The three fathers of the Citrus Nursery industry in South Africa, Mr. Dan Roberts, Pat Niven and Ferdi Esselen seen at the SACNA AGM.

Patrick Niven started producing nursery trees in approx. 1920. After a visit to Australia he started producing the first citrus nursery trees in tunnels at Amanzi Estates. He served on the executive committee for many years, as well as being chairman. He has been president of the International Society of Citrus Nurserymen and at the ISCN meeting in Cairo last year, was elected as a Patron of the Society in recognition of his work done in the citrus nursery industry.

Dan Roberts comes from a long family line of citrus producers in the Kat River Valley. Baddaford Nursery started selling trees in approx. 1936.

Ferdie Esselen introduced Texas Star Ruby into South Africa. He selected from these introductions the best Star Ruby found in the world today. He was also involved for many years in assisting Louis von Broembsen and the Citrus Improvement Programme to select the mother trees from which the buds originated that have been used by the Foundation Block since the 1970’s.
South Africa takes up presidency of The Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters (SHAFFE)

The Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters (SHAFFE) held its Annual General Meeting in Cape Town on 15 October 2006. The presidency of SHAFFE alternates between the country members, with each president serving a two year term.

At the AGM, South Africa took up the presidency when Justin Chadwick was elected as the new president of SHAFFE. He takes over from Ronald Bown (Chile) who has been instrumental in raising the profile of SHAFFE in many international meetings.

His push for global harmonisation of food safety standards has been supported by many supplier bodies, and made headline news during the recent EUREPGAP meeting in Prague. Justin Chadwick has pledged to continue the work instigated by Mr Bown, as well as other SHAFFE initiatives such as information sharing and bringing clarity and resolution to the issue of ever-changing and uncertain MRL legislation.

South-south cooperation is the talk of the day, as is the new concept of “co-optition”. SHAFFE represents the interests of fruit exporters in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, Uruguay and Peru. There is a considerable scope for cooperation on common issues, while recognising those areas where competition exists.

At the AGM, Justin Chadwick stated “I would also like SHAFFE to get more involved in ensuring that the World Trade Organisations’ objective of promoting trade through the International Plant Protection Convention and its related Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement is progressed – the decade long consideration of market access applications, and the lack of adherence to equivalency principles is an impediment to the free trade of perishable products; a group like SHAFFE can push to bring about change.”