**NARANJA PACKHOUSE  - BURGERSFORT**

**Storm damage to Naranja Packhouse**

*Reported by Lorraine Prinsloo – CGA Regional Administrator, Senwes*

During the evening of Sunday 16 October 2016, gale force winds caused severe damage to the fruit receiving section of the Naranja Packhouse, situated outside Burgersfort.  Mr AJ Esser, Indigo Fruit Farming’s CEO, confirmed that the roof over two receiving bays collapsed, and roofs of nearby employee housing blew off.  He said “We are thankful that no one was injured and we could immediately organise alternative accommodation for our workers. Fortunately little machinery was damaged and this came at the end of our successful citrus harvest,” he says.

This pack house, one of the most technically advanced citrus pack houses in South Africa, has just handled its first bumper crop.   He also said that:  “We were not the only ones at the receiving end of destruction as the storm uprooted trees, and many more roofs and structures in the area also bore the brunt of the storm.”

After the storm, immediate steps were taken, including the safeguarding of all water and electrical systems, and the appointment of professionals who will handle the possibly risky demolition of the damaged sections.  AJ stated that “We aim to have all repair work finalised by the end of the financial year,” and added that: “We’d like to thank colleagues, neighbours and other partners for all the offers of assistance and the general goodwill expressed.”



