

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (10/18)

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Justin Chadwick 9 March 2018



“Not all those who wander are lost” J R R Tolkien

CGA ROADSHOWS 2018 CONTINUED

The B Team of the CGA Group (B for Best) led by Mitchell Brooke (with Vaughan Hattingh – CRI; Yolanda Ntlakaza – CGA GDC; Rob Elfick – RBX and Sive Silo – Citrus Academy) headed out with their A game last week Tuesday from Port Elizabeth airport for Fort Beaufort, followed by Sundays River and Patensie. This week the B Team headed out to Nkwalini, Swaziland, Nelspruit and concluded in Onderberg on Thursday. The team reports that they were well received by their hosts, with the format of spending a full day in each region proving to be worthwhile as it gives the team an opportunity to visit orchards and packhouses in the areas, and to engage producers informally. Thanks to the sponsors (listed below) and regionally the CGA Directors for hosting the well catered braai and drinks sessions with Spook and Diesel, Quarters beers and 1kg steaks consumed a plenty; and much laughter and banter around the fire. Each of these regions has planted a vast number of new orchards of Lemon and Mandarin cultivars, most are optimistic about the volume growth, while some producers express concern. At the same time, water shortages and climatic conditions (extreme dry and hot conditions prevail over most parts, with hail having a severe impact in Nelspruit at the end of last year) are also at the forefront of producers' minds. Understandably, the CBS and FCM restrictions take centre stage, with confidence shown in the FMS ability to manage the FCM interception rate in the EU. The high level of support and appreciation towards the CGA's work was expressed from each region, which is very welcomed.

The A Team – now joined by recently appointed CGA Director Vangile Titi – assembled at ORT Airport for the long trek to Musina. The meeting included both the Limpopo River and Zimbabwe growers – a big thanks to the Zimbabwe growers for coming across the river and saving the Team the time and hassle at the border. Zimbabweans being Zimbabweans, they were the last to leave the braai; citing that it was better to go through the border late at night. The meeting was well attended – with a good mix of “executive silver” headed growers with years of experience, and many youngsters. This was repeated at all the weeks' meetings. From Musina the team moved to Letsitele – to an extremely large turnout at The Junction. The discussions were robust and direct, giving growers a good view of what is to be expected in 2018, with many solutions posed as we enjoyed the hospitality afforded by the sponsors. The short hop across to Hoedspruit to address a packed room at the Hengel Klub was a breeze after the past long hauls. The new plantings of citrus is very evident around Hoedspruit – and on the next day's drive through Ohrigstad to Groblersdal. This year's Senwes (Groblersdal and Marble Hall) meeting was held at a new venue (Maroela Game Trails) which proved to be a winner. Growers turned out in their numbers, and the discussions were relevant and varied.

So after two weeks of wake up, eat breakfast, drive, present, braai and drink with growers, sleep, wake up and start again; the two teams will at last be in their own beds and able to catch up on the work backlog of time out of the office. In general the mood in the industry is extremely optimistic, the challenges are understood and the solutions clear, the opportunities will be grasped and much work lies ahead to ensure that 2018 is successful.

CGA would like to thank those who made it possible to socialize after the roadshows through their sponsorships – **Nedbank** (Sundays River and Patensie); **Felco** (Boland); **Inteligro** (Oranje Rivier); **ABSA** (E Cape Midlands) **Mac Intermodal** (Limpopo River/Zimbabwe); **River Bioscience** (Letsitele); **Hoedspruit Farmers Club** (Hoedspruit); **Kaap Agri** (Nelspruit), **Noordchem** (Onderberg) and **Novon/Arysta** (Senwes).

THE CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS