

NAVEL FOCUS GROUP

MINUTES OF THE NAVEL FOCUS GROUP TELECONFERENCE HELD AT 14:00 ON 19 JUNE 2014

1. Welcome

The chairman, Gabriele Van Eeden welcomed all noting that this was a combined teleconference of the Navel and Valencia Focus Groups he invited Valencia Focus Group members to contribute at any time during the first session dealing with navels.

2. Present

Gabrie van Eeden	(Chairman)	Western Cape
Hannes de Waal	(Vice Chairman)	Sunday's River Valley
Graham Piner		Nelspruit
Barry Mildenhall		Eastern Cape Midlands
Hendrik Schoeman		Senwes
Phillip Dempsey		Patensie
Graham Barry		(observer – on behalf of CGA)
Mitchell Brooke		(observer – CGA)
Sonwabo Cera		(observer – CGA)
John Edmonds		secretariat – CGA

Observers from Valencia Focus Group:

Deon Joubert	Sunday's River Valley
Peter Nicholson	Limpopo River
Andrew Muller	Nelspruit
Marisa van den Heever	Senwes
Fanie Meyer	Hoedspruit
Paul Bristow	Zimbabwe
Barend Vorster	Letsitele
Stiaan Engelbrecht	Western Cape
Tertius Meyer	Patensie
George Brown	Swaziland
Bester Snyman	Nkwalini

3. Apologies

Eric Nohamba	Citrus Development Chamber
Danie Matthewson	Vaalharts
Nikolaas Gubitzi	Letsitele

4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 29 May 2014.

The minutes were approved by Graham Piner

5. Matters Arising from Minutes

Apart from convening a joint meeting as requested at the previous meeting, there were no other matters arising.

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 said that the sizes may be a little bigger, peaking on 64, 72, 56,

Senwes: Hendrik Schoeman that they were about 10% to 15% down on last year which was reflected in the estimate. Counts are a little bigger peaking 56, 64 and 72s.

Western Cape: Gabriele Van Eeden reported that small fruit characterized their early navels. They had a bigger crop (maybe 10 to 15% up on last year) but his export estimate remained unchanged due to weather conditions.; later navel varieties peaking a little bigger on 72, 88 and 64s compared to early varieties 88, 105s.

Patensie: Philip Dempsey said that they may be 2 weeks late due to colouring and the novas being late. Quality is good, sizes peaking 64, 72, 56. Estimate unchanged.

Eastern Cape Midlands: Barry Mildenhall kept their projection the same. The effect of frost last week and strong winds still has to be seen. Fruit is smaller peaking 64 and 72s and quality is good.

Deon Joubert concurred with Hannes de Waal that there was definitely more wind marking which lowered pack-outs.

7. Markets

Hannes de Waal said that Europe was mediocre at the current time whilst Middle East and Far East were strong with Egypt supplying less to these markets than last year. Canada is also looking strong. In response to Gabriele Van Eeden's query as to what Middle East may look like in a month's time as previously it had been seen to crash after 4 weeks of valencias; he said that it would be difficult to call. Hendrik Schoeman agreed that the Far East was the strongest market and with the hail and late rain putting a damper on their supply to Hong Kong and China, he expected it to stay strong. He added that Middle East was pulling well and that Russia was bad. Ramadan moving forward is also a bit of a problem. He urged growers to spread their risk and keep a balanced supply to all markets.

Gabrie Van Eeden said that the USA market was good with California out early. The Western Cape peaking on 72 and 88s was a bit of a challenge. **He cautioned growers that strong markets should not be compromised by sending poor quality fruit.**

8. Meeting dates for 2014

The next teleconference will be another joint meeting at 14:00 on 16 July.

Appendix 1:

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

CGA Region	2013	2014est.			Total2014Est	2014 Week 24	Projection 2: 19 June			2014
		Navel	Late Navel (≥ wk 28)	Cara cara		Total Navel	Navel	Late Navel (≥wk 28)	Cara cara	Total 2014
S.R. Valley	6 337 788	3 902 119	2 391 278	385 992	6 679 389	1 868 096	3 902 119	2 391 278	385 992	6 679 389
Senwes	7 121 440	5 178 287	1 141 999	89 005	6 409 291	3 831 490	5 178 287	1 141 999	89 005	6 409 291
W. Cape	6 108 468	3 936 006	2 664 273	129 721	6 730 000	1 885 113	3 936 006	2 664 273	129 721	6 730 000
Patensie	2 584 003	1 779 725	1 022 362	47 913	2 850 000	559 625	1 779 725	1 022 362	47 913	2 850 000
Nelspruit	1 537 028	1 029 461	242 482	108 056	1 380 000	1 028 475	1 029 461	242 482	108 056	1 380 000
E. Cape Midlands	781 641	425 142	340 494	14 365	780 000	101 835	425 142	340 494	14 365	780 000
S-KZN	233 673	176 708	71 237	2 054	250 000	66 800	176 708	71 237	2 054	250 000
Boland	331 646	232 564	103 575	3 861	340 000	123 405	232 564	103 575	3 861	340 000
VaalHarts	172 339	112 079	34 511	3 410	150 000	87 220	112 079	34 511	3 410	150 000
Limpopo River	119 825	-	-	-	-	62 006	-	-	-	-
Letsitele	19 665	-	-	-	-	21 241	-	-	-	-
other	71 372	169 745	74 727	529	245 000	23 652	169 745	74 727	529	245 000
Grand Total	25 418 888	16 941 836	8 086 939	784 905	25 813 680	9 658 958	16 941 836	8 086 939	784 905	25 813 680

