GLOBAL CITRUS SCAN (38/2011)

John Edmonds (14 October 2011) Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

Russian citrus imports soar by 45% in Q2

Russian citrus imports have risen 45% year-on-year in the second quarter with Egypt and Mexico as the fastest-growing suppliers. A 269% rise in Egyptian shipments to 111,865 metric tons (MT) makes the Middle Eastern country now the largest citrus supplier to Russia, followed by South Africa (45,284MT) and Argentina (45,198MT). The Southern Hemisphere suppliers increased shipments by 24% and 5% respectively, while Pakistan also showed significant growth of 229% to 11,544MT. Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa CEO Justin Chadwick, said the data confirms the reason why market conditions were so difficult during the period with 'too much fruit'. "With the Egyptian volumes all being oranges, it is not surprising that the orange market came under pressure from the start of the South African season," he said. "South African delegates at World Food Moscow stressed the importance of getting good information as early as possible in the season, and particularly stock figures. "This is particularly difficult in markets with multiple supply chains and fragmented warehousing, with the added complexity of fruit being trucked in from Western Europe when conditions or importers dictate. Chadwick said it was expected final analysis would show losses were experienced in the Russian citrus market. Another major supplier Spain recorded a Russian export jump of 27% to 29,153MT, but competitors Morocco and Turkey registered falls. Morocco's citrus shipments to Russia fell 23% to 29,545MT and Turkey's exports dropped 3% to 19,777MT.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; October 11th, 2011]

Argentine citrus growers to get productivity boost

Argentine citrus-growing region Neuquén is expected to get local government help to boost the productivity and competitiveness of the sector, website Lmneuquen.com.ar reported. The province's municipal authorities are preparing a draft bill which would offer funds for contribution to the national plant protection program, treating fruit against codling moth, compensation for hail damage and waiving property taxes, the story reported. Growers in the province are believed to be operating at a loss following the end of a difficult season this year with frosty weather conditions. Local government development department head Leandro Bertoya, explained this was due to a number of external factors. "A disproportionate increase in production costs, the national exchange rate policy and the relative stability of international prices of export production are among the causes," he was reported as saying.
[www.freshfruitportal.com; October 7th, 2011]

South Africa's Midknight oranges arriving in the U.S.

The first shipment of South African Midknight Oranges has arrived in the U.S. at the port of Philadelphia. This is the first of four shipments that will arrive through October. The Midknight is a Valencia varietal known for its excellent eating quality. "It is smaller than a typical Navel orange, seedless, very juicy and sweet with an appealing texture and taste," said Suhanra Conradie, CEO of the Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum (WCCPF… The quantity of Midknights is 60,000 cartons more than was shipped in 2010…During October, Kings Market in New Jersey will promote the Midknight oranges with point-of-sale demonstrations, recipe giveaways, and in-store visits from grower representatives. "We really enjoy the opportunity to meet with consumers and tell them about our fruit. When they taste it, they buy it and come back for more," said Conradie. "Several in-store promotions have been a successful part of the marketing program throughout the season." Since 1999, shipments of South African summer citrus fruits have increased from 50 tons to about 40,000 tons expected this year. Exports include Clementines, Navel oranges, Midknights and Star Ruby grapefruit. …The South African citrus sold in the United States comes primarily from the region near Citrusdal about two hours northwest of Cape Town, the Northern Cape near Kimberly, and the northwest along the Orange River, near Upington.*[Freshplaza.com; 11 October 2011]*

Pakistan: Kinnow export to Indonesia set to increase

Country's kinnow exports are likely to go up next year as Indonesia has removed 35 per cent duty on Pakistani citrus food. Spokesman for All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (APFVEIMA), Abdul Wahid said here Saturday while commenting on the successful talks and signing of MoU between commerce secretaries of Pakistan and Indonesia for free trade agreement. He said that kinnow export to Indonesia will rise to 40,000 to 45,000 metric tons or $ 23.850 million during January-April 2012. Wahid pointed out that current export of kinnow to Indonesia was about 8,000 MT in the presence of 35% duty. He said that kinnow production is likely to grow to 2.5 million tons this year
[nation.com.pk ;11 October 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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