The Citrus Growers’ Association (CGA) realised that there was a gap in the transferring of knowledge from research to the emerging sector. During the second week of October training was provided at the Citrus Research International (CRI) to members of the National Department of Agriculture and Provinclal Department of Agriculture of Limpopo and Eastern Cape to revive the link between research and farmers through extension service. In this way the CGA wants to ensure that a more proficient service becomes available to the provinces. The CGA has committed to have extension programmes in all provinces by 2011 for the emerging farmers through partnership with the provinces.

Attendees were also taken out on a field trip to learn hands-on orchard practices. This course was supported by the SA PIP Programme and the major part of the course was on the safe use of chemicals.

Joseph Siyoko (middle front) from Total South Africa gave a lecture on safe use of chemicals.

Attendees with Hannes Bester, Tim Grout and Hennie le Roux from CRI.

Maxwell Hawes from the CGA in the front row, far right.