

NAVEL FOCUS GROUP

MINUTES OF THE NAVEL FOCUS GROUP TELECONFERENCE HELD AT 11:00 ON 29 MAY 2014

1. Welcome

The chairman, Gabriele Van Eeden welcomed all. He expressed condolences to Philip Dempsey on behalf of the Navel Focus Group on the passing of his father.

2. Present

Gabrie van Eeden	(Chairman)	Western Cape
Hannes de Waal	(Vice Chairman)	Sunday's River Valley
Danie Matthewson		Vaalharts
Eric Nohamba		Citrus Development Chamber
Barry Mildenhall		Eastern Cape Midlands
Charles Rossouw		for H.S, Senwes
Nikolaas Gubitz		Letsitele
John Edmonds		secretariat – CGA

3. Apologies

Hendrik Schoeman	Senwes
Graham Piner	Nelspruit
Phillip Dempsey	Patensie
Graham Barry	(observer – on behalf of CGA)



4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 17 March 2014.

The minutes were approved by Barry Mildenhall, seconded by Hannes de Waal.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes

5.1. Combined Navel and Valencia meetings:

Hannes de Waal had proposed to combine the first Variety Focus Group meeting in the year for Navels and Valencias. The first meeting in Johannesburg had not been well attended as it clashed with other important meetings and players such as Senwes were not able to participate. Gabriele Van Eeden agreed on the point of the first meeting but felt that it was important for the individual commodities to have separate teleconferences during the course of the season. Danie Matthewson agreed but felt that joint teleconferences should be held from time to time, especially now as the Valencia season was starting. Gabriele Van Eeden will speak to Deon Joubert to make arrangements.

6. Projections for 2014

Please refer to the appendix1 below for the latest projections.

Sunday's River Valley: Hannes de Waal left his estimate unchanged but reported that there was more creasing, marks and bigger fruit. Rain was caused about two weeks delay in packing. Pack-outs were okay, peaking on 72, 64, 56, 88. They had about half the volume of small fruit than last year. They expected less CBS than last year due to a more intensive program and fewer days conducive to inoculation.

Senwes: Charles Rossouw confirmed that they were about 10% down on last year and would pack between 6 and 6.4 million cartons. Internal quality is good, there is some granulation and cosmetic defects (average year) so they had more class 2 than normal. The decay situation was good for the high rainfall conditions. However they were still able to meet their programs and the Far East requirements. Counts are varied with a good spread of 88, 72, 64 and 56s. Generally they are a count bigger and have no creasing problems.

Western Cape: Gabriele Van Eeden reported that small fruit characterized their early navels. They had a bigger crop and good internal quality, but creasing problems would offset the bigger crop and thus his estimate remained unchanged. He expected the later varieties (Washingtons) to have better size, peaking on 72, 88 and 64s.

Eastern Cape Midlands: Barry Mildenhall kept their projection the same. Early fruit is smaller peaking 72,88 whilst the mid-season navels will be 72s and 64s. He also reported a lot of creasing and average pack-outs.

Vaalharts: Danie Matthewson reported good pack-outs.

7. Markets

Hannes de Waal said that he was the most bullish about navel prospects that he had been for four years and felt that with the size range of 64, 72 and 56s, markets such as the Middle East and Bangladesh would not receive a normal supply pattern and he expected these markets to be very strong. Far East prices were also strong due to America's early exit. With the USA's freeze and Egypt and Spain sending less fruit there would not be an oversupply of oranges. However he warned growers to be careful initially as there was still quite a lot of small fruit in the market.

Russia was the only exception as they did not favour navels and a lot depended on the climatic conditions there.

Danie Matthewson and Gabriele Van Eeden agreed that the USA market was good with the market relatively empty. Gabriele Van Eeden lamented Western Cape's small sizes under the circumstances.

Charles Rossouw concurred with Hannes de Waal, saying that the Middle East market will be strong for at least the next 3 weeks as Egypt did not have small fruit and Ramadan would be early this year. He also expected Canada and the Far East to be strong markets. He felt that between the North, Eastern Cape and Western Cape, South Africa was well positioned to ensure continuity, supplying the markets through the season and keeping the shelves full.

8. Meeting dates for 2014

The next teleconference will be at 14:00 on 18 June.

Appendix1:

Projection of Navels volume to be packed for Export in 2014 (15kg equivalent cartons.)

CGA Region	2012	2013	2014est.			Total2014Est	Projection 1: 29 May			2014
			Navel	Late Navel (*≥ wk 28)	Cara cara		Navel	Late Navel (*≥wk 28)	Cara cara	
S.R. Valley	6 148 387	6 337 788	3 902 119	2 391 278	385 992	6 679 389	3 902 119	2 391 278	385 992	6 679 389
Senwes	6 003 314	7 121 440	5 178 287	1 141 999	89 005	6 409 291	5 178 287	1 141 999	89 005	6 409 291
W. Cape	6 579 523	6 108 468	3 936 006	2 664 273	129 721	6 730 000	3 936 006	2 664 273	129 721	6 730 000
Patensie	2 923 793	2 584 003	1 779 725	1 022 362	47 913	2 850 000	1 779 725	1 022 362	47 913	2 850 000
Nelspruit	1 262 146	1 537 028	1 029 461	242 482	108 056	1 380 000	1 029 461	242 482	108 056	1 380 000
E. Cape Midlands	758 535	781 641	425 142	340 494	14 365	780 000	425 142	340 494	14 365	780 000
S-KZN	250 082	233 673	176 708	71 237	2 054	250 000	176 708	71 237	2 054	250 000
Boland	321 511	331 646	232 564	103 575	3 861	340 000	232 564	103 575	3 861	340 000
VaalHarts	110 258	172 339	112 079	34 511	3 410	150 000	112 079	34 511	3 410	150 000
Limpopo River	117 922	119 825	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Letsitele	11 093	19 665	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
other	67 953	71 372	169 745	74 727	529	245 000	169 745	74 727	529	245 000
Grand Total	24 554 517	25 418 888	16 941 836	8 086 939	784 905	25 813 680	16 941 836	8 086 939	784 905	25 813 680

