

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (24/19)

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Justin Chadwick 14 June 2019

“Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value.” Albert Einstein

THIRTY YEARS SERVICE

For an industry to be successful it needs the right people – and if the right people stick around for a long time they make a huge difference. MC Pretorius and Hannes Bester were recently recognised by CRI for thirty years of service to the southern African citrus industry. From the CGA, all growers and the entire citrus industry we would like to add our words of appreciation – thanks for all your dedication and contributions.

FIRST BULK REEFER VESSEL WITH CITRUS DISCHARGES IN CHINA

The Baltic Summer left Durban with great fanfare four weeks ago, and this week she arrived in Shanghai with a reception that only the Chinese can give. Whereas the South African Minister of Agriculture saw her off in Durban – the South African Consular General in Shanghai, Ms Mpho Hlahla, welcomed the Baltic Summer in Shanghai. Also there to witness the arrival was Agricultural Attaché Mashudu Silimela – who commented that “the fruit looks so beautiful and also has a great taste”. Mashudu confirmed that there was a thorough review by the Chinese authorities of the temperature readings and an inspection of the vessel – which was all in order.

TRADE WARS

For anybody doubting the impact of trade wars – 2018 China import of fresh produce should give some pointers. In 2018 China imported 4.86 million tons of produce (a 26% increase over 2017) valued at US\$6.95 billion (a 36% increase). In Value terms the leaders were Chile (US\$ 1.68 billion – 68% increase), Thailand (US\$1.67 billion, 67% increase), Philippines (0.73 billion \$, 42% increase), Vietnam (0.72 billion \$, 12% increase) and New Zealand (0.44 billion \$, 25% increase). South Africa exported fresh produce valued at 0.23 billion \$ – an 8% increase. Conversely, the USA exported 0.27 billion \$ - a decrease of 21%.

Cherries were the biggest sector at US\$1.3 billion (a 69% increase), followed by Durian (1.1 billion US\$, increase 98%). Bananas were at 0.9 billion US\$ - increasing by 54%, while table grapes fell 0.3% to 0.59 billion US\$. Orange imports were 0.44 billion US\$ - a 14% increase over 2017.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

All citrus sectors are lagging 2018 in terms of volume packed and passed for export. The prediction now stands at 2% less than 2018's record crop, and 3% less than the original estimate. Valencia packing will now start to ramp up, and as the fruit is harvested the Valencia Focus Group will be able to update their prediction.

Clementine packing is almost complete (97% of the prediction has been packed), while half the nova's predicted 3.1 million volume are in cartons

Million 15 Kg Cartons to end Week 23	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AgriHub	2017	2018	2019	2018	2019	2019	2019	2018
Grapefruit	11 m	11.7 m	10.7 m	7.6 m	8.2 m	17.1 m	15.5 m	18.8 m
Soft Citrus	6.2 m	6.5 m	6.3 m	5.1 m	4.9 m	18.3 m	17.8 m	16.2 m
Lemons	10.7 m	10.1 m	9.9 m	9.1 m	8 m	22 m	21.4 m	19.9 m
Navels	8.4 m	8.4 m	6.7 m	4.9 m	3.6 m	26.9 m	25.7 m	26.7 m
Valencia	2.1 m	0.5 m	0.4 m	0.1 m	-	52.9 m	52.4 m	54.4 m
Total	38.4 m	37.4 m	34 m	26.8 m	24.7 m	137.2 m	132.8 m	136 m

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