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Small fruit sizes hamper citrus exports

10:30 (GMT+2), Thu, Thursday, July 12, 2012

By *Denene Erasmus*

Farmers in Limpopo are likely to export a much smaller volume of citrus this year due to the persistent drought in the area which has resulted in reduced fruit sizes.

This was according to Letsitele citrus farmers and regional director of the Citrus Growers' Association of South Africa (CGA), Ben Vorster. But this is not the only region suffering the effects of adverse weather conditions - farmers from other citrus growing areas have been experiencing similar problems.

According to Justin Chadwick, CEO of the Citrus Growers' Association, the original export crop estimate for all citrus for the 2012 season was just over 102 million cartons (15kg cartons), up from 99 million cartons in 2011, but the latest prediction has indicated a possible decreased to 96 million cartons and he said the final export volume could be even lower.

Read the full story in the 20 July 2012 issue of FW.

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