

Citrus Growers Association represents approx 1 400 growers of export citrus throughout South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

Citrus has been grown in Southern Africa for well over a hundred years, 1997 being the 100 years of citrus export milestone.

Southern Africa is able to produce a wide array of citrus products over an extended time period (March to November) due to the diverse climate in the various regions - winter rainfall in the south and summer rainfall in the north, near desert in the west to sub tropical high rainfall regions in the east.

The most widely grown citrus product is the Valencia, mainly in the northern areas. The southern areas grow more soft citrus with the Eastern Cape supplying most of the lemons and a fair amount of Navels.

Most of South Africa's citrus is exported via the ports of Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth.

Earning a gross revenue of about five billion rand annually, and employing an estimated one hundred thousand people, the South African citrus industry is a valuable source of income and employment.

Our Administration

The CGA is governed by a Board of directors, representing all citrus growing regions and emerging growers in:

<i>Boland</i>	<i>E Cape Midlands</i>	<i>Hoedspruit</i>
<i>Letsitele</i>	<i>Limpopo River</i>	<i>Nelspruit</i>
<i>Nkwalini</i>	<i>Onderberg</i>	<i>Orange River</i>
<i>Patensie</i>	<i>Pongola</i>	<i>Senwes TvI.</i>
<i>South KZN</i>	<i>Sundays River Valley</i>	<i>Swaziland</i>
<i>Western Cape</i>	<i>Zimbabwe</i>	



Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa

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Supporting citrus growers to be globally competitive

Our Mission

The Citrus Growers' Association will maximise the longterm profitability of its members

Strategic Objectives

- Administer, fund and resource the CGA Group
- Gain, retain and optimise market access
- Fund, control and implement research and development
- Provide product and quality assurance
- Engage with government and other stakeholders
- Assist grower profitability and sustainability
- Drive industry transformation
- Facilitate efficient logistics



Our Structure

The Citrus Growers Association is owned by the growers, who pay a levy on every carton of citrus they export. Subsidiaries of the CGA are Citrus Research International, Citrus Academy, CGA Cultivar Company, River Bioscience and XSIT (50%).

- CRI - www.cri.co.za
- Citrus Academy - www.citrusacademy.org.za
- CGA Cultivar Company - www.cgacc.co.za
- River Bioscience - www.riverbioscience.co.za

The CGA works closely with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the PPECB (The Perishable Products Export Control Board).

Under the umbrella of Fruit South Africa, CGA addresses common issues with the deciduous fruit industry (Hortgro), table grapes (SATI), sub tropical fruit (Subtrop) and export agents (Fresh Produce Exporters Forum - FPEF). FPEF and CGA have joint participation in the CMF (Citrus Marketing Forum) which is a forum for discussing the issues influencing exports through the season.

Market Access

The CGA was initially formed for one purpose - to gain, retain and optimise market access. This remains the core focus of the CGA.

Research and Development

The main CRI office (Citrus Research International) is based in Nelspruit. The areas covered by the statutory levy paid by all growers of export citrus include:

- technical market access issues
- cultivar development and evaluation
- pest and disease research
- horticultural research
- citrus cold chain forum
- citrus improvement scheme
- technology transfer

Quality Assurance

The CGA aims to provide product and quality assurance in the following areas:

- fruit quality
- food safety
- ethical production
- environmental conservation
- packaging quality
- GAP harmonisation of all accreditation standards.

Transformation

The CGA has a Transformation Manager and two extension officers. A representative structure for emerging growers (Citrus Growers Development Chamber - CGDC) deals with the specific needs of the new farmers.

Information

Grower members and stakeholders are kept well informed on matters that impact on their business by way of Information Roadshows; a weekly newsletter from the CEO which is sent via email to all growers and other interested parties; the CGA website www.cga.co.za; and an internal Communication Tool. The S A Fruit Journal is posted to all growers, as is the annual Citrus Statistics book and Annual Report.

Logistics

The CGA plays an important facilitation role with all stakeholders in the logistics chain to find ways of increasing efficiency and reducing the cost of exporting citrus. The three primary activities relate to

- facilitation with the ports container terminals
- encouraging more rail utilisation
- increasing use of Maputo port for export.

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