GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (5/2010)

John Edmonds (19 February 2010)
(CGA)

Citrus Growers Association

Exchange Rate at 14:00 R/$ 7.72 R/€ 10.43 R/£ 11.89

UK – Tesco boss criticises plans for ombudsman

14 February 2010 (Just-Food) – Tesco chief executive Sir Terry Leahy has criticised the plans to establish a supermarket ombudsman to oversee dealings between retailers and suppliers. He argued that a watchdog would benefit suppliers rather than consumers. “In a free society, why would you want an ombudsman if there are no problems now as far as consumers are concerned? An ombudsman would be there to protect suppliers but should be there to protect consumers,” he said in an interview with the Financial Times. Retailers have repeatedly argued that such a move will ultimately come at a cost to the consumer.
[JustFood.com; 14 February 2010]

South Australia forecasts fall in citrus crop

Citrus crops are predicted to be well down on last year in the South Australian Riverland, but not as bad as earlier feared. The fruit was damaged by extreme heat late last year. Riverland citrus industry development officer Kym Thiel says the navel crop is expected to be less than 55,000 tonnes. That will be down from 82,000 in 2009, a year with the largest crop in history. Mr Thiel says this season's lighter crop has resulted in much larger fruit.
[abc.net.au; 12 February 2010]

Citrus thrives after Queensland rain

Queensland growers are preparing for one of the best seasons in memory. More than 100 millimetres that fell this week in Gayndah in the Central Burnett, filling the fruit well. Grower Nick Ulcoq says conditions couldn't be better. "The trees obviously enjoy the heat but they also like the moisture," he says. "We can irrigate all we like but the trees and the health of the trees from rain is far, far better."
[abc.net.au; 18 February 2010]

Citrus Growers' Association OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Pakistan: Rains devastate 20-25% orange crop

Recent winter rain in Sargodha Division, like elsewhere across the country, has caused substantial devastation of orange crop, which is 20 to 25 percent of the standing yield, pushing up rates of the most desired fruit of the winter season. Similarly export rates also went up to 75 percent per kg compared to old rates of 60 percent for the same weight dampening spirit of importers from across the globe, especially Russia and Ukraine regarded as major importers of Pakistani fruit. Furthermore, the soaring orange price was another major deterrent factor that contributed towards decline in kinnow export to Iran. Exporters had pinned hopes of surpassing 200,000 tonnes goal but unexpected hurdles during later part of the season, dashed all such expectations.
[dailytimes.com.pk; 12 February 2010]

Pakistan showcases Kinnow

The first Kinnow Exhibition in Amsterdam was held on 14 February, the first of its kind held in the Netherlands to promote the Pakistani soft citrus variety.
[ReeferTrends; 18 February 2010]

Supply of oranges and mandarins stagnates

Almost at the end of the season and the much smaller supply of Spanish oranges, salustianas and navels it was a very difficult season, with a decreasing demand and disappointing prices compared to the quantity. The cold winter weather in all of Europe did not increase the demand for vitamin bombs. Also citrus fruit from Morocco is offered at all kinds of prices, according to the trade these are clearance prices, which also has to do with quality.
[FreshPlaza.com; 18 February 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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