

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (11/20)

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Justin Chadwick 27 March 2020



"Desperate times call for desperate measures" Hippocrates

NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE HELM OF CITRUS GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

I am pleased to announce that a new Executive team has been elected to lead the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) Board for a two-year term.

The CGA Board comprises 20 directors representing 15 grower regions, 2 directors who represent emerging farmers in the north and south regions, a director of government relations and a director who heads up the finance and risk review committee.

Cornel van der Merwe has been elected as the new Chairman. He is Marketing and Packaging Director of citrus and sub-tropical producer and exporter, Komati Fruit. Cornel brings a wealth of experience to his new role having served in various senior management positions in the citrus sector for over ten years. He has also served on the CGA board for eight years.

In order to ensure continuity, outgoing Chairman Ben Vorster will stay on as a Vice Chairman. I would like to thank Ben for his exceptional leadership over the past two years and for his continued service to the industry.

Hannes de Waal, Managing Director of the Sunday River Valley Citrus Company (SRCC), fills the second Vice Chairman position. He is expected to take over as Chairman of the Board in two-year's time.

George Hall and Gerrit van der Merwe have been elected to serve in the two Executive Member positions. Notably, George has represented the Boland citrus growers on the CGA Board for over ten years.

I would like to congratulate the new Executive Members on being elected to their positions.

I would also like to thank Pieter Nortje for his guidance on the Board, as Chairman and as Vice Chairman – he has introduced some initiatives that changes the fortunes of the citrus industry for the better.

I look forward to working with the new Executive team to maximise the long-term competitiveness of the sector and opening and expanding market access across the globe.

The citrus industry is a major economic contributor, employing 120 000 people and generating R20 billion in export revenue. The further growth of the sector will translate into more jobs and revenue for South Africa.

COVID-19 UNCERTAIN TIMES AHEAD

Well that escalated quickly. We are now travelling in uncharted territory. Those in the food production, packing, warehousing and distribution now have a huge responsibility in ensuring consumers have access to essentials. This is a privilege – and not a right; we need to take this responsibility seriously and ensure that those that are still allowed to work are doing so in a safe and healthy environment. Be innovative in making sure workers are not exposed to risk of contamination, invest where you need to in order to keep workers virus free; privileges can be withdrawn.

As the government grapples with the new regulations and requirements, there will be much uncertainty.

Consequences that have not even been thought of will unfold. It would be too much to expect the government to have thought of every possible circumstance and detail. We need to assist by keeping communication open; ask the questions, help with guidance and let us beat this virus. The CGA fully support the President, the Cabinet and all those who are taking these difficult decisions. We will do our best to meet all the expectations of government in both keeping the workforce safe and delivering citrus that is vital for combating flu and colds and boosting immune systems. The northern hemisphere countries are dependent on us in the southern hemisphere to supply citrus at this time – we do not only have a domestic but a global responsibility.

CGA is trying to keep up with events as they unfold by sending out regular memo's – four to date. Please visit

www.cga.co.za. STAY SAFE, STAY AT HOME WHERE POSSIBLE, LETS BEAT THIS VIRUS TOGETHER.

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