dalrrd.gov.za for information usually covered at the coordinating meeting.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 42 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	20.3 m	16.7 m	14.7 m	14.9 m	13.9 m	14.4 m	14.7 m	16.7 m
Mandarins	30.7 m	31.8 m	37.9 m	31.8 m	37.8 m	34.1 m	37.9 m	31.8 m
Lemons	31.1 m	34.7 m	35.6 m	34.1 m	35.0 m	37.3 m	35.6 m	34.7 m
Navels	27.2 m	27.8 m	24.7 m	27.4 m	24.6 m	25.3 m	24.7 m	27.8 m
Valencia	55.3 m	53.8 m	52.0 m	50.0 m	50.1 m	54.5 m	52.1 m	53.8 m
Total	164.6m	164.8m	164.9m	158.2 m	161.4 m	165.6 m	165.0 m	164.8 m

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'