Japanese observer verifies Cold Treatment for Clementines

Although South Africa has been exporting oranges, grapefruit and lemons to Japan for many years, Clementines were not included in the export protocol. In the late 1990s South Africa applied to commence exporting Clementines to Japan and this initiated a protracted process of research and bilateral negotiations. Accordingly, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) recently sent a scientist to South Africa to observe the execution of a large scale, cold treatment disinfestation trial of Medfly-infested Clementines. A detailed itinerary was finalised between the SA Department of Agriculture and Japan MAFF, with Citrus Research International (CRI) being responsible for conducting the research with funding from the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA). The Japanese observer, Mr Takashi Misumi, arrived in South Africa on 8 June 2005. From 12-15 June he inspected various components of the citrus industry in the Western Cape. On 22 June he inspected citrus production sites in the Onderberg near Malelane and a packhouse at Hectorspruit. The rest of the time was spent at the CRI laboratories in Nelspruit where he observed, and participated in, the treatment and dissection of many thousands of fruit that contained 45,900 larvae. The effectiveness of the treatment (14 days exposure to a mean temperature of -0.4°C), as established in the preceding research, was demonstrated during this process.