

“The world’s strongest animals are plant eaters. Gorillas, Buffaloes, Elephants and me” Patrick Baboumian

TRANSNET FREIGHT RAIL (TFR) ACHIEVES A MILESTONE (Mitchell Brooke)

This past season, TFR achieved a milestone record by transporting 66 train lots and 3,662 FEU reefer containers from Tzaneen, Bela Bela and City Deep to Durban. This is a whopping 20% increase from 2020 despite known challenges on the container rail corridor (between Kingsrest and Johannesburg). The end goal in terms of the CGA rail strategy is to transport more than 15,000 reefer containers from the reef to ports for export, this is just to offset the foreseen 20% increased demand for supply of road trucks by 2025. A way to go to reach the target but progress is being made. The CE for TFR, MS Sizakele Mzimele presented a progress report on the container corridor this past week to the Durban Port Consultative Committee (DPCC). She highlighted the challenges but also laid out a plan on how they intend to fix these issues and begin to grow volumes in the near future. We would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the TFR team and all industry stakeholders for their exceptional performance in reaching this goal, and for the daily reefer train operational updates that were presented at the Transnet National Working Committee meetings.

THANKS TO STAFF AT TRANSNET PORT TERMINALS (TPT) FOR KEEPING THE WHEELS OF THE INDUSTRY TURNING (Mitchell Brooke)

A previous newsletter highlighted the challenges facing the Transnet Group at this present time. The GCE, Ms Portia Derby probably has one of the biggest challenges facing an Executive in South Africa at this time. That being said, we would also like to extend a sincere vote of gratitude to all the management, planning and operations staff that showed dedication and commitment in ensuring the citrus industry achieved its goal of exporting around 162 million cartons or 92,000 FEU reefer containers (final figures still to be confirmed) in 2021. We can all acknowledge the immense challenges that TPT faced this year, but despite this the level of commitment and communication (including the Citrus WhatsApp group which was a fundamental component in this) is what got the industry through it all in the end. Some lessons have been learnt and this we can apply heading towards the 2022 Citrus season.

New Chair of CGA-GDC

At the CGA Grower Development Company Board meeting held this week Mr Ronald Ramabulani was appointed as the new Board Chair, with Mr Andrew Muller appointed as vice-Chair. We wish them well in these new positions and all the best to the entire CGA-GDC Board.

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS:

2 Nov @9h00: Special Market Registration training webinar. **3 Nov:** Special Market Registration open. **18 Nov @9h00:** DALRRD Annual Citrus Coordinating Meeting. **26 Nov:** Special Market Registrations close.

COVID 19 Vaccinations

Administered in last 24 hours = 205 253; total administered = 21 011 187; Individual vaccinated = 14 8568 927 (= 36.61% of adult population). Source: DoH

Packed and Shipped * Using a combination of PPECB and Agrihub data to account for shipping timing

End of Week 41 Million 15kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2020
Grapefruit (17kg)			15.5 m		15.2 m			
Grapefruit	16.8 m	15.0 m	17.5 m	14.1 m	17.2 m	18.0 m	17.6 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	18.2 m	23.7 m	30.9 m	23.2 m	29.2 m	30.5 m	30.8 m	23.6 m
Lemons	22.0 m	28.4 m	30.9 m	26.3 m	29.2 m	30.2 m	30.9 m	29.6 m
Navels	24.3 m	26.0 m	27.2 m	25.1 m	27.2 m*	26.3 m	27.2 m	26.2 m
Valencia	43.8 m	48.1 m	54.7 m	43.5 m	51.2 m*	58.0 m	55.1 m	55.1 m
Total	125.1m	141.2m	161.2m	132.3 m	154.0 m*	163.0 m	161.6 m	150 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