***FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (11/21)***

**(Follow me on Twitter justchad\_cga)**

*Justin Chadwick 26 March 2021*

|  |
| --- |
| ***“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new” Albert Einstein*** |

**ORANGE HEART FRUIT DRIVE**

In 2020, more than 1,500 tonnes of citrus fruit was donated through the Orange Heart Fruit Drive to households that became vulnerable to food shortages due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Food shortages will continue to be a challenge to many households in South Africa, and we again need your help to play our part in addressing this challenge. The CGA has created a platform, on the Orange Heart website, where growers and packhouses can pledge their support for the coming season. Donations will be distributed through Food Forward SA this season. For more information, please visit [www.orangeheart.co.za/fruit/](http://www.orangeheart.co.za/fruit/) or contact sive@citrusacademy.org.za.

 **ORANGE HEART VACCINATION DRIVE**

Covid-19 has caused massive damage to the South African economy and is still creating great uncertainty. We all need to work together to bring back a measure of normality as soon as possible, and the best way to do this is to fast-track vaccinations. The Department of Health is currently working on developing a vaccination rollout plan. The citrus industry can help in two ways – by pledging to contribute financially to the cost of vaccines for their own staff, and secondly, by making available a farm clinic or other facility where vaccines can be administered. Finding and securing sufficient facilities is the greatest priority at the moment, and we need to gather information on available sites. Please go to [www.orangeheart.co.za/vaccine/](http://www.orangeheart.co.za/vaccine/) to register your interest in participating, or contact sive@citrusacademy.org.za.

**AGRI’S GOT TALENT**

In 2019, the first year of the CGA’s involvement, Agri’s Got Talent was won by Nonkululeko Sambo of KMI Citrus Farming in Nelspruit. In 2020, Sivenathi Ndzakayi from the CRI’s Foundation Block in Uitenhage was a finalist, and was voted the crowd favourite. In 2021, we must again do what we can to show the rest of the fruit industry that the citrus industry has the most talent! Entries for Agri’s Got Talent 2021 is open now. Please encourage all of your staff to enter, by going to [www.www.agrisgottalent.com](http://www.www.agrisgottalent.com).

**WEEKLY STATISTIC: BFAP LOOK AT AGRICULTURE’S ROLE IN GDP OF SOUTH AFRICA**



The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) recently published figures on different sectors contribution to agricultural GDP growth, this after agriculture bucked the trend and expanded production by 13,1% in 2020.

The maize industry was a significant leader with a contribution of about 28%. This was followed by eggs at about 13%, and citrus at around 10%