

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (27/21)

(Follow me on Twitter justchad_cga)

Justin Chadwick 23 July 2021



“What a year this week has been” Anon

IMPACT OF CIVIL UNREST ON CITRUS INDUSTRY AND RECOVERY PLAN

UNBELIEVABLE – the return of port operations to full operational capacity can only be termed unbelievable. At the risk of leaving anybody out the citrus industry we would like to thank the following:

TRANSNET: Transnet Port Terminals (TPT), Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) and Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) worked around the clock to get their operations up and running. The NATCOR line started operating on Sunday morning and is operational (albeit some challenges with locos). TPT is operating at full capacity – and extremely efficiently. Thanks to Portia Derby for her leadership, to management for being available to brief industry (including on Saturday and Sunday) while at the same time ensuring staff safety and operational restoration, and to those operating on the ground who, despite the trauma and impact on family life, have returned to work.

COLD STORES: cold stores around the port returned to 100% operations in a short period – staff safety being the biggest concern. Thanks to you for raising awareness of your concerns, giving situational perspective over the weekend and getting operations going 24/7. To the stores just inland of the port – many of whom are still experiencing security concerns - thank you for continuing to operate while the situation normalises around you.

HARBOUR CARRIERS: a critical link in the supply chain heavily impacted by arson and vandalism, thank you for gearing up for 24hr operations. We will continue to work with authorities to get appropriate security in place on the road networks.

PPECB INSPECTORS: safety of inspectors is always paramount – but as soon as you could you were back at your posts ensuring that inspections got done. Without inspections fruit cannot be certified and cannot move. PPECB now working 24/7.

DALRRD INSPECTORS: likewise, DALRRD inspectors are back at their posts and working hard to clear the backlog – phyto certification is essential for cargo movement.

CONTAINER DEPOTS: essential that container depots remain open. They are now operational 24/7 as the backlog is being cleared.

SHIPPING LINES: the disruptions have meant that shipping lines have had to relook at their schedules, and adjust as best possible to ensure fruit can be shipped, while also limiting impact on other ports or their rotation around the globe.

We would like to thank all those who took part in the daily situational analysis and recovery plan meetings – especially those who spent Saturday and Sunday in these meetings. We had 152 people in the meeting on Sunday. The information shared, and plans made were clear and concise. Thank you to Mitchell Brooke for convening these meetings, and ably guiding the meetings as Chairman. From Wednesday these meetings were paused as the situation was largely normalised, and people needed to concentrate on their work.

We would like to thank growers and packhouses who either stopped packing, or slowed down their packing tempo. As a result, the Durban port precinct did not experience much congestion and fruit and containers could flow freely into cold stores, to the terminals and out of the terminals.

Finally, thank you to those who have sent food and fruit for distribution to those in need. The humanitarian impact of this insurrection will play out in the next weeks and months. If you can donate, please contact sive@citrusacademy.org.za.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 28 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2020
Grapefruit (17kg)			13.4 m		11.6 m			
Grapefruit	14.7 m	13.3 m	15.2 m	11.4 m	13.1 m	18 m	17.5 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	11.4 m	14.7 m	23.4 m	12.1 m	14 m	30.5 m	30.7 m	23.6 m
Lemons	16.2 m	22.3 m	23.4 m	19.3 m	20.3 m	30.2 m	26.9 m	29.6 m
Navels	16.8 m	19 m	19.2 m	15.3 m	15 m	26.3 m	24.7 m	26.2 m
Valencia	8 m	10.6 m	10.4 m	5.7 m	6.2 m	58 m	56.4 m	55.1 m
Total	67.1 m	79.9 m	91.6 m	63.8 m	68.6 m	163 m	156.2 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