

 Download on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).



[About AgTag](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise on AgTag](#) | 



Latest

A five point logistics plan for northern export growth

Export volumes have grown to such an extent that the logistics of moving so much citrus is becoming a massive challenge. Infrastructure utilisation will have to be streamlined or upgraded in the very near future.



Marco Ossino/Shutterstock



September 2018

If anything else the 2018 season has shown that a massive rethink is required to manage the growth in export volume logistically from the northern regions – else you will hit serious problems.

The growth in production from 2015 to 2018 has been so major that logistics and infrastructure has been tested beyond the limit. In 2016, the northern region packed 56 million cartons for exports, in 2017 that increased to 72 million cartons and in 2018 the estimate is for 80 million cartons.

Going forward the projection shows this will increase to 92 million cartons very soon. In 2018, the demand on road trucks was at an all time high with congestion in the port all too frequent

and long queues of trucks blocking the roads constraining movement. Cold storage capacity in Durban went way beyond what is available with much fruit having to be channelled via ambient storage facilities – just so that trucks could be offloaded.

The demand for reefer containers went way beyond what was available, in particular containers compatible for cold treatment shipments. Power points at the Durban Container Terminals ran short on three separate occasions. The increased shipments to China, which at this time is more than double previous shipments, also created problems for the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The simple fact is that if nothing radical is done, these problems will just spiral out of control.

The Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) proposes a five point logistics plan for the northern region's exports, which is directly aimed at offsetting these problems amidst the growth projections:

1. **Development and expansion of cold storage infrastructure:** Apart from cold storage expansion plans set to be developed in the Durban port at existing sites. Some new fresh thinking ideas are surfacing and being discussed in areas such as Hammarsdale, Cato Ridge, even Nelspruit and Komatipoort – the latter aligned to exporting containers from Maputo (with acceptance of preclearance inspections for Japan, South Korea and China in mind).
2. **Exports from Maputo Port:** Infrastructure development in the port of Maputo has developed at a radical pace, especially at DP World. Various container lines have shown strong interest in placing a service aligned to citrus exports to the Middle East and Far East markets. The development of cold storage infrastructure on the Maputo corridor would greatly transform this plan into a reality.
3. **Rail transport development:** It is fundamental that producers and exporters take the position of rail transport seriously going forward. It has been estimated that about 400 additional truck trips per week and 8 000 truck trips per annum will be required to transport citrus to ports in the near future. To offset this massive demand, 10 000 containers will need to be packed and transported from the hinterland to the ports. Up north, there is rail activity from Musina, Tzaneen, Bela Bela and City Deep where containers that have been packed are delivered and transported by rail to port. Who knows, there could be citrus rail activity along the Maputo corridor again where containers packed at the proposed cold storage facility can be railed into Maputo.
4. **Increasing conventional breakbulk shipments:** This year 42 000 containers are likely to be shipped from Durban, up from an average of 35 000 with a forecast of 49 000 containers needed in the future. Nationally the demand has been forecast for a further 30 000 containers needed to match the export growth. Simply put, the CGA strongly encourages a rethink on shipping citrus to Europe, UK and Russia by conventional breakbulk to offset this demand. If a full vessel can be loaded from Durban to Europe, UK and Russia each week this could potentially offset 250 containers. Going forward loading two vessels a week may be required. Given the growth in exports to China and permitting, it would be hugely beneficial to implement conventional breakbulk shipping from Durban to

China. Conventional breakbulk shipping would greatly assist to offset the problems around transport, container supply, congestion and plug point capacity at the container terminals.

5. **Durban port operations and infrastructure:** The growth in DAFF preclearance inspections warrants a degree of intervention to assist and streamline the preclearance inspection activity. What intervention is not clear at this time, but some consultation with DAFF, cold store facilities, shipping lines and TPT will more than likely lead to a solution. This will be discussed at the annual citrus coordination meeting.

Considering all the above proposals there is still likely to be a large volume of containers exported from Durban. The CGA has a strategic session with TPT on 28 September where the issue around DCT congestion and plug point capacity will be discussed. Another initiative that has been looked at in past that didn't materialise is the possible need to build a central truck booking system and perhaps even going so far as to centralising a truck staging area. The management of transport from packhouses delivering citrus into Durban cold store facilities needs a better approach to minimise truck delays and bottlenecks.

This five point plan will be presented and discussed at the next Citrus Marketing Forum meeting.

Follow Justin Chadwick on Twitter @justchad_cga



Marco Ossino/Shutterstock

A five point logistics plan for northern export growth

Export volumes have grown to such an extent that the logistics of moving so much citrus is becoming a massive challenge. Infrastructure utilisation will have to be streamlined or upgraded in the very near future.

an hour ago

pixabay.com

Ravenous insects may be coming for our crops in a warming world

A new study found that higher average global temperatures will lead to more grasshoppers, caterpillars and other pests, with potential catastrophic consequences for the world's food supply.

an hour ago

pixabay.com

Overview: Global potato market

South Africans are spending around R1 billion more on potatoes every year, compared to ten years ago. The average consumption is around 40 kg per person per year.

an hour ago



pixabay.com

The decline of the South African sorghum industry

This season local farmers planted the smallest area to sorghum since 1936. The collapse of SA's biofuel industry with sorghum as feedstock and underdeveloped export market caused farmers to plant other crops.

an hour ago

pixabay.com

Sinkaanvulling kan dragtigheid met tot 12% verhoog

Sink is 'n integrale komponent van talle ensieme en beïnvloed selvermeerdering, wat uiters belangrik is vir diere se groei en 'n groot rol in reproduksie speel.

an hour ago



pixabay.com



Land expropriation: Agricultural objectives are prerequisites

This economist warns that if the primary objectives of agriculture do not form the basis for any land expropriation plan, it will plunge black farmers in poverty and the country in hunger without any economic growth.

an hour ago

pixabay.com

Goats prefer happy people

A recent study proves that goats read human expressions and prefer to interact with happy people. This shows that not

only animals with a long history of domestication have this ability.

a day ago

MotorPress

Toyota expands range with updated Hilux: New looks, new derivatives, same DNA

Toyota added to the Hilux line-up with additional models for consumers who want to work and those who want to play. The main difference is in the looks department.

a day ago



MR.AUKID PHUMSIRICHAT/Shutterstock

DAFF cautions Oriental fruit fly in the Orange River

All traders and transporters of fruit and vegetables that could host Oriental fruit fly must have permission to remove produce from affected areas.

a day ago

Franco Volpato/Shutterstock

Local farmers' calf mortality rates halved

If the productivity of communal livestock farming can be improved through better herd-, grazing- and disease management, annual weaner production can increase by 147%.

a day ago

pixabay.com

Ghana's anti-GMO farm leader adopts pro-GMO position

The former leader of the Peasant Farmers' Association, with more than 40 000 members, says those engaged in anti-GMO campaigns don't have the interest of farmers at heart.

a day ago



Ranjith Ravindran/Shutterstock

Positive economic growth still on track

Reported figures for South Africa's GDP growth for the first quarter of the year don't paint the whole picture. Here are some other perspectives.

a day ago

L de Villiers

Rust en Vrede, nou en vir die toekoms

Druiweprodusente het die afgelope paar jaar swaar tye beleef, maar dié wat bly staan het het nou reuse geleenthede.

a day ago

pixabay.com

Why GOSA had to take the SAPS to court, and win

The Constitutional Court ruling in June made it clear that nobody should be arrested for having an expired firearm license. SAPS are unprepared to handle 440 000 firearms.

2 days ago



pixabay.com

High demand for stake in dagga shares

Local investors are using offshore instruments like the Horizons Marijuana Life Sciences Index ETF to invest in listed dagga-companies, and have roughly doubled their money since April 2017.

2 days ago

Wasu Watcharadachaphong/Shutterstock

Slenkdalkoors: Is daar te min entstof?

Volgens OBP se stelsel word daar nie méér entstof vervaardig as wat in die vorige jaar verkoop is nie, maar boere ent nie elke jaar teen Slenkdalkoors nie, slegs as daar 'n hoër risiko is.

2 days ago

pixabay.com

Match hybrids to soils

There is no such thing as the best maize hybrid, that is why seed companies spend massive amounts on trials in different regions to find the one best adapted to different circumstances.

2 days ago



The grower of witlof announces availability of its red counterpart

Thanks to a producer in the Koue Bokkeveld, witlof is now available throughout the year, and they have added rooilof to their offering. These vegetables are famously difficult to produce.

2 days ago

www.maxpixel.net

Droogdruiwe slaan nuwe rekord

Die 70 000 ton merk vir rosyne is die eerste keer oorskry en die wêreldwye vraag na rosyne van goeie gehalte bly gesond. Daar is 'n tendens om pitlose druiwe eerder te droog as om wyn te maak.

2 days ago



kentoh/Shutterstock

Emerging markets in vice grip, with Turkey and Argentina under the spotlight

Turkey and Argentina have been the hardest hit by the recent sell-off of emerging markets, mainly due to their declining foreign exchange reserves and general exposure to the US dollar.

2 days ago

New app brings artificial intelligence to scouting

Scouting requires a lot of knowledge being able to identify a weed or disease before it spreads. Now a new app offers a high-tech way to help less experienced scouts be more effective.

2 days ago

pixabay.com

Mielieprys deur sy onderste draaipunt, sê Willemse

Die meeste ontleders voorspel dat die mielieprys rondom R2 500 per ton behoort te bly. Dit lyk ook of die vraag na geelmielies vir veevoer gaan toeneem.

3 days ago



pixabay.com

September fuel outlook is bleak: AA



The Central Energy Fund reported that international oil prices remained unchanged during August, but the rand weakened considerably against the US dollar. Here are the expected fuel price increases.

3 days ago

pixabay.com

Verticillium and weeds

Verticillium wilt is a major soil-borne disease that can cause yield losses of up to 50%. Successive potato crops can

become increasingly affected, with the fungus adapting to a specific host.
3 days ago

pixabay.com

Agri-Expo Livestock empowers dairy goat farmers

The fifth annual Dairy Goat Information Day aims to promote sustainability and to provide information on the potential of this growing industry. It takes place on 11 October at Sandringham outside Stellenbosch.

3 days ago



pixabay.com

'Egyptian mango harvest has come a month earlier'

Warm conditions this season led to volumes being 30 to 40% smaller than last year because mangoes are falling off the trees too early, and fruit ripening a month sooner than usual.

3 days ago