

"I have only one superstition. I touch all bases when I hit a home run" Babe Ruth

PHILIPPINES

The market is not open until the first fruit flows – and this week we witnessed the first fruit destined for the Philippines being inspected at FPT Durban. It was fitting that Ambassador Martin Slabber was there to witness the first fruit being readied for export, as he played a leading role as South African Ambassador to the Philippines in meeting with The Philippines Bureau of Plant and Industry (BPI), retailers and importers, and accompanying fruit industry representatives to the Trade Shows and markets in Manila.

Dr Mono Mashaba led a Fruit South Africa delegation to Manila every year from 2014 until international travel was curtailed by COVID in 2020. This persistence eventually paid off.

The access pathway was opened by Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and Citrus Research International (CRI). Dr Vaughan Hattingh of CRI recounts that there were 32 official technical engagements between the two countries in the twelve years that it took to finalise the protocol. It was fitting that in the last visit to Philippines in 2019 it was Mr Ramasodi (DALRRD) and Dr Carstens (CRI) who accompanied the Fruit South Africa delegation, and took us to the end game.

The Fresh Produce Exporters Forum – with Anton Kruger as part of the Fruit SA delegation – provided artwork and all the organisation necessary for the AgriLink trade show – where South African exhibited its commitment to the Philippines market (the only foreign exhibitor at the show).

The Fruit SA visits to Philippines revealed that they are all about fun – from the Jeepneys that provide public transport to the island style living, the young, vibrant population makes it an exciting place. South African citrus will now add to their ability to enjoy life to its fullest. While export volumes will probably be modest as we test the market and develop the demand for South African citrus, the goal is to build up to 20 000 tonnes exports to the Philippines – this will secure much needed jobs in South Africa, and lead to additional foreign exchange earnings.

A final thanks to Unifruitti and FPT Group for allowing us to showcase the memorable event to the media.

GLOBAL CITRUS CONGRESS

Save the Date: 16/17 November 2021 for the second edition of the World Citrus Organisation/Fruitnet Media International edition of the Global Citrus Congress. This years' Congress will be streamed live over two days from London, Los Angeles and Melbourne, allowing viewers to pick their most convenient time to take part live or to watch on demand. Watch this space as we develop the program.

CITRUS STATISTICS BOOKLET 2021

The 2021 Annual Citrus Statistics Booklet is now available in electronic format, and copies will be printed and distributed to CGA members within the next week. If you would like a copy of the electronic version please e-mail CGA Research Economist Portia Magwaza at portia@cga.co.za

PACKED AND SHIPPED

End of Week 22 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2020
Grapefruit	9.8 m	9.6 m	11.9 m	6.9 m	8.8 m	18 m	16.8 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	5.6 m	7.8 m	10.9 m	5 m	5.8 m	30.5 m	29.5 m	23.6 m
Lemons	9.3 m	15.9 m	14.7 m	12.8 m	12.5 m	30.2 m	30.2 m	29.6 m
Navels	5.2 m	7.1 m	7.4 m	3.1 m	3.6 m	26.3 m	26.1 m	26.2 m
Valencia	0.4 m	0.5 m	0.8 m	0.1m	0.3 m	58 m	57.6 m	55.1 m
Total	30.3 m	40.9 m	45.7 m	27.9 m	31 m	163 m	160.2 m	150 m