

GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (6/2010)

John Edmonds (5 March 2010)

Exchange Rate at 15:00 R/\$ 7.45 R/€ 10.12 R/£ 11.21

South Africa - Major rolling back of the land reform programme

Addressing a media conference in Parliament, minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti reiterated that the government has not enough money in the bank to complete the original programme of land reform that required 30% of land to be in black ownership by 2014. He pointed out: "Five point nine million hectares of farms - which were active accruing revenue for the state - were handed over to people, and more than 90% of those are not functional. They are not productive, and therefore the state loses the revenue. We cannot afford to go on like that. If we then say that the agriculture sector's production as a percentage of GDP is going down, this is part of the reason. No country can afford that."

[timeslive.co.za; 2 March 2010]

Distant weather may boost demand for cast-offs

California navel oranges remain on a pace to easily surpass last season's yield of about 64 million cartons. Early season harvests have produced fruit whose quality, color and sugar were all very good, and as much as 90 percent of the picked fruit has been usable.

[capitalpress.com; 27 February 2010]

Argentina exports less citrus due to rain

Heavy rainfall is affecting the Argentinean citrus sector. It is difficult to meet the quality required by the market, meaning exports will be reduced. Nestor Mover, chairman of the Federation of Citrus said. Due to the wet conditions, disease such as canker, flies and mould have affected the quality of the fruit and the plants.

At the moment the rain is very inconvenient because there are many requirements to be met when exporting fruit. The domestic market cannot take much more fruit. Because the demand has not changed one cannot expect to sell more fruit here. A good export is important and because Argentina doesn't want to lose its share of the European market it must be very careful only to ship fruit which meets the requirements. The early varieties have been especially affected by the rain, of which there will be less exported.

[www.freshplaza.com; 26 February 2010]

ProCitrus evaluates the citrus market in 2009 and projects for 2010

Citrus fruit in Peru with 12 years of exports has been rising throughout this period. But last year introduced the first decline in exports, mainly due to weather problems that reduced production. Despite the fall in 2009, 2010 is expected with better prospects...Japan, South Korea and Mexico are countries where they are going ahead with talks to complete the necessary protocols for export. The Chinese market is huge, but they are already interested and have actually visited Peru showing their interest. The Chinese market is looking for large fruit, with enough color and sweet taste. The importance does not lie in its easy peeling and being seedless. "The important thing is the taste and large sizes," says Mr. Del Castillo.

[www.freshplaza.com; 26 February 2010]

Spanish lemons in plentiful supply

Spanish lemon producers have claimed they still have plenty of fruit available as southern hemisphere suppliers assess their crops and Turkey continues to compete strongly in Europe, freshinfo reports. Jose Andres Lopez, president of Murcia-based lemon and grapefruit sector group Ailimpo, told the news provider: "Primofiori and Verna lemons from Spain will continue to arrive on our international markets... in line with the dates forecast at the beginning of the season and even beyond, giving good availability of Spanish lemons right into the summer." However, the 30-strong group of Murcian and Valencian companies that make up the Iberica Hortofruticola association is concerned that Murcia lemon exporters are losing out to Turkey, which has recently almost doubled its exports.

[fruitfuloffice.com; 4 March 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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