



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (29/2009)

John Edmonds (7 August 2009)

Exchange Rate at 15:40 R/\$ 8.03 R/€ 11.47 R/£ 13.44

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Argentine lemons caught in freeze

Freezing temperatures on the night of July 23-24 in western Argentina are likely to bring an abrupt end to the lemon export season from the main growing region of Tucumán. Bartolomé del Bono, general manager of Tucumán citrus association ATC, told freshinfo: "Usually we don't have harsh winters in this region, but [last week] temperatures fell as low as -10°C. This affected citrus production areas, especially those that are low-lying, for several hours." Volumes this season had already been affected by drought in the summer and last week's frost will count even more fruit out of the export basket.

[Freshinfo; 31 July 2009]

France – Fruit & Vegetable Producers Forced To Repay 500 Million € Of Subsidies

The French government is preparing to submit to a request from Brussels to claim back public subsidies close to 500 million Euros from fruit and vegetable producers. The European Commission considers these subsidies to have distorted competition within the EU.

[Freshfel; 3 August 2009]

South Africa: Citrus workers on strike for 'no pay'

MORE than 150 workers at the Mawuka Citrus Estates in Letsitele Valley outside Tzaneen in Limpopo went on strike yesterday demanding their outstanding wages. They claimed that they had not been paid their wages for two months because the farm management had told them that there was no money to pay them. The workers on the 470hectare mango and orange-producing farm accused farm management of "not taking them seriously". The workers say that the farm belongs to the Mokgolobotho Communal Property Association. They also claim that the association had told them that they had no money to pay their wages. The farm was allegedly returned to the community more than five years ago but was placed under the management of strategic partner Cape Span. Cape Span allegedly told the workers that they would not be paid until the government had paid R6.1million allegedly owed to the company.

[www.sowetan.co.za; 4 August 2009]

USDA dog finds citrus pest in FedEx package

State agriculture officials have ordered further tests on bugs found earlier this month that could be devastating to the state's citrus industry. State agriculture officials this week identified the bugs as Asian citrus psyllids. They found the bugs in an illegal FedEx shipment of curry leaves from India. A plant-sniffing dog assigned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office hit on the package during routine inspections. Initial tests on whether the aphid-sized bugs carried the citrus-killing Huanglongbing disease were inconclusive.

[mercurynews.com; 31 July 2009]

Russia – Fruitnews Projects Growth of Citrus Fruit Market

According to the Moscow-based agency the citrus fruit market in Russia will grow this year between 10% and 12% in money terms (around \$5.2bn), whereas supplies will increase by 3%. Nevertheless, the agency's analysis of citrus fruit imports to Russia shows a trend towards a decline in the market growth rates, from 44% in 2006, over 21% in 2007 and 12% last year.

[Freshfel; 3 August 2009]

Australian grapefruit thrives

Western Australia's red-flesh grapefruit industry is growing rapidly, with exports this season nearly doubling as new markets are secured for the fruit. Peter Johnson, the state's department of agriculture and food tropical fruits specialist, said exports had grown in new and existing markets including the EU, Russia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan this season. Johnson said future export opportunities for red-flesh grapefruit looked very promising, with a distinct market window for Kununurra-grown fruit between the end of the US season in December-January and the opening of the South African season in mid-May.

[Freshinfo; 31 July 2009]

Citrus prices on FreshPlaza.com and AGF.nl

Please click on the link below to display these prices which are average Free on Truck prices in Euros recorded in the Dutch fresh produce market and can be taken as an indication for the European situation.

http://www.freshplaza.com/price-watch/archief/2009/citrus_week30-09.pdf

If you need more information on any of these issues, or if there is anything else that CGA can assist with, please contact us at 031 7652514, or johne@cga.co.za

YOUR LEVY WORKING FOR YOU – GROWER LEVIES ARE USED TO FUND THE ACTIVITIES OF CGA