GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (44/2011)

John Edmonds (2December 2011) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Spain: Huelva expected to harvest about 460,000 tons of citrus

Citrus production in Huelva, for the 2011-2012 season, will be 460,000 tons, which is an increase of 18.9% in relation to last campaign´s production; according to the progress document on the citrus production released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Board of Andalucía.
[Europapress; 30 November 2011]

Ghana: Citrus farmers abandoned the trade due to lack of market

Mr Paul Ainoo, Chairman of the Cape Coast Farmers Cooperative Society limited (CCFCSL), has appealed to government to put in place a policy framework for the establishment of an institution, which would be responsible for the development and promotion of citrus and lime sector to prevent the sector from a total collapse. He said due to the lack of a vibrant market and a body to manage the sector; most citrus and lime farmers has either cut down their citrus trees or have altogether deserted citrus farming for other means of livelihood…citrus farmers who were over 10,000 across the country and mostly smallholders, faced a lot of challenges regardless of being one of the largest fruit industries in Ghana… Mr Ainoo in this regard called on the government and stakeholders in the industry for the creation of “A citrus Board” to streamline all citrus farming activities, adding that a board would improve upon the negotiation power of citrus farmers. He said the Board would primarily be concerned with the production, harvesting, packaging, processing and marketing of all citrus varieties in the country… Mr Van-Ess called for the establishment of a processing plant, upgrading of farming practices as well as dealing directly with final users of the produce instead of using middle men and market queens, who only worsen the plight of the farmers by buying fruits at throw away prices.
[vibeghana.com; 30 November 2011]

AU: Citrus growers fight farm gate price plan

Citrus growers say displaying farm gate prices in supermarkets would hurt rather than help South Australian growers. Independent Senator Nick Xenophon wants to legislate for the measure, but a Senate committee has found the legislation is flawed and wants it abandoned. Cathy Lowe from Citrus Growers of South Australia says stricter Australian labelling laws are needed. "Of course there's going to be a huge difference between what the farm gate price is and what the consumer sees because there's just so many labour-intensive costs in between," she said. "If the consumer is seeing that 'Oh no, the grower are getting ripped off' they very well might decide we're not going to buy that because the growers are getting ripped off so we'll go elsewhere." Ms Lowe says packing and transport costs add to the price after the fruit leaves the grower. "What we need to do is we need to increase our demand for Australian products, and that's all Australian products, so if we can only look at this labelling issue and truth in labelling and 100 per cent Australian."
[abc.net.au; 30 November 2011]

Brazil compromizes to market opening for Argentinian citrus

Julián Domínguez, in a meeting with the Brazilian minister of Agriculture said, "he assured us that in the first three months of next year, there will be no barriers for our producers and they will be able to sell their products in that market"…the objective is to "send abroad a bigger amount than the present 160,000 tons that we are sending".
[Unoentrerios; 30 November 2011]

Pakistani exporters demand trade in fruits with India

ISLAMABAD: Exporters have demanded the government not to add vegetables and fruits in the negative list of trade with India as Pakistan can earn up to $1.2 billion in next two years by supplying fruits to the neighbouring country… India could become a large market for Pakistani kinnow (oranges)…according to various estimates Pakistan can export 400,000 tons of kinnow to India.

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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