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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | ***FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (12/19)***  **(Follow me on Twitter justchad\_cga)**  *Justin Chadwick 22 March 2019* | CGA_Eng_Fax_logo_72 | | | ***“I’m all in favor of keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of fools. Let’s start with typewriters” Solomon Short*** | | | **THE 2019 CITRUS MARKETING FORUM’S 2019 ESTIMATE UNPACKED**  John Edmonds has released the detail of the Southern African Crop Estimate that was confirmed by export agents, growers and other value chain.  When compared to the actual volumes packed for export in 2018, there is a mixed bag of results. Both grapefruit (-9%) and valencia’s (-3%) are down – ascribed to climatic conditions. These estimates come with an explanation that in the event of good, late summer rains, things could change. Those interested are urged to keep sight of the predictions as updated by the Focus Groups during the season.  Soft citrus volumes are up by 13%. Although Satsuma’s are down (-2%) all other categories show increased expectations. This is led by late mandarins, increasing by 22% to 8.5 million tons. Clementines show a 9% increase (to 3.1 m), nova 8% (to 3.7 m) and other mandarins increase by 16% to 1 million cartons.  **CITRUS PRE-SEASON WORKSHOPS**  PPECB and DAFF are holding the pre-season meetings for the 2019 export season across the country. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR EXPORTERS AND PACKHOUSES INTENDING TO EXPORT TO EU. Meetings are as follows: \* Groblersdal 25/3 Raasblaar 10h00-13h30 \*Tzaneen 26/3 Country Lodge 10h00-13h30 \*Hoedspruit 27/3 Blue Mountain Restaurant 10h00-13h30 \*Nelspruit 28/3 Venue TBA 10h00-13h30 \*Durban 2/4 The Jewish Club 09h00-14h30 \*Western Cape 5/4 Stellenbosch Venue TBA 10h00-12h00.  **CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY,**  **CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY THE**  **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS** | | |  | | |  | | |