

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (10/17)

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Justin Chadwick 24 March 2017



"I'm lazy. But it's the lazy people who invented the wheel and the bicycle because they didn't like walking or carrying things" Lech Walesa

CITRUS LEGENDS

At the first CGA Citrus Summit it was decided to recognize those who had made significant contributions to this great industry – and the first three citrus legends were announced. A legend is defined as “an extremely famous or notorious person, especially in a particular field” – in the case of the Citrus Legends they are recognised for their contribution to the establishment and success of the CGA itself, for their contribution to the prosperity and sustainability of the grower sector; and finally for their contribution to the sustainability and profitability of the entire southern African citrus industry. CGA staff and CGA Group staff are excluded – we do it for love not recognition.

The first three legends were then asked to select the three legends announced at the Summit Gala Dinner. The Legends decided to base their selection on events or milestones in the citrus industry. In other words what were the things that had occurred that had contributed to the growth and success of the citrus industry? From that list the Legends would identify people that had contributed significantly to the success of that event or milestone. The person should not have contributed only for themselves, but for the greater good.

A long list of events or milestones were listed – these included commercial opening up of new markets, biosecurity, information, the Citrus Improvement Scheme, grower unity, CBS and FCM, transformation, stability in the grapefruit sector, logistic processes, quality management and cultivar expansion.

Many worthy candidates were identified – but only three could be chosen. The 2017 CGA Citrus Legends awards were presented by the first three Legends: Hoppie Nel, Peter Nicholson and Jock Danckwerts.

HENNIE LE ROUX: CITRUS LEGEND (AS PRESENTED AT THE CGA CITRUS SUMMIT)

This legend, born in 1959, started his adventure in the citrus industry in South Africa on 1 Dec 1983, when he was awarded a Citrus Exchange bursary to study for an MSc degree in plant pathology at the University of Pretoria. He then took up a post as Research Scientist for soil borne diseases at Outspan Citrus Centre in Nelspruit from 1986 and have been a stalwart servant for the citrus industry in the CRI structures, ever since - in the process obtaining his PhD in 1995 on the control of citrus nematodes

Early stage in his career he was successful in transforming the citrus nursery industry in South Africa, culminating in a world-class standard of disease-free, quality trees that laid the foundation for a high production, internationally-competitive citrus industry. He proceeded to establish a soil-borne disease management framework that supported the superior quality nursery trees to provide sustained profitable production. As a research scientist he attained worldwide acclaim for these achievements within a remarkably short space of time. Adding to his research skills he quickly became a ‘turn to man’ to help resolve challenges and problems covering the entire spectrum of citrus cultivation and post-harvest activities in the process setting up highly cost: beneficial extension services for the citrus industry. His awareness of global challenges pertaining to food safety and bio-security then made him the logical “turn-to” man to drive and support the industries’ bio-security programme

Apart from his far-reaching and major contributions to research, extension and bio-security this legend was also a greatly principled leader and inspired many around him to stand by their principles and stay committed to serving the greater citrus industry through research, creativity and Good Citrus Practises

He fully understood the art and value of relationships and friendships locally as well as internationally leading to remarks from other international leaders such as “there is probably no other individual with as many friends in the citrus world” and “the most beloved person in the citrus industry worldwide”. This is who he was, a people’s person, loved by all who were privileged to know him.

Unfortunately he passed away late in 2016 - **Hennie le Roux a legend of the Citrus Industry** will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by so many people from all corners of the world.

6 February 1959 – 4 October 2016.

EU TRAINING

All role-players planning to export to the EU are required to undergo training from DAFF. This training was provided during a round of roadshows earlier this year. DAFF have given role-players who have not yet undergone the training a final opportunity: **Venue: Corner of Hamilton Avenue and 140 Hamilton street (DAFF DIS offices); Date: 03 April 2017; Time: from 09:00 am. Contact Tankiso at DAFF for any further information Tel. 012-3098775 TankisoA@nda.agric.za.**

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