

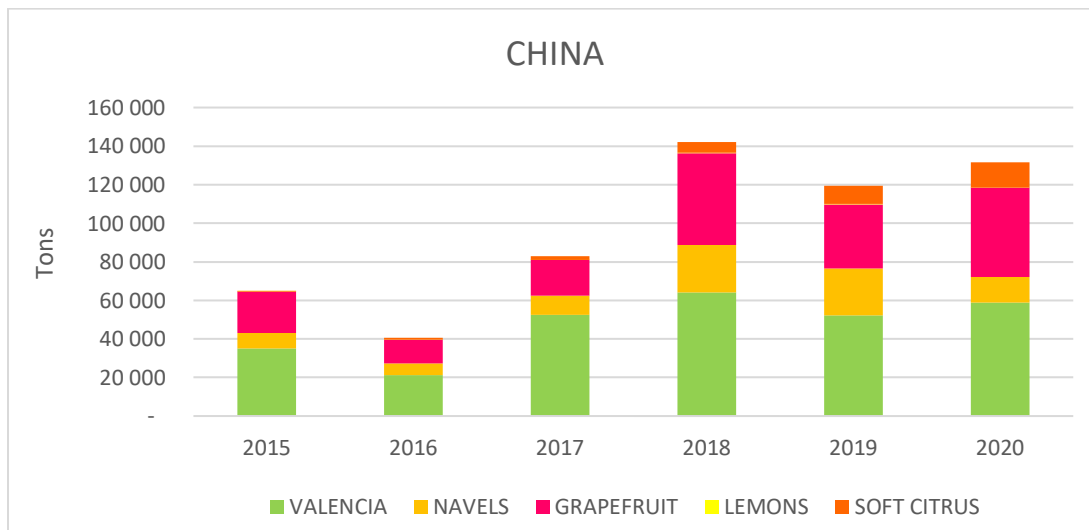
“The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word ‘crisis’. One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger – but recognise the opportunity” John F Kennedy

CHINA LEMONS

It is not often that I get into a suit to attend a virtual meeting – but last Friday was one of those days. The 18 June 2021 will forever be an important day for lemon growers in South Africa – because that morning Minister Didiza signed the revised citrus protocol. Industry was honoured to attend the virtual signing – with Dr Mono Mashaba (Fruit SA) and I in attendance. The Peoples Republic of China was represented by His Excellency Ambassador Chen. Ambassador Chen spoke about the important trade ties between the two countries, and particularly the importance of the citrus trade. Minister Didiza added that there were many other important ties between the two countries. The protocol will now be signed by the Minister in China, before coming into effect.

The revised citrus protocol has important revisions with regard to the cold disinfestation treatment for lemons which will open the way for lemons to enter the Chinese market. The previous protocols cold disinfestation treatment in essence precluded lemon exports to China, as lemons were at risk of cold damage.

China has become a leading importer of South African citrus – in 2020 over 130 000 metric tons of citrus fruit was exported to China (6% of total exports). Lemons will now complete the citrus basket offered to Chinese consumers.



PACKED AND SHIPPED

The Grapefruit Focus Group upped their prediction – heading back towards the original estimate. Please note that the grapefruit figures in the table are 15Kg equivalents (grapefruit is more popularly measured in actual 17Kg cartons).

End of Week 24 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2019	2020	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2020
Grapefruit	12 m	11.3 m	13 m	8.7 m	10.9 m	18 m	17.5 m	15.5 m
Soft Citrus	7.6 m	10.2 m	15.6 m	7.3 m	8.9 m	30.5 m	29.2 m	23.6 m
Lemons	11.5 m	18.1 m	17.4 m	15.4 m	15.2 m	30.2 m	29.2 m	29.6 m
Navels	9.9 m	11.5 m	12.3 m	7 m	7.9 m	26.3 m	26.1 m	26.2 m
Valencia	1.4 m	2.5 m	3.1 m	0.7m	1.4 m	58 m	57.6 m	55.1 m
Total	42.4 m	53.6 m	61.4 m	39.1m	44.3 m	163 m	159.6 m	150 m