GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (36/2011)

John Edmonds (30 September 2011) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

S. Africa: East Cape 2011 citrus situation

Ken Nieuwenhuizen, managing director of the Sundays River Citrus Company (SRCC) says that although volumes in 2011 are up on last year it will certainly not qualify as a "boom" season as market prices are significantly down on previous year and, for most of the season, exchange rates have also been unfavourable. Revenue will therefore be down on last year notwithstanding increased export volumes.

Spain: Valencia citrus crop will be 9.8% lower

The estimated citrus crop of the Comunitat of Valencia for the 2011-2012 season will reach 3,168,550 tons, representing a decline of 9.8% over the previous year, as announced by the Department of Agriculture in a statement. By groups, orange production has declined by 14.4% compared to last season, and has been at 1,372,161 tons, while in the case of mandarin production, it has fallen 9% and is at 1,572,569 tons. As for lemon and grapefruit production, sources have explained that an update has been carried out on the characteristics of the plantations in the province of Alicante. In this group lemon crops increased 23%, standing at 217,642 tons, and 24% for grapefruit, which stand at 6,178 tons. By provinces, Valencia has registered "the biggest drop", since its harvest will have a 12% less than in the previous season.
[Lasprovincias; 29 September 2011]

US (FL): Florida citrus production up, acreage down

A report recently released by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) shows that overall acreage of citrus in Florida has decreased while overall citrus production in the state has increased. Total citrus acreage decreased by 2.3%, compared to last year, and settled at 541,328 acres for the year. All orange acreage decreased by 2% to 473,086 acres, all grapefruit acreage decreased by 2% to 48,990 acres and all specialty citrus acreage decreased 6% to a record low of 19,252 acres. Despite the lower acreage, citrus production for the state, which accounted for 63% of total US production, was up by 4% overall. Total production for the 2010-2011 period was 165.9 million boxes, a figure which bested the previous season's mark of 159.4 million boxes. All orange production increased by 5% to 140.3 million boxes, all grapefruit production decreased by 2.7% to 19.8 million boxes and all tangerines increased by 4.5% to 4.6 million boxes.

www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Pakistan: Bumper oranges' crop anticipated

The widespread and heavy monsoon rains in orange growing areas of Sargodha division like other parts of the country have yielded positive results. "For the upcoming season, there are encouraging reports of good crop of oranges ranging around 2.5 million metric tonnes and there stand strong prospects country's exports would surpass previous years 200,000 metric tonnes figure", said former Chairman Fruit Exporters Association of Pakistan, Abdul Wahid. The orange season starts in mid-October and lasts till mid-April, while exports would start some time by mid-December. Middle Eastern countries, Iran, Bangladesh, Eastern Europe, Russia and Ukraine are potential buyers while Indonesia and Malaysia have recently emerged as strong buyers of local oranges. Over the period of time Russia and Ukraine have emerged as leading importers of Pakistani oranges as the total export to both countries now contributes almost half of Pakistan's total export. He said during the current year Indonesia has agreed to do away with 25 percent import duty on Pakistani oranges to reciprocate Pakistani government gesture of making a downward revision on import duty on palm oil. While referring to a recent World Bank report he warned exporters to be wary of the current economic crisis engulfing scores of countries across the globe, which also includes orange-importing countries.
[dailytimes.com.pk ; 26 September 2011]

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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