



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (37/2009)

John Edmonds (9 October 2009)

Exchange Rate at 14:17 R/\$ 7.38 R/€ 10.89 R/£ 11.80

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

India: Lemon prices surge 22 per cent

Lemon prices in the national capital have soared by more than 22 per cent over the past month to touch Rs 110 a kg due to floods in the southern states that have affected the harvest of the citrus fruit causing a slowdown in arrivals. The consumption in the national capital is around 200 tonnes a day where as the current arrivals are just at 30-40 tonneshowever prices will start decreasing around next week when the harvest starts as the rain is expected to stop. [business-standard.com; 8 October 2009]

Idle container fleet rises to new record

The idle container fleet has climbed to 548 ships, totaling 1.29m TEU capacity at the end of September and is likely to rise further according to AXS-Alphaliner. [ReeferTrends; 02 October 2009]

Ghana: Farmers want education on export rules

Growers of citrus fruits have stated that they find the country's export rules complex and difficult to comprehend. This they say deters them from sourcing for ready buyers of their products in the international market. This concern was expressed by Nana Entsie Okor I, a citrus farmer, in an interview in Accra. The inability of the Ghana Export Promotion Council to organize trade shows and international fairs for industry members was another setback, Nana Okor said. "Our major problem is that we have not been able to hit the international market with our products and this is a concern to us because we are not getting the ready market for our products". He has, therefore, called for intensive education to enable them to know what exactly the country's export laws entail and how they could apply it to source for markets internationally. According to Nana Okor, one major problem citrus farmers were facing was that they had not been able to come together and form an association. [graphicghana.com; 28 September 2009]

AU: Citrus levy cut

The amount South Australian citrus growers have to pay to the Citrus Growers Fund will be reduced by 50 cents from this Thursday - to 65 cents per tonne. Until December, growers will also be able to claim a 50 cent per tonne refund for contributions made since the Australian Citrus Growers Association stopped operating. Kent Andrew, the chairman of Citrus Growers SA, says the changes are part of restructuring the national citrus industry. "Growers would be aware, and I would remind them that at Griffith, at the annual general meeting in November last year, there was a formal decision made by citrus growers from across the whole country to restructure the whole citrus industry nationally," he said. "Really this process is just the, I would use the term 'legal' progression of the stage one." [abc.net.au; 29 September 2009]

Murcia forecasts lower lemon crop

Spain's largest lemon-producing region is forecasting a 22% fall in the production of all citrus varieties this season. [ReeferTrends; 06 October 2009]

Hail strikes Spanish fruit

Heavy rains and hail struck the south-eastern Spanish area of Alicante on Sunday, damaging citrus and pomegranates. The main districts affected were L'Alacantí and Vega Baja, where hail fell so densely in two 10-minute intervals that the ground was covered in a blanket of ice. According to early estimates by growers' association Asaja-Alicante, about 50 per cent of citrus crops in the affected areas have been damaged. The lines hardest hit are lemons, oranges and easy peelers. Some growers have seen 80 per cent of their crops struck and leaves and fruit were knocked to the ground in many plantations. [FPJ; 06 October 2009]

CGA claims tonnage-off-tar project success

The latest tonnage off tar newsletter indicates that 38K pallets of South African citrus were transported by rail in 2009 [ReeferTrends; 05 October 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_week38-09.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
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