



GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (12/2010)

John Edmonds (23 April 2010)

Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Exchange Rate at 10:00 R/\$ 7.47 R/€ 9.94 R/£ 11.48

Deadly Shoot-Out on Commandeered Iranian Citrus-Vessel off Somalia

A deadly shoot-out occurred on British-managed, Bermuda-flagged reefer MV TALCA, which is owned by two members of the Iranian Fresh Fruits Importers & Exporters Union. The vessel is presently held off ILFOSHE near Kulub at the North-Eastern Indian Ocean coast of Somalia. The serious fight among of the gang of sea-shifta loyal to different sponsors of piracy, one of whom hails from Baargaal and other elements of the pirate gang left one dead and two seriously injured, marine observers working with ECOTERRA Intl. reported. The report stated that none of the 22 crew was harmed. Seized on March 23, 2010 the refrigerator ship was on her way to Iran from Egypt with a 22 men crew - 20 Sri Lankans, one Filipino and one Syrian, when she was attacked and overwhelmed 120nm off the coast of Oman at 13h33 UTC by Somali pirates in 2 skiffs in position 17°27N - 05°642E. The 5000-tonne ship was carrying \$4 million worth of Egyptian oranges.

[www.australia.to; 18April 2010]

Argentina: Alperovich push in Washington for the free entrance of lemon to US

The Governor of Tucuman - Argentina, José Alperovich was in Washington with authorities from APHIS to discuss the possibilities of opening the market for Argentinian citrus to the US. This is a stage of a process that includes the agreement of both parties to efficiently control possible plagues and disease in fruits. It is expected that on the 27th of April a technical commission from the Argentinian sanitary agency SENASA will visit their US partners to fix some details on the conditions. If there is an agreement, the APHIS has 60 days to publish the results and free the entrance of Argentinian citrus.

[freshplaza.com; 20 April 2010]

Bad weather cuts Morocco's citrus exports

Unusually heavy rains have reduced Morocco's citrus exports this year and will cut crop output in the following years as the bad weather also killed trees in growing areas, the head of the country's Citrus Growers and Exporters Association said on Tuesday. "At the beginning of the season in October, we estimated citrus exports at 532,000 tonnes for the year but after the flooding and heavy rains, we can now export only 460,000 tonnes,"

[reuters.com ; 21 April 2010]

Argentina - Lemon season starts

Citrus season is starting in Argentina and packers are receiving fruit from the farms. There are some delays because some citrus workers are protesting but this is not affecting the entire business...The season started with smaller volumes but this will be made-up from the second half of the season onwards. The size of the fruit improved thanks to light rains in the productive region...In international markets, less pressure from the Spanish production will help to relax the production from foreign countries to Europe. In May and June the demand will increase in Europe and Argentina will take advantage of that.

[freshplaza.com; 20 April 2010]

US- Clementine deal becomes increasingly crowded with growing imports

Chilean clementine suppliers this year believe the product will hold its own against domestic and imported competitors, having carved a niche market and staple status. The clementine deal is becoming increasingly crowded, with Peru, Chile and South Africa increasing their stake in the imported deal, but suppliers say there is still room for growth. Manuel Jose Alcaino, president of Decofrut, Santiago, said clementines receive a warm reception in the U.S. market despite their arrival when there is a great deal of domestic fruit in the market. "For the remainder of May, June, July, August and some of September — five months — it has no competitor, just South Africa," ...This year's deal presents additional challenges with overlap between source countries because of an expected late start from Chile and early start in South Africa. Chile expects an important increase in navels to the U.S; there is a growth of 13%...South Africa also will be importing more navels, providing yet another scenario for the two countries to vie for market share.

[ThePacker; 21 April 2010]

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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